

## Surfaces and Interior Finishes

Outlined in this section are finish and surface technologies that could be applied to a wide variety of housing-related products.

### Technology Scanning

One of PATH's major research support services is Technology Scanning. *Technology Scanning* tells us about technology developments in other industries, from other nations, from federal laboratories, and from other building sectors. PATH looks for breakthroughs in other industries that could be transferred and applied to housing. *Technology Scanning*-published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development/PATH and prepared by Newport Partners LLC-is updated as technology developments dictate.

This issue of *Technology Scanning* is one in a series. Each issue in the series falls into one of the following categories:

- Design and Internet Tools
- Safety
- Surfaces and Interior Finishes
- Building Envelope Technologies
- Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning
- Energy/Power Systems Generation
- Basic Materials
- Information Technology
- Thermal and Moisture Protection
- Indoor Environmental Quality

For other available Technology Scanning issues, log onto [www.pathnet.org](http://www.pathnet.org).



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### Pre-finished Composite Materials

Composite materials have been used in other industries for decades. Perhaps the best known composite technology is the honeycomb panel. The integration of new lamination techniques now brings the use of attractive, pre-finished composites closer to a reality for home building applications. Composite panels being produced by Euro-Composites of Elkwood, VA offer a variety of pre-finished choices for honeycomb panels and similar products.

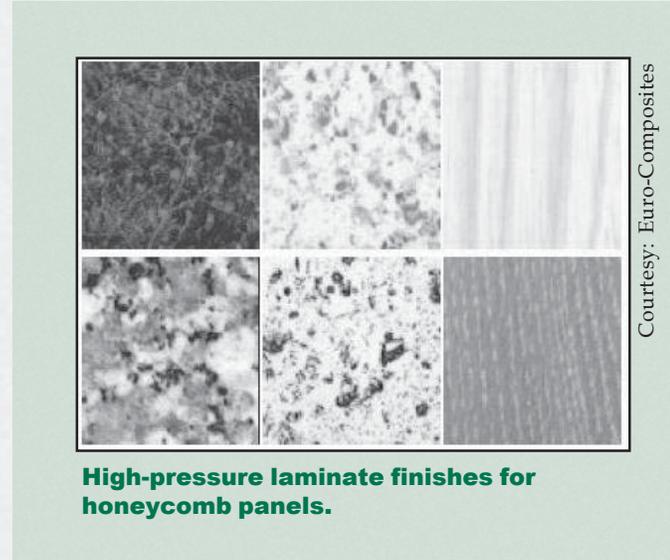
The use of high pressure laminate (HPL) technology allows the panels to be pre-finished on one or both sides. According to Euro-Composites' website, "HPL is already widely used in the furniture industry and consists of several layers of resin-coated paper together with a decorative paper and a protective coating of melamine resin. All these components are then bonded together under high pressure." Composite panels formed using this technology typical take the form of flat panels that can range in size from just fractions of an inch to 12X36 foot sheets and larger.

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### Guide Marked Gypsum Board

National Gypsum Company has introduced a gypsum board product that has guide marks to identify the location of studs, joists, rafters, or trusses. The product will make it easier to



find the location of framing members and make accurate cuts without having to draw as many lines as with conventional gypsum board. Marks are printed on the paper of the gypsum board at distances commonly used for spacing of framing members.

Gold Bond brand GridMarX is the trademark name of National Gypsum Company's gypsum board product with guide marks. The marks consist of an "X" printed on the paper surface in rows parallel to the long dimension of the board. The rows begin at each edge and at 16, 24, and 32 inches. The "X"s are spaced 4 inches apart in each row. The guide marks serve as a reference point for framing members in both horizontal and vertical installations. The manufacturer claims the marks are easily covered with paint and will not bleed through.

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