



**firststep**<sup>®</sup>  
READY-TO-PAINT PANELS

## Painting your plywood? We've got you covered.

Columbia Forest Products now offers **two** solutions to boost your painting productivity and results! FirstStep<sup>®</sup> Traditional Primed Panels and new FirstStep<sup>®</sup> Production Grade Panels.

With these labor and material-saving options, you eliminate the sealing and priming stages, immediately increasing your operation's efficiency.

Both options provide coatings that help attain adhesion of paint to the substrate. Your finished product will have a better final appearance because substrate defects will be masked, enabling a smooth and uniform finish coat.

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# Q&A's

## What colorations of FirstStep are available?

FirstStep Traditional Primed panels are white, to provide a clean canvas for whatever paint you're applying. FirstStep Production Grade panels feature a clear coat. Thus, the surface color of your panel will show through until you coat it.

## What panel formats are available for these Ready to Paint treatments?

All of Columbia's panels are available for Traditional Priming and Production Grade options (vener-*faced* and MDF-*faced*), with a maximum panel size of 4'x8' and 1-1/4" thickness.

## Should FirstStep panels be sanded prior to the application of paint?

Yes and No.

FirstStep Traditional Primed panels should be lightly sanded with 320 grit or finer to remove fiber pop or roughness. Don't sand too aggressively, because you might sand through the primer and expose the raw wood.

FirstStep Production Grade panels require no additional sanding. After basic dusting, they are truly "Ready to Paint!"

## What type of coatings can I use with FirstStep panels?

Water-based and solvent-based coating have been tested on this product. We encourage testing your coating with samples of FirstStep before initiating your project. Contact your coatings supplier to verify compatibility.

## Will there be shop allowable? What percentage? Will shop be separated?

Yes, there will be shop allowed. Domestic products will allow up to 20% shop, and it will be separated.

## FirstStep® Production Grade Panels

For shops that are routinely painting their plywood projects, this option is for you!

These panels come with a VOC-free epoxy acrylic coating that's applied with precision UV flat line equipment. We sand, fill and seal the faces, then lightly sand (500 grit) them again. All you do is dust and paint! (after checking with your coating supplier and performing sample tests)

## FirstStep® Traditional Primed Panels

Featuring a water-based, low-VOC primer, this is a great choice for shops that encounter occasional painting jobs. Just sand the face lightly with 320 grit (to remove fiber pop or roughness), and you're ready to paint. The white primer serves as a canvas for the final color of your choice.

# Features & Benefits

## ➤ Reduction in labor and materials

Eliminates one or two steps in the finishing process to boost productivity and savings.

## ➤ Formaldehyde free

FirstStep panels are available with any core, including veneer core produced with PureBond® Formaldehyde-Free Technology, and NAF composite cores upon request

## ➤ Lower VOC and HAPS emissions

Reduces airborne hazards in the workplace..

## ➤ Improved final appearance

Helps attain and maintain adhesion of paint to panel.

Masks defects in the substrate, allowing the finish coat to be even and uniform.

Suppresses grain raise for a smoother final product.

## ➤ Uniform quality control

Large, consistent batch production in CFP mills.

## ➤ Three North American production centers

Consistent availability with other CFP products.



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