



## Oversized Panel Installation

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Building Product panels should be limited to a maximum of 4' x 12' (1.22 m x 3.66 m). The concerns regarding job site installation of panels larger than 4' x 12' are safety, and difficulty in achieving a satisfactory installation. Shipping may also be a problem. The safety concern is due to the fire hazard present if an oversized panel is installed with solvent based adhesive. The evaporation of solvent from the adhesive is a potential fire hazard if adequate ventilation is not provided. The adhesive manufacturer's installation instructions and warnings must be precisely followed; in all installations, care must be exercised to create adequate ventilation and avoid all possible sources of ignition. The installer must install the panel to the wall before the adhesive skins over.

Oversized panels are also much harder to handle and may increase the risk of injury to the installer. In a standard size panel installation, the division bars provide a control joint to accommodate panel expansion. When these control joints for expansion are eliminated by a continuous panel the expansion factor is increased and there is a higher probability of buckles and bulges in the panel. Oversized panels are difficult to install without trapping air pockets behind the panel during installation. Oversized building product panels will be provided if an authorization is obtained from the architect, building owner, or installing contractor that verifies that this technical bulletin, has been read and that everyone understands the risks of proceeding with such an installation and accepts responsibility for a safe and satisfactory installation.

Price quote requests or purchase orders for panels larger than 4' x 12' should be faxed to Customer Care at 1.815.467.8666 with a copy of this letter signed by the building owner or installing contractor, indicating their acceptance of responsibility for a safe and satisfactory installation.

Oversized panels may be coiled for shipment and some coil set should be expected. The coil set can be minimized by laying the panels flat on a clean dry surface for a minimum of 24 hours before installation.

### **SHOWER STALL INFORMATION**

A Crane Composites FRP panel shower installation requires special attention because the walls are thoroughly and repeatedly soaked with hot water. The edges and backside are vulnerable to moisture that may seep around the molding. In order to prevent this, all joints and angles must be sealed, yet still allow for the appropriate expansion gap. Waterproof adhesive should also be used and 100% coverage is required on the backside. The manufacturer or distributor cannot be held responsible for buckled panels if the preceding steps have not been followed.

NOTE: Retrofit installations may require extra attention to stripping down the walls in order to ensure that soap residues and/or loose paint will not interfere with a good adhesive bond.

### **FULL SIZE CEILING PANEL INSTALLATION**

Attaching FRP panels directly to a ceiling is a difficult installation because the panels are not rigid and gravity will work to pull the panels downward. There have been successful applications, but step-by-step foolproof installation instructions cannot be given. Follow the manufacturer's installation guide instructions for a wall panel, with the exception of using extra bracing.

Crane Composites FRP laminated panels will be easier to handle because of the rigid substrate and will be less likely to develop delamination spots. In either case, nylon drive rivets or other mechanical fasteners should be used following the spacing pattern for wall panels in the installation guide.

### **CAR WASHES**

Please see installation guide #6876.

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Crane Composites is the manufacturer of Glasbord, Sequentia, Sanigrad II and a variety of other fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) composite wall panels. Inspired by the Kemlite tradition, Crane Composites has over 55 years of experience in Commercial Building Products and is a recognized industry leader in FRP applications.