

Composites

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are FRP doors available?

FRP panels may be used in this application; however we do not manufacture FRP doors.

Can FRP be installed over ceramic tile?

FRP can be installed directly over ceramic tile, however non-porous surfaces require the use of rivets unless the surface of the tile is opened by sanding or use of a chemical abrasive. Adhesive should be used on porous surfaces only. We recommend using Advanced Polymer Adhesive.

Can FRP be installed over concrete block?

FRP can be installed over concrete block. First you need to level uneven surfaces with plaster or concrete compounds. Be sure concrete walls are well cured and completely dry. If concrete or block walls are below grade where moisture can penetrate and interfere with a good adhesive bond, use furring strips and install pre-laminated panels with mechanical fasteners.

Can FRP be installed over existing metal panels?

FRP can be installed with metal fasteners. Pre-drill holes (use 3/8" drill bit) in the Glasbord panel on 16" centers. Using pre-drilled holes in FRP as a pilot hole, drill, fastener holes in metal with a bit no larger than 9/32". Seal all joints with a silicone sealant.

Can FRP be painted?

Painting FRP is not recommended because the finish is designed to be a non-adherable surface. If painting is necessary, an epoxy or acrylic-based paint is suggested.

Can FRP be used as a bathtub surround?

FRP can be used as a tub surround, although there will be seams as the product is only available in 48" widths. Install the seam to the far end of the tub away from water spray. Silicone caulk well and leave expansion room at the joints.

Can FRP be used in a clean room installation?

FRP is commonly specified for food preparation, pharmaceutical, and medical settings where sanitary highly cleanable walls are required.

Can FRP be used behind grills and ovens in commercial kitchens?

FRP panels will discolor when installed behind or near a heat source, such as cookers, ovens, and deep fryers, which radiate temperatures exceeding 130°F (55°C). It is highly recommended to not install FRP near heat sources.

Can FRP be used in indoor swimming pool areas?

FRP is ideal for this setting. FRP is known for its moisture and corrosion resistance in high humidity installation. It won't rust, pit, dent or peel like a metal grid system.

Does FRP mold?

No, FRP does not support mold or mildew per ASTM D3273 and D3274.

Does FRP have any acoustical value?

No, FRP has no acoustical properties. Acoustical insulation is measure in NRC (noise reduction coefficient) and STC (sounds transmission coefficient).

Is smooth FRP easier to clean than embossed?

No, embossed panels have been tested to be as cleanable as smooth panels and maintain an acceptable appearance longer than smooth panels. Crane Composites suggests embossed panels over smooth for years of cleanability.

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What is the cost of decorative FRP vs. ceramic tile?

FRP meets typically one-half the cost of ceramic tile and easier to keep clean. For more pricing information please contact your local distributor.

What is the cost of FRP?

For pricing information, please contact your local distributor.

What is the weight of a skid of FRP?

Panels are packaged 50 on a skid and the 0.09" thick panels weigh .65lb per SF. The skids weigh approximately 1000lbs each.

Are Crane Composites' Class-A panels fire retardant? If not what temperature will it burn?

Crane Composites Class "A" material is rated per ASTM E-84 test method. It has a self-ignition temperature of 750° to 850°F. All FRP will burn.

What is the recommended installation procedure for FRP in a cold storage unit if the back wall is concrete with cork attached to it and old FRP product is covering the cork?

If the cork is dry and existing FRP is in good condition, new FRP may be installed over old using mechanical fasteners that penetrate the cork and can grab the concrete. Otherwise, remove old panels and cork before proceeding with installation.

Are Crane Composites' FRP panels USDA and FDA approved?

FRP meets USDA/FSIS requirements as a non-toxic, easily inspected surface material. FDA approval pertains to surfaces that are in direct contact with food. As a wall and ceiling cover, FRP has only indirect contact.

Do I have to use a sealant when installing FRP?

Silicone sealant should be applied in all molding and around all panel edges, fasteners, and fixtures to provide a moisture resistant installation.

Does Crane Composites offer a warranty for Class-A and Class-C panels?

Yes, Crane Composites has a 10-year warranty on FRP panels. The warranty can be found on the website in the resource center.

Will mineral spirits dull the FRP finish?

No, mineral spirits will not dull the surface, but when being used as a cleaner, care must be taken to thoroughly clean the panel to ensure that no residue is left behind. Residue from the cleaner may make the panel look dull.

Are there detailed instructions on how to install FRP panels?

Yes, installation instructions are available on the website. Printed installation instructions are available by online ordering through the request samples or literature section.

If an adhesive manufacture states that their products can be beaded on the back of the panel instead of the 100% coverage you recommend, is that what should be done?

No. The back of the panel must be covered 100% with adhesive to achieve a proper bond. Less than 100% coverage can result in air pockets and bubbles in the FRP panel.

Do I have to use rivets?

Crane Composites recommends that FRP be installed either with a combination of adhesive and fasteners, with adhesive alone, or fasteners alone. The choice of which method to use depends upon the room and wall conditions.

Can I use corrugated or greenhouse panels in an interior application?

Corrugated panels are designed for exterior use and therefore do not have a fire rating. Local building codes should be checked prior to using the panels in an interior application.

How can I clean FRP?

Use a mild cleaner (such as 5-10% solution of automatic dishwasher detergent in water) not to exceed 130°F. A soft brush is recommended for embossed panels. Rinse thoroughly. Remove hard water deposits with 10% solution of acetic acid with water.

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Does FRP meet the one-hour fire rated wall system requirement?

No. Hourly ratings refer to “assemblies” or “systems”. A complete wall (studs with gypsum board on both sides) is tested. FRP is a “wall finish” not a “wall assembly or system.” Please refer to the website for more information.

Does FRP have an R-value?

FRP does not significantly contribute to the thermal property measurement of the wall assembly. FRP R-value is computed by multiplying the thickness (0.090”) of the panel by 2.5 – ex. $0.090 \times 2.5 = \text{R-value of } 0.255$.

What adhesive should I use?

Crane Composites recommends Franklin Adhesives, but there are several adhesive manufacturers who have a fully trained staff who will answer questions regarding your specific installation.

Are all of Crane Composites' greenhouse or corrugated panels the same and does it really make a difference what type is installed?

No, all of the greenhouse and corrugated panels are not the same. Crane Composites' greenhouse panels come in different weights, strengths and thicknesses. This is something to be considered before purchasing panels. An example of this would be, in a northern climate that typically produces heavy snowfall or in areas that tend to get high winds. If unsure of which panels to purchase, please contact us.

Are the FRP panels guaranteed against yellowing?

No, some discoloration will take place over time. Many factors such as temperature, cleaning, climate, pollution, etc. will determine the degree and rate of color change. This does not however affect the integrity of the panel. The panels are warranted against structural defects.

What is recommended to cut or drill holes in the panels?

To cut the panels, Crane Composites recommends using a carbide blade, fine tooth. To drill holes in the panels, a carbide drill bit should be used.

Can FRP panels be used in an emergency shower?

Yes, the type of short or limited contact that most chemicals will make with the FRP panels while being rinsed away with water should result in no chemical reaction within the panels.

Can you turn the textured outside of the panel in toward the wall when installed?

This is not recommended.

When installing wall & ceiling panels what do you use to butt each panel to each other?

What type of material would this union be fabricated from?

Also what would be the best adhesive to use?

When installing FRP wall and ceiling panels, Crane Composites recommends that you use the division bar between each panel, leaving a 1/4” gap for expansion and contraction of each panel. The division bar as well as the other molding that we have is a non-staining polypropylene. For additional information on installation please refer to our installation guide.

Can FRP be applied over sheetrock?

Yes, FRP can be applied over sheetrock. Please follow the installation instructions regarding the expansion and contraction of the panels.

Who is a reseller of FRP rivets in my area?

Refer to the Locate a Reseller section of the FRP website to find a local reseller.

Does Crane Composites manufacture any wall panels that have sound absorption as well as moisture resistant?

Crane Composites does not manufacture any panel that is sound resistant though all of our panels are moisture resistant.

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Why is Class-C material not available in a 5ft. wide to accommodate tub/shower surrounds?

Can a radius be thermoformed into FRP material?

5ft. wide panels are not standard stocked size. This width can be produced for an order with a minimum of 5,000 square feet plus 250 lineal feet of overrun. FRP is a thermoset plastic and cannot be reformed.

Can FRP be used for walls in outdoor shower stall exposed to the elements (no roof)?

Interior FRP wall panels are made for interior use. When the panels are used outdoors and exposed to the elements they will yellow and have fiberbloom.

A global leading provider of resilient wall and ceiling coverings. Kemlite® was established in 1954 and the company changed names to Crane Composites in 2007. Crane Composites is headquartered in Channahon, IL and all our products are manufactured in the United States. We work with hundreds of distributors, ensuring our products are easily accessible and readily available to our customers.

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