

Varaform Frequently Asked Questions...

- **What is Varaform?**

Varaform is a thermoplastic impregnated in a cotton mesh. It is comprised of a unique synthetic polymer that when heated will soften and activate a built in adhesive for molding and forming.

- **What can Varaform be used for?**

Theatrical scenery and set designs, various props, costumes, animatronics, crowns, helmets and headgear, puppetry, armor, masks, prototypes, modeling, mascot heads, displays, headdresses etc.

- **How big are the sheets?**

Varaform is available by the yard.

- **What types do Varaform come in?**

Varaform comes in three types – Gauze, Light, and Heavy

- **Is Varaform available in colors?**

Varaform is available in the universal preferred color of white.

- **Is there a minimum purchase required and how is it shipped?**

There is no minimum purchase.

- **Is Varaform expensive?**

No, it cost \$51.00 a yard, plus shipping.

- **Do I need any special tools for cutting Varaform?**

No, a good pair of sharp scissors or utility knife work just fine.

- **How do I activate Varform to make the shape and form I want?**

A wide variety of heat sources maybe used depending on the size of the craft or figure you are building. Hot water, conventional ovens or even a microwave oven all work fine. Most users prefer working with an industrial hot air gun with a flowing motion. A home hairdryer does not generate enough heat to provide an adequate activation temperature, especially with large pieces.

- **How much time do I have to work with Varaform after I heat it up before it cools off and becomes rigid again?**

You have about 2-3 minutes of work or open time before it cools off and reverts back to its original stiffness. If you find it is becoming difficult to mold and shape as it cools off, just reheat. Varaform can be heated again and again.

- **Can I work with my bare hands and fingers with the heated Varaform?**

Although when heated, the Varafrom activates the built in adhesive you can still work with it using bare hands.

- **Can Varaform be used with positive and negative molds?**

Yes, as it is well suited for both, as well as free forming. Use conventional molds or create your own. If sticking to the mold surface is a problem, you may want to utilize a layer of aluminum foil. Depending on the

mold configuration or size, you may want to cut the Varaform into smaller pieces or strips making seams using heat and applied pressure.

- **Is Varaform waterproof?**

Yes, cool water has no effect.

- **Will the heated Varaform stretch?**

Yes, since it is a mesh it will stretch easily.

- **Can I apply heated Varaform directly on the human body for forming or mask making?**

Absolutely not, the hot Varaform will burn.

- **How do I decorate or finish the surface of Varaform?**

Varaform accepts most paints and coatings. Acrylics, latex etc. brush applied or spray-painted. Foam coats, sculpt coats, gessos or most any artisan coating can be applied depending on the desired effect. Cover with decorative fabrics, leather etc. by applying spray adhesive or use hot glue.

- **Where can I find Varaform?**

The Varaform website is <http://www.runlite.com/varaform>, which lists many distributors. I personally order from www.douglassandsturgess.com.