

The Hidden Costs of a Bad Foundation...

Repaired platens
reduce "sand off"
by more than

70%

Stop Sanding Away Profits

Platens used in the pressing of wood-based panels must remain flat and parallel in order to maximize the efficiency of the press and maintain the lowest possible cost per board length. Mill operators can often try to use the same set of heated platens in their presses for 10, 15 even 20 years. Over that period of time, the platens will sustain a fair amount of abuse.

Typically stacked with 12 or more openings, heated steel platens can be easily damaged, nicked, gouged, bent, skewed or just become worn over time. Even small objects like nuts, bolts, tools, sheared hangers or guide block parts that find their way into the flow of material can be pressed into the surface of the platen causing varying degrees of damage. Under normal operators platens are subjected to bending by double pressing or loading errors, some of which may require urgent repair.





Once the platen or series of platens display enough imperfections, the efficiency of the mill begins to erode and cost per board length increases. A press operating with imperfect platens incurs additional cost resulting from:

- **Additional fiber required to meet product tolerance**
- **Boards requiring additional sanding leading to wasted fiber and higher sanding media costs**
- **Greater press pressures leading to additional platen and press wear**

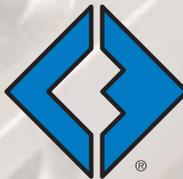
Custom Engineering provides expedited 24/7 repair service working through companies' "shutdown schedules". Work is performed on two large planer mills capable of handling the largest of platens.

Platen repair work can be done during a 10 to 14 day shutdown period including transport. Platens are removed from the press, shipped to Custom in Erie, PA, analyzed, straightened, milled tested returned and installed within the designated shut down period.

Once removed by Custom Engineering, repair platens are "mapped" using dial indicators to determine the amount of stock to be removed. Platens requiring a thickness reduction greater than .150-inches are the first straightened prior to machining. Typically, two (2) dedicated planer mills are employed to meet scheduling demands. Each platen is then flow and pressure tested with all the data recorded on inspection reports.

***"Platens are the foundation of board production.
If your platen's bent or bowed, even slightly, you've
got an uphill battle to produce a low cost, quality product."***

*Andy Tompkins,
The Platenmeister,
Custom Engineering*



**CUSTOM
Engineering Co.**

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***Stop Sanding Away Profits...
Call Andy Tompkins,
The Platenmeister
toll free at 1.800.766.8504
for a fast, FREE quote!***