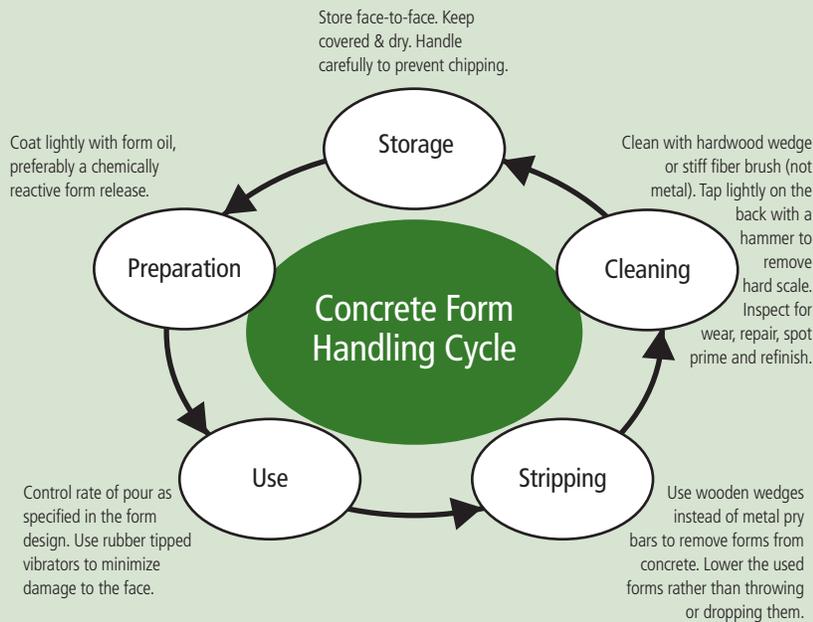


Plywood concrete forming panels Care and Handling

Overlaid Plywood Panels have many inherent advantages for concrete forming including good strength and durability properties, ease of shaping

and cutting with power tools, reusability, recyclability, and ease of handling. They are available with either a matte surface (MDO) or a smoother,

architectural finish (HDO). These properties make overlaid plywood panels a highly preferred component of most concrete forming operations.



When using plywood forms, maintaining the integrity of the face and the sealed edges will go a long way toward keeping the forms usable. Here are some tricks of the trade for managing the form's life cycle.

Preparation

MDO forms have usually been pre-coated with a reactive form oil release. If your forms have not had this, and HDO forms usually haven't, a light coating of form oil should be applied prior to use. When cutting and drilling panels, use a backer to prevent chipping the face. Apply a quality edge seal where cuts expose new wood. Fasten panels using screws. For the best surface appearance, screw holes should be countersunk and filled. Fill the joints between panels with an expandable caulk or an appropriate tape product.

Use

During use, limit the pour rate to the rate specified in the design of the form. Use rubber-tipped vibrators if possible and try to avoid vibrator contact with the form face. Avoid

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using the vibrator to move concrete horizontally within the formwork.

Stripping

Avoid using metal bars to strip the panels from the concrete. Use of wooden or plastic wedges will reduce face damage. When moving the forms, avoid throwing or dropping them to prevent edge and face damage. Use mechanical handling devices carefully.

Cleaning

To reuse a panel, inspect it for wear and defects and clean it with a hardwood wedge and/or a stiff fiber (not wire) brush. Tapping on the back of the form with a hammer may help loosen residual concrete. Clean panels before you stack or store them to prevent damage to the form

from residual concrete. When clean, reapply a light coating of form oil.

Storage

Stack the panels face-to-face as soon after use and cleaning as practical to avoid exposure and dry-out. Store the panels in a level, well drained location out of the sun and rain or cover them to minimize heat and moisture buildup.

Repairs

Nicks and gouges in MDO and HDO panels can be repaired by cleaning the concrete and release agent from the damaged area and applying a polyurethane, epoxy or polyester patch. Polyester auto body putty is often used.

References

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