

TECH TALK

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Mounting on Fome-Cor® , JetMount® , and Foam-X® Recovery

This document discusses methods for using Fome-Cor® materials in mounting applications. These applications typically entail the attachment of some type of graphic to the Fome-Cor® surface. The graphic to be mounted may be printed on paper, foil, plastic or fabric provided the proper types of methods and adhesives are used.

Always follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions when mounting with adhesives. In general, use the minimum amount of adhesive necessary to attain the desired adhesion.

Mounting can be accomplished on most standard equipment capable of applying adhesive and laminating sheets or roll stock to rigid boards.

Methods for Mounting:

There are a variety of methods for mounting a graphic to a substrate. For this document, mounting will be broken into two groups, hot and cold mounting.

- A. Hot mounting uses a heat source to activate the adhesive. Typically, either a heated vacuum press or a heated roller laminator is used to achieve adhesion.

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B. Cold mounting can utilize either a spray or pressure sensitive adhesive film in a non-heated vacuum press or roller laminator.

When mounting with heat, the temperature of the press should follow the adhesive manufacturer's directions. Generally, the lower recommended temperatures work best. If possible, keep temperatures below 190 degrees F and a residence time less than one minute. Any tendency to bow may be minimized by preheating the board before mounting, and by placing the mounted artwork under a glass sheet during final cooling.

Vacuum mounting with or without heat can be done quite well on Fome-Cor® products. Dry mount tissues, spray adhesives and wet mounting techniques are suitable for the board's paper surface. To prevent bowing when wet mounting, it may be necessary to apply a counter-mount of comparable strength on the backside. It is advisable to avoid using an excess amount of bonding agent. Placing weights on the edges of the board while it dries may also be useful.

When roller laminators are used, it is recommended that the clearance of the mounting rolls be adjusted so that the board is compressed slightly (0.010" - 0.020") to assure a good bond. To maintain maximum flatness, it may be desirable to back mount with a liner of comparable strength, using the same adhesive. Pressure roller applicators have a tendency to crush the foam and reduce the rigidity of the mounted board. In order to keep the leading edge from rounding as it goes through the roller, use a plastic lead or guide of the same thickness of the mounted board.

Depending on type of adhesive used, the Fome-Cor® products should set up to 24 hours to allow for the adhesive to cure out.

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