

Jasco Manufacturing Quiet Touch & Classic Tackboard Fabric Guidelines

Jasco manufacturing offers this set of guidelines as a service to our architectural customers. It is not meant to be the rules for fabric selection for our panels, instead it is a list of suggestions and alerts that should be considered when specifying fabric covered panels.

Bumps in the face of the finished panel

The 6 pcf fiberglass substrate that is standard for Jasco Quiet Touch has a smooth face but it has irregularities that can show as bumps or hollow spots under extreme lighting conditions. Jasco Classic Tackboards' standard substrate is Firtex, which is a wood fiber product that does not warp. Both Firtex and other wood fiber products have imperfections in the face resulting from the rolling process during their manufacturing. Direct downlighting will show flaws in any panel through shadowing.

Specifying considerations

Select a thicker fabric that can cover the irregularities. Jasco has had great results with textured fabrics in the 16-oz/lineal yd weight range. Anything lighter should be mocked up for inspection before specification.

Select a thicker fabric without an acrylic backing. The acrylic backing of a fabric adheres absolutely to the substrate, which is more likely to telegraph imperfections. An unbacked fabric allows flexibility of the fibers at the attachment will soften the imperfections.

Select a denser acoustical substrate. Our 16-20 pcf substrate used in Jasco Quiet Touch Extra is so dense that it does not have noticeable facial imperfections. The smoother 1/8" thick fiberglass face on top of the standard substrate has the added benefits of being impact resistant.

Select a smoother tackable substrate. Jasco also offers Micore by USG as a smoother tackable substrate. The density of Micore is similar to Firtex but the product is made in a slurry process, which does not create the face imperfections then the face is finish sanded.

Air bubbles in the face of the finished panel

Jasco uses adhesives to permanently apply the fabric to the face of our substrates. It keeps the fabric from moving and maintains a longer lasting quality appearance. Sometimes air bubbles will show up in the face of the panel after shipment to the site or after installation.

Specifying considerations

Select a thicker fabric or add an acrylic backing. Several of the thinner fabrics need an acrylic backer to create dimensional stability, this backer gives the adhesive something strong to hold on to creating a permanent attachment. Thicker fabrics obviously have more fibers that improve the attachment process when combined with our adhesive. Jasco has had great results with textured fabrics in the 16-oz/lineal yd weight range.

Require environmentally stable conditions before panels are delivered or installed. We manufacture in a stable environment and if our products are taken to an unstable environment, the fabrics will respond unfavorably. Changes in temperature will make the fabrics and substrates expand and contract which breaks the attachment and creates bubbles. Ironing the fabric can solve this problem but avoiding it is the best solution.

Glue bleeding through the fabric

The adhesive we use is semi-dry contact cement that gets tacky as it dries. The adhesive can soak through certain thin fabrics or it can chemically react to their content to make shiny spots in the face. These spots can show up looking like mold or dark spots.

Specifying considerations

Select a thicker fabric or add an acrylic backing. The thicker fabrics are heavy enough to prevent the glue from soaking through. Jasco has had great results with textured fabrics in the 16-oz/lineal yd weight range. Acrylic backing prevents the glue from even coming in contact with the fabric, which solves both the bleeding and chemical reaction problems. Both solutions are proven very successful.

The yellow of the substrate is showing through the fabric

The color of fabric can be affected by the color of the substrate filtering through the fabric.

Specifying considerations

Select a darker color or have the substrate colored to match. The standard substrate for our acoustical panels is yellow or brown for tackable panels which can make lighter fabric colors, especially white, look off white. To prevent this problem, you can require that the substrate be painted to match the fabric color. It has a negligible effect on the acoustical performance and no effect on tackability.

Misshapen panels or indentations in the face

Once on the jobsite, our panels are at the mercy of the contractors. They can be moved several times and re-stacked in various damaging situations.

Specifying considerations

Require limits on the length of time that fragile panel products can be on the job site before installation. Jasco suggests two weeks maximum for our products to be on the jobsite before installation. The panels leave Jasco with corner protection, dust protection, and they are stacked face to face to avoid damage. If they are moved around too much or stacked in an uneven fashion, face damage or warpage can occur.