

HDPE Plastic Sheets

Q. What is HDPE?

A. High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) is a thermoplastic polymer with high strength-to-density ratio.

Q. How do I cut HDPE sheets?

A. Cut using a circular or panel saw with a blade specifically designed for cutting plastics. For curved cuts, a jigsaw works well. Spray water continuously on the cutting area and keep the speed down to avoid overheating the plastic. Once the cut is finished, dry the surface with a soft cloth. Always wear safety glasses!

Q. What is the best way to smooth the rough cutting edge?

A. Lightly sand the cut edge with wet sandpaper. Use plenty of water and rinse the sandpaper frequently. Wipe off residue.

Q. How should I drill into HDPE?

A. Standard woodworking drill bits may be used for drilling holes. Drill bits designed for drilling plastics work best. It is recommended to drill a small pilot hole first to help locate the drill.

Q. Are HDPE sheets chemically resistant?

A. HDPE is both chemical and acid resistant. Reference manufacturer's chemical resistance chart.

Q. Can HDPE be used for making cutting boards?

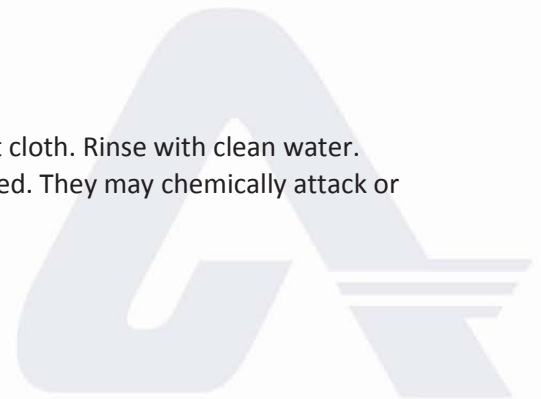
A. Yes, HDPE is compliant with FDA regulations and is approved by the NSF (National Sanitation Foundation).

Q. Do HDPE sheets expand and contract?

A. HDPE sheets do expand and contract when used in outdoor applications. This is not an issue indoors since the temperature is controlled and consistent. Due to its molecular structure, sheets expand more in length than width.

Q. How do I clean HDPE sheets?

A. Blow off loose dust and dirt. Clean with a mild detergent and soft cloth. Rinse with clean water. Abrasive cleaning agents and glass window cleaners should be avoided. They may chemically attack or discolor sheets.



Q. What adhesives should be used with HDPE?

A. Using an adhesive is not advised. Instead, mechanical fastening with screws is recommended. Plastic plugs and join rims are available and may be special ordered from the manufacturer. Welding two pieces together is another option. However, test on a scrap piece first.

Q. What sealants or caulks are recommended for use with HDPE?

A. Whether replacing old caulk or applying new, prepare surface with medium-grit sandpaper, clean with alcohol or acetone, and let dry completely. Follow caulking manufacturer's guidelines.

Q. Is HDPE paintable?

A. In general, painting HDPE does not result in permanent bond. Painting with a paint suitable for plastics may adhere to the surface but check with the paint manufacturer first and test on a scrap piece.

Q. What does flame treatment do to HDPE material?

A. Flame treatment may help HDPE bond with inks, adhesives, or other coatings. During flame treatment, the surface layer of the HDPE undergoes chemical changes that can improve adhesion.

NOTE: The effects of flame treatment are only temporary. Complete painting or bonding within 2 hours of treatment. * *Always check with manufacturer first before applying this surface treatment.*

Q. Are HDPE sheets UV-stabilized?

A. Stock black HDPE sheets are UV-stabilized because they are dark in color. Stock white HDPE sheets are not UV-stabilized but can be special ordered with this feature for an upcharge.



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