

How to Remove Stress Whitening from KYDEX® Sheet

For information applicable to KYDEX® FST please refer to 300 series technical briefs.

TB - 121

General Information

With certain KYDEX® sheet colours, particularly darker colours, a phenomenon known as stress whitening can occur when the material is stressed such as by cold bending or punching.

This stress whitening appears as a white “line” along the edge of the bend or curve. To remove stress whitening, two possible remedies are listed below.

- 1) Try to heat the area with a heat gun, or a blow dryer. Quickly move the heat gun or blow dryer along the line of the stress whitening. Do not allow the heat gun or blow dryer to linger on a certain spot - this can overheat the material and cause warpage in your part. Heating the area relieves the stress in the material, and allows it to go back to its original colour.
- 2) If heating the material does not work, try wetting a rag or sponge with tetrahydrofuran (THF) or another strong solvent, and wiping across or along the bend that is exhibiting the stress whitening. THF can be obtained from one of your local chemical suppliers, such as Fisher Scientific or Aldrich Chemicals. Fisher Scientific can be reached at (800) 766-7000. Please keep in mind that proper ventilation and handling should be exercised when handling any solvent.

For more information on cold forming or thermoforming KYDEX® sheet, please contact KYDEX, LLC Technical Service.

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