Another common decorative surfacing option is paint coating. With the advance of technology, coatings can now be applied to composite wood substrates in either liquid or powder forms. Paint can also be used in tandem with special inks, particularly in applications calling for printed wood grains or abstract patterns. Aside from wood grain printing, coatings are available as a decorative color finish or as a clear protective topcoat. The surface characteristics of composite panel products, especially MDF, allow for direct coating and printing applications, which result in exceptionally consistent defect-free finishes. While some industrial finishes are available on a retail basis, most coatings are custom formulated to fit the specific prefinisher’s line configuration and the requirements of the intended end application.

Liquid Coatings

There are many types of liquid coatings used as industrial decorative surfaces. Coatings can be water- or solvent-based, and chemistry advancements continue to provide increases in performance of both types. Both families of coatings are used in finishing cabinets and furniture, exterior siding, millwork, trim, flooring and fixtures.

WATER-BASED ACRYLIC LATEX COATINGS: These coatings are used in industrial, commercial and residential settings, and are formulated for both interior and exterior applications. Manufacturers can modify these coatings with different types of resins and cross-linking agents to extend the service life and exterior durability of the coating system. These additives also improve the chemical, corrosion and water resistance properties.

One of the advantages of water-based coatings is their lower VOC content, which reduces their impact to indoor air quality. They are also superior to other coating types in their exterior durability and color retention, which is a function of the acrylic resins used in the formulation. However, these coatings do not perform as well as solvent-borne coatings in chemical and wear resistance.

SOLVENT-BASED COATINGS: The higher VOC nature of solvent-based coatings limits their use primarily to industrial settings that are equipped with specialized air handling and treatment devices. These coatings can be modified with urethanes, epoxies, nitrocellulose, alkyds and acrylics to impart certain performance qualities. Solvent-based coating systems are widely recognized for their outstanding chemical- and wear-resistant properties. This family of coatings is used for high gloss finishes that have superior abrasion resistance. Their toughness and performance properties are among the reasons they are extensively used in the furniture and kitchen cabinet manufacturing business. In addition, there is minimal grain raise and fiber swell with solvent-based coatings, and the finish is easier to touch up and repair if damaged.

ULTRA-VIOLET (UV) COATINGS: The main difference with this coating type is how the coating is cured or dried. UV coatings have special ingredients that react almost instantaneously with UV radiation. This results in a significantly faster curing process. As a result, UV coatings are extremely tough, durable and long lasting. They are mainly formulated as clear coats and sealers.
Powder Coatings

The popularity of powder coating has continued to grow as an industrial finishing system. Initially developed as an alternative way to coat metal, the advantages of this evolving technology have made powder coating the fastest growing industrial finish for metal in the world. Powder coatings are used on appliances, machinery, furniture and fixtures. The powder coating process significantly reduces waste, with nearly 95% transfer efficiency and low-VOC emissions.

In the late 1990’s, companies began experimenting with applying powder to wood products, particularly MDF. As MDF was a wood-based product and not prone to carrying electrical charges (critical for the electrostatic process), there were significant processing challenges to overcome. With the development of specially engineered MDF and powders, along with new processing techniques, these efforts were successful and a new way to finish composite panel products was launched.

Powder coating is an advanced method of applying a decorative and protective finish onto a wide range of materials and products that are used for both industrial and consumer applications. The powder used for the process is a mixture of finely ground particles of pigment and resin that is sprayed onto a surface to be coated. The charged particles adhere to the electrically-grounded surface until heated and cured, creating a variety of smooth and textured finishes that are uniform and durable. The coating process is a single-stage application where all exposed surfaces are coated simultaneously.

The benefits of powder coatings include increased design flexibility, cost efficiency and seamless edges. Powder coatings also provide high resistance to heat, moisture, abrasion, staining and fading, and offer a range of colors, textures and finishes.

IDEAL COATINGS CAN CURE COMPLETELY AT A LOW TEMPERATURE AND PROTECT THE SUBSTRATE PERMANENTLY. THIS UNIQUE HOME WAS DESIGNED WITH CLEAR-COATED MDF AS THE MATERIAL FOR ITS WALLS, DOORS AND CABINETS ➊. MDF IS THE PERFECT SUBSTRATE FOR THE STRIKING FINISHES AVAILABLE IN MILLWORK AND DOORS ➋. POWDER COATING PROVIDES A CONSISTENT AND DURABLE FINISH FOR GARAGE STORAGE AND WORK SURFACES ➌. IT IS PERFECTLY SUITED FOR CONTOURED COMPONENTS ➍ AND IS AVAILABLE IN A WIDE RANGE OF COLORS, TEXTURES AND FINISHES.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPANY AND MILL LOCATION</th>
<th>BRAND NAMES</th>
<th>CERTIFIED WOOD</th>
<th>SPECIAL TREATMENTS, FEATURES, CAPABILITIES AND SERVICES</th>
<th>SUBSTRATES OFFERED</th>
<th>PB, MDF, OR HB PRODUCER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AKZO NOBEL COATINGS, INC.</strong></td>
<td>AkzoNobel®, Chemcraft®</td>
<td>FSC</td>
<td>Industrial wood coatings and adhesives that provide protective and decorative properties for wood, MDF, wood composites and wood-based products. AkzoNobel specializes in building products interior and exterior, cabinetry, contract furniture, residential furniture, flooring, windows, doors, distribution and more.</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARAUCO NORTH AMERICA</strong></td>
<td>Fibrex Paint</td>
<td>FSC</td>
<td>Fibrex Paint is available in over 70 solid colors and woodgrain patterns that are printed directly on one face of our Fibrex thin high density MDF. Water-based paint system applied along with either an acrylic or optional UV-cured topcoat. Other specialties available such as chalkboard, markerboard, silkscreen-able paint finishes, unlimited solid colors and wood grain print.</td>
<td>PB, MDF, Fibrex®, ULEF (Vesta™)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AXALTA COATING SYSTEMS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>FSC</td>
<td>Industrial coatings for wood and wood-like substrates for exterior &amp; interior composites, structural panels, doors and windows, floors, moldings as well as kitchen cabinets and furniture manufacturers. Water-based, 100% UV and solvent borne coating technologies.</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DVUV, LLC</strong></td>
<td>UVMax®</td>
<td>FSC/SFI</td>
<td>UV-cured powder coated MDF component finishing serving retail, health care, hospitality, education &amp; office furniture industries and more, cut to size, custom color matching, CNC machining.</td>
<td>MDF</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUNDER AMERICA, INC.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>FSC</td>
<td>Wood powder coating, custom components, cut-to-size, CNC routing.</td>
<td>MDF</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ROSEBURG</strong></td>
<td>UltraFinish-UV Cured Paints &amp; Finishes, SkyBlend®, SkyPly Hardwood Plywood, RediFinish, RediShelf</td>
<td>FSC</td>
<td>UV fill and topcoat on PB, MDF, or hardwood plywood; wood grain print, PB, ULEF MDF, VC, acrylic solid colors with custom color program, prefinished shelving and edge banding on one to four sides.</td>
<td>PB, ULEF SkyBlend®, Thin MDF, FR MDF, MR MDF, NAF MDF</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ADDITIONAL COMPANY CONTACT INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON PAGES 98–100.
Information about company products offered by category can be found on pages 84-97.
KRONOSPAN LLC
EASTABOGA PLANT
1 Kronospan Way, Eastaboga, Alabama 36260
(256) 741-8755 Fax (256) 741-8757
boardsales@kronospanusa.com
www.kronospan-express.com

SHIPENVILLE PLANT
143 Fiberboard Road
Shippenville, Pennsylvania 16254
(800) 373-4583 Fax (814) 226-7586
boardsales@kronospanusa.com
www.kronospan-express.com
- MDF MANUFACTURER
- PARTICLEBOARD MANUFACTURER
- LAMINATOR

LAMIGRAF, INC.
201 17th Street Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30363 (404) 583-6254
northamerica@lamigraf.com
www.lamigraf.com
- LAMINATOR

LAMINATOR TECHNOLOGIES
161 Maule Road
Tifton, Georgia 31601
(800) 231-2523
rjoseph@lamitech.net
www.lamitech.net
- LAMINATOR

LAMINATE WORKS
1200 South 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66105
(913) 940-9040
www.laminateworks.com
- LAMINATOR

LANGBOARD, INC.
548 Langboard Road
Willacoochee, Georgia 30487
(912) 534-5959 Fax (912) 534-5904
mrobinson@langboard.com
www.langboard.com
- MDF MANUFACTURER

LOUISIANA-PACIFIC CORPORATION
EAST RIVER PLANT
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Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(888) 457-4246 Fax (877) 606-6015
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Ave. San José # 2 San Juan xhuatepec
Tlaxcalpan, Edo. Mexico CP 54180
+52 (55) 5715-5870
francisco.avila@macosa.com.mx
www.macosa.com.mx
- MDF MANUFACTURER
- PARTICLEBOARD MANUFACTURER
- LAMINATOR

MASONITE CORPORATION
610 W State Highway 3
Broken Bow, Oklahoma 74728
(580) 584-6247 Fax (580) 584-6230
shaneb@panpacificproducts.com
www.panpacificproducts.com
- MDF MANUFACTURER

MASISA MEXICO (FORESTAL TERRANOVA)
Blvd. Juan Pablo II km 2.5 Col. Aeropuerto
Chihuahua, Chihuahua Mexico CP 31584
+52 (844) 362-1716
alfredo.bastida@masisa.com
www.masisa.com
- LAMINATOR

MARSHFIELD DOORSYSTEMS, INC.
5101 East Fourth Street
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449
(800) 286-4020 Fax (715) 387-4218
www.masonite.com
- PARTICLEBOARD MANUFACTURER

MBJ WOOD GROUP, LLC
3100 Olympiad Blvd., Suite 480
Dallas, TX 75019
(214) 289-5464
lglaske@mbjwood.com
www.mbjwood.com
- LAMINATOR

OLON INDUSTRIES INC.
42 Armstrong Ave.
Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4R9
(905) 877-7300 Fax (905) 877-7383
www.olon.com
- LAMINATOR
- OVERLAY MANUFACTURER

OMNOVA SOLUTIONS INC.
25435 Harvard Road
Beachwood, Ohio 44122
(866) 532-5226
laminates@omnova.com
www.omnova.com/laminates
- OVERLAY MANUFACTURER

PAN PACIFIC PRODUCTS, INC.
610 W State Highway 3
Broken Bow, Oklahoma 74728
(580) 584-6247 Fax (580) 584-6230
www.panpacificproducts.com
- MDF MANUFACTURER

PANEL PROCESSING, INC.
1030 Devere Drive
Alpena, Michigan 49707
(800) 433-7142
solutions@panel.com
www.panel.com
- LAMINATOR

PANEL SPECIALISTS, INC.
3115 Range Road
Temple, Texas 76504
(254) 774-9800 Fax (254) 774-7222
customer.service@panelspec.com
www.panelspec.com
- LAMINATOR

PANOLAM INDUSTRIES INT’L, INC.
Muskoka Road 3, Box 7500
Huntsville, Ontario P1H 2J7
(800) 672-6652 Fax (708) 789-6658
www.panolam.com
- PARTICLEBOARD MANUFACTURER
20 Progress Drive
Shelton, Connecticut 06484
(877) 726-6526 Fax (203) 225-0050
www.panolam.com
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(574) 294-7515 Fax (574) 524-7706
schramm@patrickind.com
www.patrickind.com
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PLUMMER FOREST PRODUCTS
501 N. Potlatch Road / P.O. Box 788
Post Falls, Idaho 83854
(208) 457-8703
p.carey@plummerforest.com
www.enstron.com
- PARTICLEBOARD MANUFACTURER

PREMIER EUROCASE
1200 E. 56th Avenue, Unit K
Denver, Colorado 80239
(303) 373-9718 Fax: (303) 373-9710
owilczak@premiereurocase.com
www.premiereurocase.com
- LAMINATOR

RIKEN U.S.A. CORPORATION
26200 Town Center Drive, Suite 135
Novi, Michigan 48375
(248) 513-3510 Fax: (248) 513-3510
info@riken-usa.com
www.riken-usa.com
- OVERLAY MANUFACTURER

ROSEBURG
WESTERN SALES
3660 Gateway Street,
Springfield, Oregon 97477
(800) 245-1115 Fax: (541) 679-2543
chadca@rfpco.com
www.roseburg.com
- OVERLAY MANUFACTURER

EASTERN SALES
1200 Findley Road, Suite 320
Johns Creek, Georgia 30097
(866) 387-2646 Fax (678) 474-1258
treyg@rfpco.com
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Information about company products offered by category can be found on pages 84-97.