



Gerber Outdoor LexEdge™

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DESCRIPTION

Gerber Outdoor LexEdge is a custom-formulated, 10-mil, LEXAN®-based polycarbonate (LEXAN HPW-12) designed for use with GERBER EDGE®, GERBER EDGE 2®, and GERBER EDGE FX™ thermal transfer printing systems, in conjunction with GerberColor™ Foils.

Outdoor LexEdge is dimensionally stable and resists tearing, abrasion, heat, and yellowing.

Outdoor LexEdge is ideally suited for the production of outdoor applications such as ATM displays, equipment labels, gas station graphics, menu boards, and other outdoor signage applications.

PERFORMANCE LIFE

Outdoor LexEdge has an expected durability of up to five years when applied vertically. Performance life varies based upon foil use and exposure angle.

Performance statements are based upon field experience and exposure tests conducted throughout the United States. Substrate selection, exposure angle, environmental conditions, and maintenance of markings will affect actual performance. Continuous exposure in regions that experience maximum sunlight will result in decreased performance. This product is not recommended for horizontal applications.

PRINTING

A tension roll holder should be used with Outdoor LexEdge.

Fine particles may be attracted to the surface of this material. If this occurs, Outdoor LexEdge can be cleaned with distilled water and a lint-free cloth. Allow the material to dry completely before printing. Do not use an alcohol or solvent-based cleaner on this product, as they will cause the surface to haze and become unprintable.

Outdoor LexEdge is masked on the PRINT SIDE ONLY to protect its surface. The print side of the material is coated for thermal transfer printing while the reverse is hard coated for scratch and abrasion resistance. The print side mask must be removed before printing.

The matte side of this material will generally be the viewing side. Since the polished print surface is the opposite side and will most often be used in second-surface applications, reverse-print design procedures will need to be followed. Outdoor LexEdge is shipped with the polished print surface rolled out.

When printing on Outdoor LexEdge, a specific color of foil will often be used as a solid backing color. This color will generally be assigned as an overprint. In order to ensure that this color covers the other printed graphics as completely as possible, it may be necessary to modify its print settings. (This will be especially needed when the backing foil will be printed on top of more than two other colors.) The print settings for the backing foil can be changed in the QuickPlot screen. Go into the "Print Order" screen (F11) and select SETTINGS. Click on "DARK" in the overprint side only.

GerberColor Spot (GCS), GerberColor Process Pro™ (GCP), and GerberColor Transparent (GCT) Series Foils can be used to print onto Outdoor LexEdge.

Recommended working environment is as follows:

- Operating temperature: 50°F to 95°F / 10°C to 35°C
- Recommended temperature for assured printing accuracy: 68°F to 78°F / 20°C to 26°C
- Operating humidity: 20% to 90% relative humidity, non-condensing (maximum range; actual range varies by material used)

CUTTING

Outdoor LexEdge should be score cut on any 15-inch EDGE-compatible sprocketed plotter. A 45° SuperSharp blade is recommended. Plotters should be set at 50% speed. Outdoor LexEdge is not recommended for cutting very small shapes, such as circles less than 0.5 inch in diameter.

The ideal cut will penetrate halfway through the material. To punch out your finished pieces, find a straight cutline and fold the material backwards. Pinch the cutline with your fingers, and the material will break. Slowly remove the finished piece one edge at a time. The user should perform a test cut to determine tool force setting.

If using a plotter with a swivel blade, you will be able to cut simple shapes easily. However, when cutting complex shapes, your ability to maintain an accurate and consistent cut depth may be compromised.

Cutting weed borders on Outdoor LexEdge is not generally recommended or necessary.

SHELF LIFE AND STORAGE

Store Outdoor LexEdge in the plastic bag provided in the original shipping box. Printed or unprinted Outdoor LexEdge should not be stored on a roll that has less than a 3-inch inside diameter.

Use a paper interleaf between printed materials that are rolled or stacked. Do not store printed graphics face to face. Outdoor LexEdge should be stored in a clean area free from excessive moisture and sunlight. An ambient temperature below 100°F (38°C) is recommended. Unprinted Outdoor LexEdge can be stored for one year at 70°F (21°C) and 50% relative humidity.

CAUTION: Polycarbonate film is commonly used in conjunction with sensitive electronic devices either as a label, window or membrane switch overlay. These devices or components of the same are often packaged in anti-static materials to protect the electronics against damage caused by electrostatic discharge (ESD). One type of anti-static packaging material is commonly referred to as **Pink Poly**. It is a clear pink (hot pink) polyethylene that is available as a film for bags, bubble pack or foam. It is treated with an amine type compound that imparts the anti-static qualities. This compound works by blooming to the surface of the polyethylene and together with airborne moisture produces ions that increases the electrical conductivity at the surface of the polyethylene. **All amines are chemically aggressive to polycarbonate.** A polycarbonate part that comes in contact with amines will eventually degrade. The degradation shows up as a surface haze or clouding, stress cracking of formed parts, complete ink delamination or -in the advanced stages- de-polymerization of the polycarbonate. **Pink Poly should not be used in close proximity to any polycarbonate product including hard-coated polycarbonate film.** Anti-static packaging materials that are safe to use are those that are made conductive by using a metallized coating or inert conductive filler.

MAINTENANCE

To clean printed graphics, use a mild, non-abrasive soap with a soft cloth or sponge. Avoid using alcohol-based cleansers or soaps containing grit or abrasives.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Thickness	10 mil
Film Color	Matte/Polished Clear
Adhesive	N/A
Liner	N/A
Dimensional Stability	Excellent
Operating Temperature	-150°F (-101°C) to 275°F (135°C)

CHEMICAL RESISTANCE (UNPRINTED)

Chemical Agent	Result
Mild Acids	No Effect
Alcohols	Hazing
Alkalis	No effect at low concentration and below 85°F (29°C). Higher concentrations and temperatures result in physical decomposition.
Aliphatic Hydrocarbons	No effect
Amines	Crystallization
Aromatic Hydrocarbons	Severe stress cracking
Detergents and sprays	Mild soap solutions have no effect; strongly alkaline materials should be avoided.

Chemical Agent	Result
Esters	Crystallization
Gasoline	No Effect
Fruit juices/soft drinks	End user test recommended
Household cleansers	No Effect
Ketones	Crystallization/stress cracking, delamination
Silicone oils/greases	No Effect up to 85°F (29°C)
Toluene	No Effect

RELATED LITERATURE

Refer to Product Bulletins of relevant foils and materials for product-specific handling, production, and finishing information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For help with questions concerning Gerber products, please call your distributor or Gerber Customer Service at 1-800-222-7446 or (860) 644-1551. Visit us on the Internet at www.gspinc.com to learn more about our many other foils, materials and equipment.

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