

Quick Tips

Easy ideas to improve production efficiency

To Glue or Not To Glue

Over the past several years polystyrene picture frame moldings have become very common in the U.S. market. A question heard a lot is if glue alone is sufficient for joining polystyrene moldings or if both underpinner nails and glue together produce better results.

The answer is that when both options are applied, the outcome will be the most successful.

Polystyrene moldings have a variety of structural compositions, many of which tend to be especially fragile. If you use only underpinner nails on these types of moldings, problems may occur. Most notably, mitered corners can crack or loosen during transportation.

To keep this from happening to a shipment, add glue that is specially formulated for the polystyrene moldings.



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Forklift Safety

Using forklifts in OEM framing facilities is nothing new, but many don't consider its safety and capital risks. Traditionally, forklift lanes in factories are created using tape, which tends to wear down or become destroyed very easily. By using paint instead, a cheaper and more efficient option, safety lanes appear brighter and more easily recognizable. Inexpensive equipment (similar to what is used to paint lines on a playing field) is available at Home Depot.

Those who have ever spent time operating a fork lift probably have also experienced the difficulty associated with judging fork height when passing through door entrances or when the height of the ceiling changes. A momentary lapse can cause significant damage to a facility and/or to the cargo being carried. By hanging a large eight-foot-long horizontal PVC pipe from the ceiling at the same height as the doorway, gauging height—or forgetting to do so—it won't cost thousands of dollars to correct.



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Combatting Broadband Bots

Everyone who has a broadband connection (cable modem or DSL) is subject to spyware or spybots. These are pesky little programs developed for firms seeking to data mine. Spyware and spybots are slipped into your computer when you access certain websites, downloads, e-mail attachments or if you have a broadband connection by firms that are out looking for PCs that are open to attack.

Both are generally referred to as "bots" and typically are developed to report back to a host what you are doing on your computer, when you are doing it and with whom you are doing it. Bots can cause permanent data damage and/or slow your system down to glacial speed.

There are many software programs available to prevent, detect, and remove these harmful Orwellian creations. Instead of spending more of your money buying a preventive program, go to www.download.com and get some protection for free.

The most popular software downloads on this site are:

Spyware Doctor
Webroot Spy Sweeper
Ad-Aware SE Personal Edition

All of the most popular downloads are bot-protection software. I run my bot program daily; yesterday I found 112 bots. Do not be surprised if the first time you run a bot program that you find 300 to 500 bots hiding in your computer.

Happy hunting!

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Contributors to this column are industry members who have experience in production framing operations. If you have a tip of your own, please send it to Quick Tips, PFM Production, 207 Commercial Court, Morganville, NJ 07751.