

DEC-TECHNICAL BULLETIN



Bulletin No: TB009 Version: v.01

Effective Date: 2018-09-21

Subject: ORIENTED STRAND BOARD (OSB)

Product Pre-Installation Installation Repair Maintenance Other
 External Internal Use Internal Use Only

Target Audience: All

Reason for Bulletin: What to expect if Oriented Strand Board (OSB) is used in conjunction with Dec-Tec membranes.

Details:

Dec-Tec does NOT approve of Oriented Strand Board (OSB) as an acceptable or approved horizontal substrate.

If OSB is selected and used as a substrate:

- 1.) All risk and liability are 100% assumed by the deciding party and Dec-Tec remains 100% free from fault.
- 2.) Dec-Tec's warranty is 100% void.
- 3.) Varying degrees of swelling of the OSB board may occur due to reactions with any of the Dec-Tec adhesives and the binder adhesives in the OSB.
- 4.) Discoloration may occur due to the migration of the oils within OSB migrating through the adhesive, then through the Dec-Tec membrane. As a result, the discoloration may occur along with premature plasticizer migration.

OSB is typically manufactured with new growth wood vs. old growth wood. There tends to be a higher concentration of natural tree oils in the new growth wood therefore when the OSB is being packed with adhesives and waxes to bind it all, those oils plausibly are withdrawn, especially when in direct contact with an adhesive and membrane.

Dec-Tec recognizes OSB boards have their place and applications. In fact, significant advances in the weather ability of OSB's have been produced in the past decade, namely in products like AdvanTech*.

However, Dec-Tec is still not able to approve its product application directly over AdvanTech subfloors. The reasoning is simple, AdvanTech utilizes advanced moisture-resistant resin technology. The aforementioned have an adverse reaction with Dec-Tec adhesives and membranes that may cause discoloration and premature plasticizer migration.

To further reinforce the above facts, Huber Engineered Woods clearly states on their website under their Technical Videos & Documents; under AdvanTech Flooring; under FAQ's; under Installation; namely points 5 and 6:

<http://www.huberwood.com/technical-library/15/205/206>

Why is my vinyl floor discoloring?

There can be many causes of discoloration of vinyl floors. Extraneous materials on the subfloor such as oils, inks, and solvents have been known to cause stains in vinyl flooring. Additionally, adhesives used to glue floor decking to joists and also used in tongue and groove joints can lead to vinyl staining. High moisture conditions, usually resulting from inadequate crawl space ventilation, may also lead to staining of vinyl flooring. To help minimize discoloration, follow the vinyl manufacturer's recommendations and provide sufficient ventilation in crawl space areas.

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Can I install commercial vinyl tile or sheet vinyl on AdvanTech subflooring?

A minimum 1/4" plywood underlayment is recommended for installing vinyl tile or sheet vinyl over AdvanTech panels. Due to the wide variety of vinyl and adhesives available, it is best to consult with vinyl flooring manufacturers for installation recommendations.

Dec-Tec does NOT approve any kind of Oriented Strand Board (OSB) as an acceptable or approved substrate.

Example 1.) Discoloration of Dec-Tec membrane that had been fully adhered directly over OSB Board.



Example 2.) Discoloration of Dec-Tec membrane; cut test revealing OSB as substrate.



*AdvanTech products are owned by Huber Engineered Woods.

Additional References:

- 1.) TB006 - SUBSTRATE RECOMMENDATIONS
- 2.) Dec-Tec Basic Installation Guide - Wood Substrate

If you have any questions concerning this bulletin, please contact Dec-Tec Technical Support at 1-866-461-3914.