
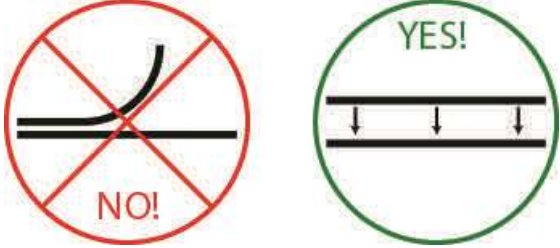



# DuraTech

## Membrane Switch Handling Guidelines

When handling a membrane switch it is imperative that you follow the correct procedures to avoid damage to the circuit, membrane tail, LEDs and dome keys. Below is the correct procedure you should follow when handling a membrane switch.

<p><b>ALWAYS</b> use Anti-Static Wristbands when handling the product to avoid damaging the LEDs due to electrostatic discharge (ESD).</p>	
<p><b>NEVER</b> roll the membrane switch onto the surface of the final backing substrate. The switch should be aligned and then lowered down as a flat plane. Rolling a membrane switch onto the surface of the subpanel (as one might with a label or graphic overlay) can damage the domes or dislodge surface mount devices (SMD).</p>	
<p><b>NEVER</b> actuate tactile keys while in the unsupported position. Flexing the tactile domes (either polydome or steel snap dome) prior to final mounting on the subpanel can cause: (a) Over travel of the dome. This causes the dome to be flexed beyond bottom-dead-center. Such a dome will remain in the collapsed (CLOSED and does not "snap" back) position after actuation force is released. (b) Bending one or more legs on the dome. A bent leg on a tactile dome provides a weak point for inconsistent return forces. Such a dome may remain collapsed and/or have very low tactile response.</p>	 <p><b>UNSUPPORTED SWITCH</b></p>

**ALWAYS** laminate switch assembly to a rigid subpanel with a suitable roller (typically 35-45 Durometer, Shore "A" hardness) and/or a proper template. *Never* burnish or press with hard/sharp objects.

Templates are rigid plastic or metal plates that have relief areas cut out or machined as counter-bores to allow uniform pressure on the switch without putting pressure or stress on tactile switches and/or SMD component locations

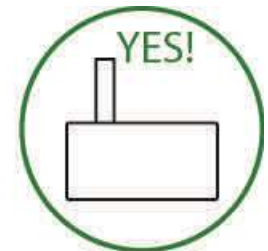


**NEVER** actuate a tactile key with a pen, screwdriver, stylus or any other actuator. Membrane switches are specifically designed to be activated by finger actuation.

Actuation with any hard, sharp and/or small diameter object can cause damage (dent) to the transition ring of the tactile dome. Once damaged - even slightly - the dome is unstable and prone to premature failure.



**NEVER** crease the tail of a membrane switch. Creasing the tail could cause the conductive ink traces to crack and result in an open circuit.



**NEVER** store or operate a membrane switch assembly outside of storage and/or operating temperature range(s), respectively.

**ALWAYS USE CARE** with any zero insertion force (ZIF) or low insertion force (LIF) connectors. These connectors have delicate and fragile sliding locking mechanisms (unique to each PN and manufacturer). **BE CAREFUL** that installers use care to not exert too much force or torque on the locking slider or it will **BREAK**. Note: Ref. specific manufacturer's PN data sheet(s) for maximum force and handling requirements, if needed.