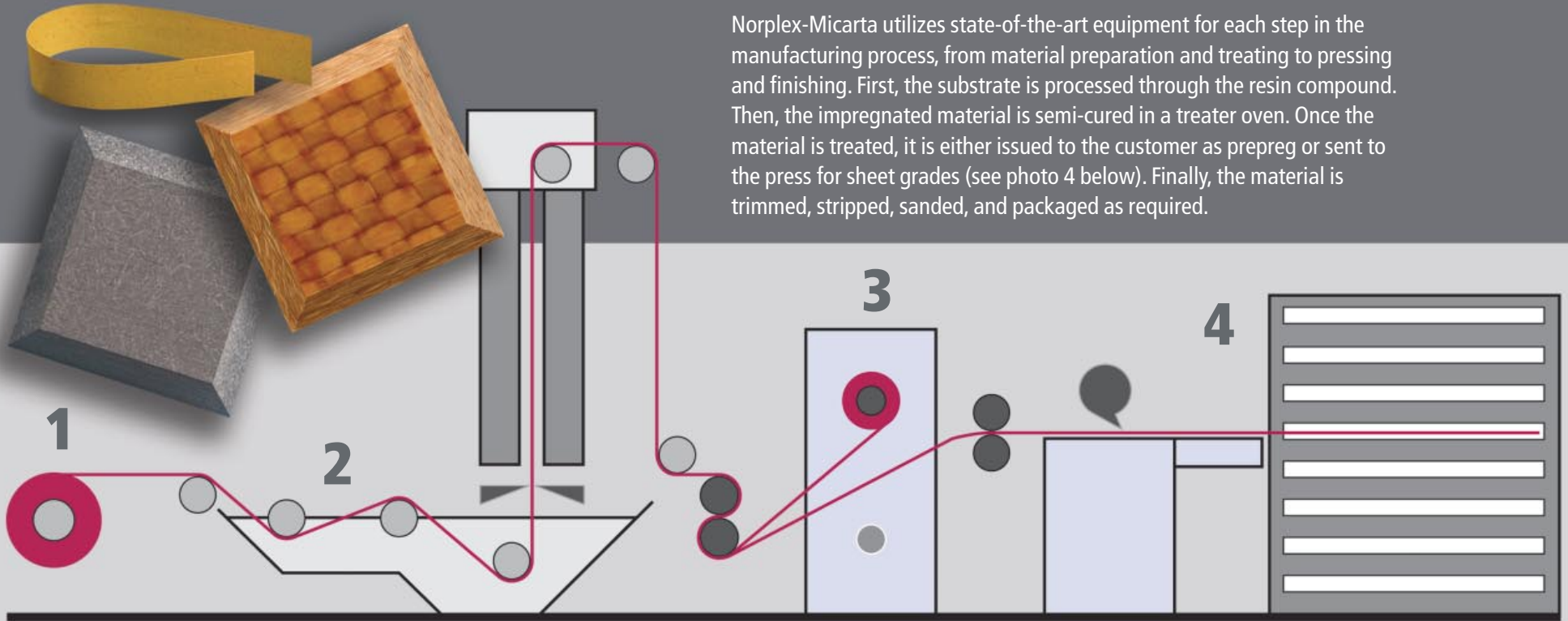


Norplex-Micarta Sheet Manufacturing Process

Norplex-Micarta utilizes state-of-the-art equipment for each step in the manufacturing process, from material preparation and treating to pressing and finishing. First, the substrate is processed through the resin compound. Then, the impregnated material is semi-cured in a treater oven. Once the material is treated, it is either issued to the customer as prepreg or sent to the press for sheet grades (see photo 4 below). Finally, the material is trimmed, stripped, sanded, and packaged as required.



1 Substrate Roll
Norplex-Micarta has the most stringent vendor qualification process in the thermoset laminate industry, ensuring that our customers receive the highest quality and consistency from batch to batch.



2 Resin Metering
Precision-aligned rollers apply and meter resin to the substrate with uniform consistency and fabric wet-out. The system guarantees that the resin will completely penetrate the substrate, filling all voids.



3 Treater/Rewinder
A proprietary computer-controlled treating technology is used for the curing process. Both vertical (illustrated above) and horizontal treaters are available to fit customer process requirements. After treating, prepreg products are sent to the rewind system, which ensures consistent tension throughout the process.



4 Lamination Press
Norplex-Micarta uses multiple, state-of-the-art hydraulic presses that are computer-controlled. These presses produce laminated sheets ranging from 18" x 18" to 4' x 10' in size and up to 12" thick.