

# PLASKOLITE

## TUFFAK® CA FAQ's

### WHAT IS TUFFAK CA POLYCARBONATE?

TUFFAK CA is a flame resistant, optical grade, transparent polycarbonate sheet product designed to meet Class A flammability requirements in the International Building Code (IBC) for interior wall and ceiling applications. The material is suitable as a high impact resistant wall covering for high traffic areas in offices, buildings and homes. The material is also approved for decorative ceiling panels and can be used in outdoor canopy applications.

TUFFAK CA-UV is also a Class A rated material. The advanced UV resistance technology ensures long lasting outdoor weathering performance.

TUFFAK CA-AR is also a Class A rated material. The proprietary hard coat provides abrasion, weathering and chemical resistance.

### IS TUFFAK CA CLASS A RATED PER ASTM E84?

TUFFAK CA, TUFFAK CA-UV and TUFFAK CA-AR are Class A equivalent per NFPA 286 results.

Class ratings like A, B and C are associated specifically with the fire test method ASTM E84. Under IBC Chapter 8 for Interior Finishes and Chapter 31 for Awnings and Canopies, there are two approved fire methods: ASTM E84 and NFPA 286. Materials passing NFPA 286 are considered Class A rated per the building code.

### HOW DO TEST METHODS ASTM E84 AND NFPA 286 DIFFER?

ASTM E84 is a 10-minute fire chamber test performed in a Steiner Tunnel. The method monitors flame spread and smoke development. This traditional “tunnel test” can be used on all interior finishes and evaluates materials without consideration of whether they’re intended for walls or ceilings (or floors) as all materials are tested in the same configuration.

NFPA 286 is a 15-minute corner room fire test. The method monitors flame spread, flashover, peak heat release and smoke development. NFPA 286 is considered a more realistic fire test over ASTM E84 as it is a full-scale fire room test in which the materials are tested in the way they will be used.

### WHY ISN'T MORE MATERIAL QUALIFIED AS CLASS A UNDER NFPA 286?

NFPA 286 has been an approved fire method within IBC Chapter 8 for Interior Finishes for decades. However, ASTM E84 may be more familiar to the construction industry due to its longer use within the building code and cheaper testing costs associated with the method. Testing to ASTM E84 runs about 1/5<sup>th</sup> the cost of NFPA 286. Starting in IBC 2018, NFPA has a higher visibility within the code over ASTM E84 as it's considered a more realistic fire test.

### DOES TUFFAK CA COME IN DIFFERENT COLORS, TEXTURES, SURFACE TREATMENTS?

TUFFAK CA, TUFFAK CA-UV and TUFFAK CA-AR are offered in clear and standard tints. Consult Technical Service regarding other product offerings.

# PLASKOLITE

## **CAN TUFFAK CA BE DECORATED, THERMOFORMED AND FABRICATED?**

Yes, TUFFAK CA and CA-UV can be decorated, thermoformed and fabricated using typical polycarbonate techniques. TUFFAK CA-AR1 (one side coated) can only be printed or painted on the uncoated side of the sheet. Both AR1 and AR2 are intended for flat applications only. Please refer to the TUFFAK® Fabrication Guide [www.plaskolite.com](http://www.plaskolite.com) under Resources.

## **DOES TUFFAK CA COME WITH A WARRANTY?**

TUFFAK CA is offered with a five (5) year Limited Product Warranty against breakage.

TUFFAK CA-UV is offered with a ten (10) year Limited Product Warranty against breakage, yellowing and loss of light transmission.

TUFFAK CA-AR is offered with a seven (7) year Limited Product Warranty against breakage, yellowing, loss of light transmission and coating failure.

## **WHAT TYPES OF APPLICATIONS CAN BENEFIT FROM USING TUFFAK CA?**

TUFFAK CA can be used anywhere your application requires Class A, B or C fire performance. It is ideally suited as a decorative and protective interior finish material. Wherever high traffic areas exist such as hallways in resorts/hotels (luggage guarding), hospitals (gurney guarding), lobbies, healthcare facilities, gyms, schools, shopping centers, airports, train and bus terminals, offices, manufacturing plants, restaurants, casinos, the material could protect interior walls from damage. The material can also be formed into decorative ceiling panels for lobbies, conference rooms and meeting centers.

## **WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ON TUFFAK CA?**

Additional information can be obtained by visiting the links below or at [www.plaskolite.com](http://www.plaskolite.com)

[TUFFAK CA DATASHEET](#)

[TUFFAK CA LITERATURE](#)

[TUFFAK CA-UV DATASHEET](#)

[TUFFAK CA-AR DATASHEET](#)

[TUFFAK CA PRODUCT INFORMATION](#)

[TUFFAK POLYCARBONATE SDS](#)

[TUFFAK POLYCARBONATE FABRICATION GUIDE](#)

[TUFFAK CA BROCHURE](#)

## **HOW DO I CLEAN TUFFAK® CA POLYCARBONATE SHEET?**

# PLASKOLITE

The best way to clean TUFFAK® polycarbonate sheet is to use mild soap and water with a soft microfiber cloth, followed by a lukewarm water rinse. For detailed information, please refer to the cleaning instructions for polycarbonate located at [www.plaskolite.com](http://www.plaskolite.com) under Resources.

TUFFAK® is a registered trademark of Plaskolite LLC