



## **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS - PREFORM**

### **USERS MUST READ AND UNDERSTAND INSTRUCTIONS FULLY AND MUST ALSO READ SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.**

While installing PREFORM, preformed thermoplastic pavement markings, protective clothing and eye protection should always be used. Protective clothing consists of leather work boots, long pants, long sleeve shirt, and heat resistant gloves. **WARNING: DO NOT WEAR CLOTHING WITH SYNTHETIC FABRICS.** OSHA approved safety glasses are to be worn for eye protection.

### **TOOLS and EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR PROPER INSTALLATION:**

- Broom or powered blower
- Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
- Chalk stick, spray paint, or snap line for layout
- Full 40 lb. propane tank (Small 20 lb. tanks tend to freeze up prematurely)
- Hammer and 1" Wood Chisel
- Tape measure and razor knife
- Application torch capable of producing at least 250,000 BTU's, regulator, and a 30+ foot hose OR an infrared heater

### **Torch Tips:**

- Read the manufacturer's Use and Safety Measures Pamphlet.
- Recommended torch- Magnum Torch with 30+' hose
- If while heating/installing the preformed marking "splatters", the torch nozzle is too close to the material OR the pilot valve needs to be reduced.

### **THINGS TO KNOW:**

- PREFORM application does not have a minimum road or ambient temperature requirement.
- PREFORM may be installed on new asphalt as soon as the asphalt has cooled, and all excess oil is removed.
- PREFORM may be installed on Portland cement concrete. New concrete requires a 30-day cure time prior to installation of PREFORM.
- Primer/Sealer is required on all concrete substrates and recommended on aged asphalt.
- PREFORM should not be installed over existing permanent thermoset pavement marking products. (e.g., waterborne paint, MMA, epoxy, etc.)

### **SURFACE PREPARATION:**

#### **Surface preparation is extremely important.**

- Ensure the application site is dry, clean/free of debris, and free of chemicals, including curing agents, oils, etc.
- Application site must be completely dry and free of ALL moisture to ensure proper application.
  - To ensure NO moisture is present, use the torch to heat/evaporate all moisture.
  - We recommend waiting 24-48 hours after a rain event to install PREFORM.
- Remove all concrete curing agents and old, chipping, flaking, oxidized markings from the application site.
  - Use a water blaster, sand blaster, or scarifier to remove.
- Once all chipping/flaking/oxidized thermoplastic markings are removed heat the remaining existing old markings prior to application of PREFORM. (*NOTE: Extra care should be taken to check bond after material has cooled and prior to leaving the jobsite.*)

### **INSTALLATION:**

- Complete all steps of surface preparation
- Allow the application site to cool if torch was used to remove moisture.
- Mark your layout with spray paint or chalk.
- Snap a chalk line where the horizontal center of the marking is to be positioned.

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### **INSTALLATION Cont'd:**

- Use the chalk line as a guide to layout the PREFORM marking/marking sections.
- When the PREFORM marking/marking sections are laid out, use chalk to trace an outline of marking(s) thus providing a template for installation.
- Remove the PREFORM marking/marking sections from the application site.
- PREFORM does NOT require preheating the application site. (*Application site must be free of ALL moisture.*)
- If using a primer/sealer, follow the primer/sealer manufacturer's application instructions and apply now.
- Place PREFORM marking/marking sections on the application site in the outline previously drawn.
- Holding the torch above the marking, begin heating a section while keeping the torch constantly moving in a circular or back and forth sweeping motion so as to not burn the marking.
- When the PREFORM marking has reached a molten, liquified state you will visibly notice it has conformed to the substrate. Heat indicators will disappear once the marking has reached the required molten, liquified state.
- Allow the PREFORM marking installation to cool to ambient temperature.
- **ALWAYS inspect your installation for bond and reflectivity prior to leaving the installation jobsite.**
  - Proper installation and bond are verified by chisel testing the center of the marking.
  - If the marking easily separates from the substrate proper bond has not been reached. This is the result of the marking not receiving enough heat to become fully molten/liquified enabling the bond. Marking should be reheated/tested until proper bond has been received.
  - Reflectivity is checked preferably with a retroreflectometer. If a retroreflectometer is not available and the sun is out, stand with your back to the sun while facing your installed PREFORM marking and look for the sun's light to reflect from the marking.
    - If initial reflectivity reading is poor, Type I highway glass beads may be hand cast over the PREFORM while reheating the marking to ensure adequate reflectivity.
    - For optimal reflectivity, the glass beads should be 50-60% embedded in the PREFORM marking.

### **1-PART SEALER OR 2-PART EPOXY**

- Both may be applied by brush, roller, or sprayer
- Apply thin even uniform coat to substrate
- **1-Part sealer** must be dry to the touch or without tack before installation of pavement marking
- **2-Part Epoxy Primer** must be wet when pavement marking is laid out for installation. If epoxy has cured or has dried re-apply a thin layer to ensure it is wet at time of installation. Apply only 50-100 sq.ft. of epoxy before starting installation; this will help with ensuring the epoxy stays wet at time of installation.

### **STORAGE and HANDLING:**

- PREFORM should be kept in the original packaging until application at the jobsite.
- PREFORM should be stored indoors. If stored outdoors, place under cover and protect from inclement weather.
- When stored indoors in original packaging at 35-95°F (1.67-35°C) PREFORM has a shelf-life of 24 months.
- Store boxes flat and stack no more than 20 boxes high.
- When transporting PREFORM do not stack pallets and do not stack other items on top of PREFORM boxes.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- PREFORM is easily retrofitted by cutting with a knife or heavy-duty scissors.
- On most asphalt surfaces, markings shall be capable of being applied as the original permanent marking on the day the surface is paved without being adversely affected by the fresh pavement oil content. If excessive oil IS present on top, it should be removed.
- **Call your Preform Sales Manager at 888-826-5161 for further assistance with special pavement situations and/or questions with application.**