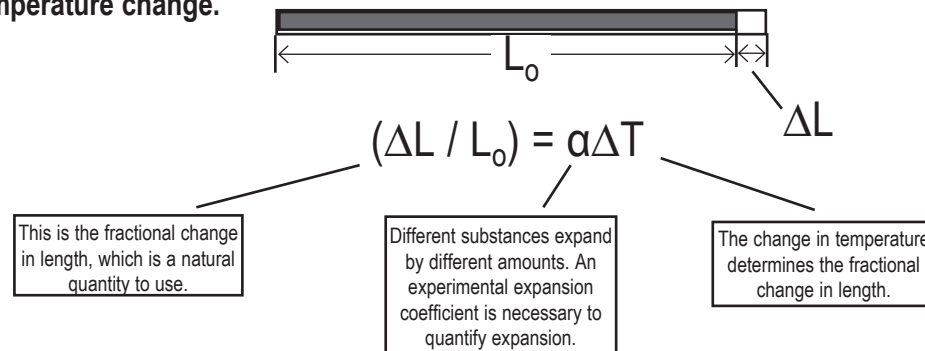


Coefficient of Thermal Linear Expansion for KYDEX® Sheet

INTRODUCTION

During heat transfer, the energy that is stored in the intermolecular bonds between atoms changes. When the stored energy increases, so does the length of the molecular bond. As a result, solids expand in response to heating and contract on cooling; this response to temperature change is expressed as its coefficient of thermal expansion. The linear thermal expansion coefficient relates the change in temperature to the change in a material’s linear dimensions. It is the fractional change in length of a bar per degree of temperature change.



TEST METHOD

Testing for the coefficient of linear thermal expansion is best described by ASTM D696. This test method is intended to provide a means of determining the coefficient of linear thermal expansion of plastics by using temperature extremes to change molecular energy within the material.

Example:

The linear thermal expansion of a 4' X 8' sheet of KYDEX® 100 from 30°F to 70°F can be found by using the linear thermal expansion equation. Linear thermal expansion is comprised of three basic things; change in temperature, original length, and coefficient of linear thermal expansion. In this case KYDEX® 100 is the material being used and its coefficient of linear thermal expansion may be found from the chart listed below ($4.15 \cdot 10^{-5}$). The following is a set-up to find the final dimension of the 8' sheet at 70°F.

$\Delta L = L_0 \cdot (\alpha \cdot \Delta t)$	$\Delta L = 96'' \cdot ((4.15 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ in/in/}^\circ\text{F}) \cdot 40^\circ\text{F})$
$\Delta L = \text{Change in length}$	$\Delta L = 0.15936''$
$L_0 = \text{Initial length (96'')}$	$L_0 + \Delta L = L_f$
$\alpha = \text{Coefficient of linear thermal expansion}$	$96'' + 0.15936'' = 96.15936''$
$\Delta T = \text{Change in temperature (40}^\circ\text{F)}$	

The final length of the KYDEX® 100 8' sheet is just barely over 8' at 70°F, but the change in length is still noticeable and needs to be considered when installing the sheet. Without factoring in linear thermal expansion many problems may occur after installation due to fluctuations in temperature.



Customer Collaboration
6685 Low St, Bloomsburg, PA 17815 USA
Phone: 800.325.3133, +1.570.389.5810
Email: info@kydex.com

appLab™
Phone: 800.682.8758
Email: applab@kydex.com

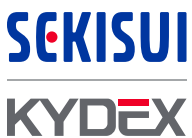
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**LINEAR
EXPANSION
VALUES BY
PRODUCT**

Coefficient of Thermal Linear Expansion				
Product	Machine Direction		Transverse Direction	
	(in/in)/°F	(mm/mm)/°C	(in/in)/°F	(mm/mm)/°C
KYDEX® 100	4.15*10 ⁻⁵	7.47*10 ⁻⁵	4.67*10 ⁻⁵	8.41*10 ⁻⁵
KYDEX® 430	4.14*10 ⁻⁵	7.45*10 ⁻⁵	4.14*10 ⁻⁵	7.45*10 ⁻⁵
KYDEX® 5555/5555MB	3.68*10 ⁻⁵	6.63*10 ⁻⁵	3.98*10 ⁻⁵	7.16*10 ⁻⁵
KYDEX® 6200	4.24*10 ⁻⁵	7.64*10 ⁻⁵	4.73*10 ⁻⁵	8.51*10 ⁻⁵
KYDEX® 6503	3.81*10 ⁻⁵	6.85*10 ⁻⁵	3.98*10 ⁻⁵	7.16*10 ⁻⁵
KYDEX® T/TMB	4.14*10 ⁻⁵	7.45*10 ⁻⁵	4.38*10 ⁻⁵	7.88*10 ⁻⁵

For further information on thermal expansion and a thermal expansion calculator, visit:
<http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hbase/thermo/thexp.html>



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appLab™
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 Email: applab@kydex.com

kydex.com

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