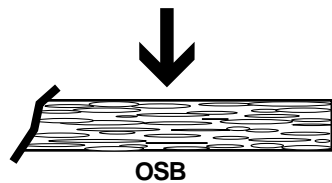
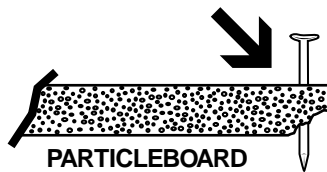
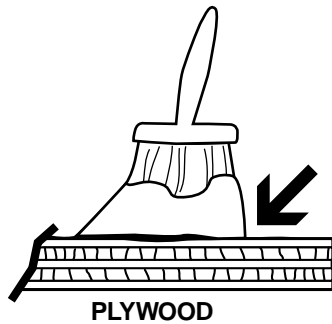


Penn State Pointers ► Tips for Composite Wood Use

Composite wood products are commonly used in remodeling and do-it-yourself projects. The most familiar types are plywood, oriented strandboard (OSB) and particleboard.



TIPS...

- **Paint and/or stain** should be applied to the faces and edges of all composites used outdoors.
- **Avoid using screws or nails too close to the edges.** Particleboard does not hold screws and nails as well as plywood and OSB and could chip out on corners and edges.
- **Look for the grade stamp on each sheet of material.** It tells consumers applications the product is used for. Stamps are usually located on the face.

The strength of some composites is less than plywood because wood chips are small. For example, shelving made from particleboard will bend under heavy weight.

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