

Synthetic Edges for Worksurfaces

When specifying a worksurface, two key considerations come to mind: aesthetics and durability. That's why Knoll offers two options for worksurface edges: wood and synthetic. Whereas laminate surfaces automatically come with a synthetic edge, Knoll's wood veneer worksurfaces are available with either wood or synthetic edges; the right choice for a given customer often being a matter of priorities and practical considerations.

Wood or synthetic: What is the difference?

Few materials can boast the beauty that's inherent in natural wood. Knoll uses hard woods on worksurface edges, which makes them both beautiful and durable. However, there's no getting around the day-to-day hard knocks. In such scenarios, the synthetic edge offers a more durable alternative. In straightforward impact tests, Knoll's synthetic edge far surpassed the staying power of the equivalent wood edge. That's partly a reflection of the softer properties of wood, as well as a reflection of the resiliency of the synthetic edge.

Comprised of ABS, Knoll's synthetic edge is both a long-lasting and sustainable choice. ABS is non-toxic and non-carcinogenic, recyclable and reusable, and formaldehyde-free. Better still, its high heat resistance classifies it as a food-grade thermoplastic, thus making it a safe choice for higher education and healthcare applications, as well as any environment in which green initiatives are paramount.



Natural Veneer, left, and Synthetic Edge, right.

Wood or synthetic: Which edge do you choose?

Whereas laminate surfaces receive the synthetic edge as the default edge option, natural veneer and Techwood veneer finish options present customers with a choice. In areas of low traffic or light use such as a private office, a wood edge is a reasonable option. However, open plan layouts that command heavy traffic and areas in which hard-framed back chairs are used in close confines demand a worksurface edge with staying power. In such applications, a synthetic edge is the optimal choice.

To some customers however, aesthetics might take priority over durability. In such cases the synthetic edge is still a viable contender. Available to match natural veneer and techwood finish options, Knoll's synthetic edges blend seamlessly with veneer surfaces. Taking into account their availability to complement Knoll's core V1, V2 and V3 finish grades, as well as standard price points and lead times, the synthetic edge is a logical option for the way we work today.

How do you order?

Specification is easy. Because synthetic edges are standard product, their finish codes not only are listed in the surface selection menu, but also conveniently match the corresponding veneer codes.

As for other synthetic edges that are beyond the scope of standard options, Knoll's Special Finish Request Form must be submitted to create a customer's desired match.