

TECH TALK

Product: Heat Activated Fome-Cor®

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Mounting on Heat Activated Fome-Cor®

Heat Activated Fome-Cor® provides an easy to use and timesaving mounting package. The original Fome-Cor® board is evenly coated on one side with adhesive, which activates rapidly at a low temperature and provides a secure bond.

Mechanical or Vacuum Press

1. Be sure the press is clean and free of adhesive, dirt and debris. Heat the press to 165 – 170 degrees F. Temperatures of 160 F or lower will not activate the adhesive, higher temperatures may melt the adhesive too quickly, preventing the air under the print from being removed before the press fully closes.
2. Cover the Heat Activated Fome-Cor®, adhesive side up, with the art to be mounted and place a sheet of the release liner over the artwork. (The shiny side of the release liner should be placed against the print.)
3. The release liner should cover the Heat Activated Fome-Cor® completely to avoid adhesive transfer to the inside of the press.
4. Several release liners are provided and each liner may be used more than once. For multiple uses, the mounted print should be allowed to cool at least 20 seconds before the release liner is removed. The release liners may have or develop a wavy appearance but they are acceptable for use. **IF THE RELEASE LINERS ARE CREASED, DO NOT USE THEM FOR MOUNTING.** The creases may telegraph through to the mounted artwork. Do not use damaged release liners. Commercially available release liners may be substituted if necessary.
5. Smooth the print and release liner to remove any trapped air bubbles. It is a good practice to cover the release liner with a piece of mat board,

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release board or smooth chipboard to prevent the release liner from slipping when the press is closed. This will allow the press to close completely, eliminating air pockets and bubbles before the adhesive begins to melt.

6. Place the Heat Activated Fome-Cor[®], print, release liner and mat board combination in the press for 2 minutes at 165 degrees F. The vacuum press should be closed and under full vacuum for at least 90 seconds. Strips of Fome-Cor[®] can be placed around the Heat Activated Fome-Cor[®] to prevent rounding of the edges.
7. Remove the mounted print from the press and allow the release liner to cool for 20 seconds before removal. If the release liner is removed too quickly, some adhesive may transfer to the release liner and could contaminate subsequent prints. The mount can be placed under cooling weights if desired.
8. Trim the mounted print and frame.

Roller Laminators – (at least one heated roller)

1. Laminator temperature should be set to 225 – 230 degrees F and the speed set to 2 – 3 feet/minute. Laminator type and print weight can significantly affect the performance. Conditions may need to be adjusted for the particular machine.
2. Uncoated media generally adheres to Heat Activated Fome-Cor[®] readily, however, coated media needs to be tested for adhesive compatibility before mounting.
3. If Heat Activated Fome-Cor[®] touches a heated roller, adhesive will transfer to the heated roller. It is necessary to either have the print to be mounted larger than the Heat Activated Fome-Cor[®] or cover the Heat Activated Fome-Cor[®] print with a release liner. The shiny side of the release liner should be placed against the print.
4. The laminator gap should be set about 20 mils (.020”) less than the thickness of the Heat Activated Fome-Cor[®], artwork, and release liner combined. When setting the gap with pressure cylinders, pressure should be sufficient for a 20-mil compression.
5. The Heat Activated Fome-Cor[®], art work (and release liner if used), should be fed to the laminator being careful not to expose the adhesive to the rollers. It is a good practice to have an idle roll on the discharge side of the laminator to keep the print in place while the adhesive cools.
6. Laminating film can be adhered over the print while mounting with Heat Activated Fome-Cor[®]. Both temperature and speed may need to be adjusted when using a laminating film. In general, it is better to decrease laminator speed before increasing the temperatures.