

firststepTM
PRE-PRIMED PLYWOOD PANELS

FirstStepTM pre-primed panels from Columbia Forest Products save prep time for painted jobs. Customers can specify FirstStep for any panel type that we currently make. Just lightly sand and they are ready to paint to your specifications.

Features & Benefits

- **Reduction in labor time:**
Eliminates one to two steps in the finishing process. Increases productivity and efficiency.
- **Reduced emissions:** Lower VOC and HAPS emissions. Environmentally responsible product.
- **Better finished product appearance:** Helps attain and maintain adhesion of paint to substrate. Masks defects in the substrate, allowing the finish coat to be even and uniform. Minimum grain raise for a smoother final product.
- **Columbia quality control:** Consistent quality from a trusted source.
- **Regional finishing facility:** Available from our Old Fort, NC and Hearst, ON Canada operations.



BOTTOM RIGHT Residential bookcases built with FirstStep pre-primed panels. The FirstStep product was featured in the 25TH Anniversary show home in Carlisle, MA for *This Old House*.

WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS SAY ABOUT FIRSTSTEP:

“A lot of our projects are combination paint/stain/laminate. Our bottleneck is always the finishing department. With Columbia’s primed panel, we just scuff sand the surface and it is ready for the paint coat. For us, it eliminates the application of a primer and reduces the whole process including the drying time. It cuts out several steps. Our ultimate test is how fast we can get a project completed.”

Dale Nesbit, owner,
HARBORTOWN CABINETS, Savannah, GA

“The primed panel has greatly reduced our spray booth bottleneck which is always an issue. With the primed panel, we can save from 1 to 1.5 days per kitchen completion. We used to complete 2 kitchens per week, we can now complete 3 and sometimes 4 per week. We have tremendous praise for the primed panel as well as the pre-finished maple.”

John Propps, CHALLENGE LTD, Myrtle Beach, SC

“The primed panel is a very good product, the material holds up well through the brush sand process. It’s nice to have a good product to work with that you can depend on. We like Columbia and usually spec your maple plywood because of the quality.”

Cam Catatoni, owner,
EVERWOOD CABINETS, Delray Beach, FL

“We sand it up a little bit and it’s right there, ready to paint. It’s a great time-saver for us. We have had no problems with the coatings over the primer. We were looking for ways to cut down processing because we do a lot of paint finishes. Probably 30% of our business is painted cabinets.”

Paul Beiter, CANDLELIGHT CABINETRY, Lockport, NY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

→ WHAT ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PRIMING (CORES, VENEERS, THICKNESSES, SIZES)?

All of Columbia’s wood products offering are available for priming, up to a maximum size 4’x 8’ panel and 1 1/4” thickness.

→ WHAT IS THE CHEMICAL MAKEUP OF THE PRIMER (TECHNICAL INFO)?

It is a cross-linked water-based primer.

→ WHAT TYPE OF COATING IS BEST TO USE WITH THE FIRSTSTEP PANEL?

Water-based and solvent-based coatings are compatible with FirstStep. However, customers should contact their current coatings supplier prior to use to determine compatibility of this product.

→ SHOULD FIRSTSTEP PANELS BE SANDED PRIOR TO THE APPLICATION OF A TOPCOAT?

It is recommended that FirstStep panels be lightly sanded with 320 grit or finer sandpaper to remove fiber pop, grit and roughness. Customers should not sand too aggressively as they may sand through the primer and expose the raw wood.

→ WHAT COLORATIONS OF FIRSTSTEP ARE AVAILABLE?

FirstStep primed panels are available in both beige and white colorations to complement any primer job.

For more information on Columbia’s FirstStep panels or other products, please visit www.cfpwood.com or call one of the regional numbers listed below.

EASTERN US:
1-800-237-2428

WESTERN US / CANADA:
1-800-547-1791

NORTHEASTERN US:
1-888-664-1964

EASTERN CANADA:
1-888-525-1964

CENTRAL US:
1-800-760-3341