

D. Physical Properties

Technical Bulletin D-4

Moisture Absorption Test Results

Cut Samples of Miratec (MDF), ABTCO (Hardboard), LP Smart Trim (OSB), Hardie Plank Trim (Fiber Cement), TufBoard by Inteplast (80% PVC, 20% wood flour) and VERSATEX (100% PVC) were immersed in a tank of water for a period of four days. The cut edges were left exposed and not primed or painted. The samples were first weighed dry and after four days, taken out of the water tank, wiped dry and weighed again. All samples were either 3/4" or 1" thick by 3 1/2" with the exception of the Tuf Board which was only 2 1/2" wide.

The following chart shows you the amount of water gain per type of trim both in grams and in percent.

Product Description	Dry Weight (grams)	Weight After 4 Days in Water	Difference (grams)	Water Gain (%)
Miratec (MDF)	134	225	91	40
ABTCO (Hardboard)	279	348	69	20
LP Smart Trim (OSB)	304	392	88	22
Hardie Plank (Fiber Cement)	312	451	130	31
TufBoard (80/20 - PVC/Wood)	80	101	21	21
VERSATEX (100% PVC)	153	153	0	0

As you can see from the test results Miratec (MDF) performed the worst with a 40% gain in water, followed by Hardie Plank trim at 31%. The composite wood trims including the PVC/Wood composite TufBoard all absorbed about 20% to 22% water. The VERSATEX (100% PVC) absorbed no water what so ever when immersed in water for 4 days. What does this mean to the builder or homeowner? You never need to worry about cut edges, routed or milled edges, countersunk nails, flashing horizontal trim, installing it too close to masonry, concrete, shrubbery or at grade. VERSATEX installs quick and easy since there are no moisture issues to contend with, and no concern over rot, mold or mildew. As we say VERSATEX is Trim Smarter!!