



Utrecht Art Supplies

Studio Craft: Sizing the Edges of a Panel



Ask the Expert: "I've heard more than one opinion on sizing the edges of a masonite panel. Some say the edges should be left untreated because the panel needs to "breathe", while others say the edges should be sealed. Which is it?"

A: In our opinion, the edges of hardboard panels should be sized and primed. The corners and edges are quite delicate; sizing and priming protect them from bruising and chipping. Acrylic gesso alone affords significant protection, but applying Acrylic Sizing prior to priming gives additional strength.



Especially for panels not supported by a strainer or cradle, we also recommend sizing the back, to equalize stress and to reduce distortion from the wet sizing/priming combination.

Sizing and priming the sides helps paint adhere all the way to the edge. Oil paint applied to bare hardboard can lose strength if the panel material wicks away too much vehicle. Paint that has not attached firmly might peel or chip, potentially causing damage in the image area. Priming over the edges helps ensure corner-to-corner adhesion.

Before sizing/priming, the edges of hardboard panels should be slightly beveled with a file or sanding block to reduce the chance of chipping. The panel should be lightly sanded and cleaned with denatured alcohol to remove dust and dirt. Apply sizing according to package directions.

Questions? [Ask the Expert](#)

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