



BALTIMORE

# spec NEWS

# Felt Tips

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## PORCELAIN ENAMEL CHALKBOARDS

Porcelain enamel surface is available on aluminized or nickelized steel sheet. Choice of steel type is immaterial in that manufacturers' guarantees are available for a period of 50 years or the life of the building.

Steel sheet thickness ranges from 28 gage thru 18 gage with a price differential favoring the thinner gages. The writing and erasing surface is provided by the porcelain which performs similarly regardless of steel thickness and the guarantee is the same for all steel gages. Since not all manufacturers offer all gages, the greatest economy can be achieved without sacrificing quality by allowing the use of 28 gage steel as a minimum and accepting the thicker standard gages available from all manufacturers.

The most economical and satisfactory core materials are particle board and untempered hardboard. Do not specify tempered hardboard because it will be adversely affected by the excessive humidity present in a new building.

Backing is available in sheet aluminum, sheet steel and aluminum foil. The most economical choice is .001 aluminum foil. For sliding chalkboard panels, specify the same gage porcelainized steel to be used for backing as is used for chalkboard face. This provides a more stable and balanced panel.

Standard lengths vary with one piece lengths available up to 12 ft. or 16 ft. depending upon manufacturer. For units exceeding 12 ft. or 16 ft., some manufacturers can furnish a one piece core with vertical joints in the chalkboard face providing a relatively smooth joint for an uninterrupted writing surface.

All manufacturers offer 3, 3½ and 4 ft. widths. The cost differential does not warrant the use of anything less than the 4 ft. width unless dictated by design requirements.

Field assembled aluminum trim is generally less expensive than factory fabricated units.