

Designing and Fabricating with Translucent and Translucent Veining Series

The Translucent and Translucent Veining product allows a great deal of creativity. For this reason, it is expected that there will be many new applications that will produce unanticipated effects. By all means experiment, be creative, and consult with us as you have questions. However, always make sure that the end result will meet your expectations as well as those of your customer.

The Nature of the Translucent Series

Aristech Surfaces® LLC. and the Studio Collection™ recommends that the translucent products be used in vertical applications: however keep in mind that in horizontal applications, dabs of silicone, supports and under-mount sink flanges will show through these products like any typical glass product. When these products are laminated together for a thicker appearance, such as a drop edge, they will appear darker due to the reduced light transmission. These special effects can be worked into the design for a unique aesthetic.

BACK-LIT APPLICATIONS

For back-lit applications, you may use 1/2 in. (12 mm) acrylic to support larger spans. Frosted or white acrylic may be used to diffuse the light source. When adhering the Translucent Series product to the acrylic, we recommend small pieces of 3M® VHB double sided tape. If clear acrylic is used, it should be sanded with 100 micron to frost the surfaces. This will help hide the adhesive tape.

Translucent Sheets offer unique opportunities with back-lighting or painting the back different colors to achieve custom hues that transmit through the sheet. In some cases, apparent sheet color will be influenced by the lighting source, whether back lit or room lighting. Always check bulb temperature to be sure it is in the daylight range of 5000-5500K. Many common LED lights are in the 2750-3500K range which emits a predominately yellow/orange spectrum, equivalent to warm white incandescent lighting. Always test a small piece to judge appearance. The STUDIO Collection™ recommends in back lighting applications that you minimize your seams. Back lit applications that require deck seams or have unsupported spans require special consideration.

When translucent products are chosen for more typical applications, where less transparency is desired, the back side of the finished sheet must be undercoated to hide any supports. For the best results, we recommend undercoating with INSL-X Stix waterborne Primer or Sherwin Williams® DTM Bonding Primer. This brightens the top closer to the sample chip but magnifies the contrast to the darker edge. This effect should be demonstrated to the end user.

SEAM BLOCKS

For the best results, continue preparing seams with the wavy bit. Once the seam is complete, turn the sheet over for the remaining fabrication. Clean the excess glue where the 4 in. seam block will be applied. Do all remaining fabrication on the backside before painting. Paint the backside with the adhesion primer. Two coats are recommended. Allow to dry completely. The seam block must run the full length of the seam. Apply a generous amount of adhesive to the seam block and the edge that meets the back of the build up edge. Uniform weight should be placed on the seam block to assure even pressure as the adhesive is drying.

SEAMING THE TRANSLUCENT VEINING SERIES

Because of the veining, these products have a more conspicuous seam. To minimize this, seam with the vein. In larger L-shape counter tops we recommend a 2 in. offset miter.

