

AFFINITY METALLIC COLORS

(FABRICATION BULLETIN #13-430)

The metallic pigments in this Affinity solid surface color reflect light in a directional manner. Depending on your design goals, the objective may be to either maximize or minimize the directional effect. For best visual results you will need to consider directionality of the sheet, lighting type and locations from where observers will view the sheet, the impact on layout, and assembly techniques.

This product is directional, both on the top surface and on the edges. It is best used when the directionality is highlighted. Creating uniform appearances is possible, but requires special attention to sheet orientation and not all standard fabrication techniques are applicable.

The reflectivity of sheet edges is not completely uniform. If a uniform edge profile is required, a v-grooved edge is recommended. The directional nature of the sheet must be accounted for during design and fabrication. This directionality persists through the thickness and is most apparent along the length of the sheet.

SEAMING

Light reflection varies as the metallic colors are viewed from different angles. This can appear as a color difference when sheets are joined. Common examples of where sheets may come together at 90° angles are “L” or “U” shaped tops. This is a natural feature of the aesthetic and will be more evident in some colors and finishes than others. It is best to have samples to show the customer so it is understood what the final piece will look like.

When two sheets need to be joined at an angle a diagonal seam will provide the best appearance. A diagonal seam will provide a subtle, neatly tailored change in directionality. This seam will be least noticeable looking down the diagonal and directly above. The seam is most visible looking down the length of the sheets at low angles. If two top surface sections are joined with different orientations they will look noticeably different with one section looking lighter or darker than the other.

FINISHING

All typical finishing methods are suitable to use on directional colors. Darker directional colors may have a better appearance with a semi-gloss finish. As with other dark colors, the color will get darker and deeper with higher gloss finishes. The metallic flakes and directionality effects will also be more apparent at higher glosses. The consumer should be made aware of the proper care and maintenance instructions for the provided gloss level. The use of low angle lighting will help highlight scratches for removal. It also may be necessary to finish with a finer grit of abrasive. As always, cleaning the top between grit changes is needed. Sanding pads may turn dark from metal oxide removed during polishing.