

Formply - a revolution in formwork for residential and commercial construction



Image Courtesy of Carter Holt Harvey Woodproducts

Reduce, re-use, recycle - Formply meets all the criteria for a sustainable building material, with the added advantages of being waterproof, lightweight and easy to install.

The many benefits of using plywood products are well understood by designers and builders, with low cost, strength and sustainability at the top of the list.

Formwork plywood, or 'Formply' as it is known, is an integral material in the construction of multi-residential, industrial and commercial concrete buildings, offering a structurally superior, re-useable and economical alternative to traditional formwork materials. In fact, it is believed that the majority of all concrete formwork used in the Australian building industry today is Formply.

Strong, reliable and waterproof

Formply is structural plywood overlaid on both sides with a heavy-duty phenolic resin-impregnated film that is then fused into the surface veneer under heat and pressure. It is made up of either hardwood or softwood veneers, or a combination of both, and has all the properties of strength, durability and reliability that are synonymous with structural plywood.

Formply has the additional advantage of being highly waterproof, the overlay acting as a barrier between the wet curing concrete and the timber surface of the plywood. This resilient overlay also allows re-useability and the associated cost savings of being able to recycle formwork.

Formply's tough surface is also more resistant to abrasion from concrete aggregates than is raw wood, and the large sheet sizes with their consistent surface quality means the off-form concrete has an excellent architectural finish - smooth and ready for painting.

Add ease-of-use to strength and stability and you have a construction material that can be utilised in buildings of any size, from DIY to large commercial projects.

Formply comes in a range of stress grades and thicknesses including:

- F11 - 12 & 17mm
- F14 - 17mm
- F17 - 17mm
- F22 - 17 & 25mm
- F27 - 12, 17, 19 & 25mm

Available sheet sizes are: 1800x1200mm and 2400 x 1200mm.

Lightweight and easy-to-use

Formply manufactured in Australia meets the stringent load bearing and dimensional stability requirements for structural plywood, making it ideal for concrete construction work. Add ease-of-use to strength and stability and you have a construction material that can be used in buildings of any size, from DIY to large commercial projects.

Requiring nothing more than standard carpentry tools, Formply can be cut to exact shapes or bent to tight curves, making it an excellent material for innovative architectural and design projects. It is also relatively easy to dismantle, a big plus in terms of time and cost-effectiveness.

Some of Formply's more innovative construction applications include high-rise buildings, silos, the Sydney Opera House, freeways and power stations, to name a few.

Above all, the fact that Formply is so much lighter and easier to handle than other formwork materials makes it the perfect resource for tradespeople across the industry, reducing overheads and labour costs. When you add in that all structural plywood products manufactured in Australia are sourced from renewable and sustainable sources - there seems to be every good reason to use Formply in your construction projects.

For more technical or application information for Formply (or other plywood types) visit www.ewp.asn.au