

LAMINATE USE AND CARE GUIDE

Customer information in regards to laminate countertops. Please take time to read.

Laminates are designed for beauty and durability. Like any surfacing materials they can be damaged by abuse and carelessness. When used as recommended with proper use and care, the end result is years of satisfaction.

PROTECTING THE SURFACE

Before selecting the surface material, consider the type of use it will receive, as well as its texture, color, and reflective values. A rough-textured surface has different advantages, depending upon use, than a smooth-textured surface. For example, high gloss finish laminates are not recommended for use in heavy-duty applications such as countertops. Dark colors tend to enhance scratches, marring and fingerprints.

SCRATCH AND IMPACT PROTECTION

Use cutting boards, chopping blocks, or other protective surfaces.

Do not chop, slice, pound, or hammer on any laminate surface.

Knives or other sharp utensils may slice or scratch the surface.

Heavy blows from a hammer or meat tenderizer may crack or gouge the surface.

Use place mats, doilies, and trivets on laminate surfaces when necessary.

Ceramics and abrasive objects can cause scratching and premature wear – do not slide these items across surface.

Follow recommendations for cleaning – do not use abrasive cleaners, steel wool, sandpaper, or Scotch-Brite® scouring pads (see Cleaning section inside).

HOT OBJECTS

Cookware still hot from the stove, oven or microwave, as well as electric skillets, waffle irons, curling irons and hot rollers, should not be placed directly on laminate surfaces. Prolonged exposure to temperatures of 140°F (60°C) or higher may cause the laminate to separate from the core material. Use a trivet, insulated hot pad or other protective device beneath all hot cookware, heat generating appliances, or other heated objects.

Laminates can withstand heat up to 275°F (135°C) for short periods of time.

Avoid ironing or placing a hot iron on laminate surfaces.

Do not place lighted cigarettes directly on laminate surfaces.

ORDINARY CLEANING

Formica Brand Laminate and ColorCore2 surfacing material are very easy to clean.

In most cases, you only need to use a clean, damp, non-abrasive cotton cloth and a mild liquid detergent or household cleaner.

Rinse with clean water, using a clean, non-abrasive cotton cloth.

Do not flood the laminate, especially near seams, since water can penetrate and cause the substrate to swell.

Dry the surface with a soft, clean, non-abrasive cotton cloth.

For specific types of surfaces, use the following care guidelines. MATTE AND SPARKLE FINISH LAMINATES

Especially hard-to-clean areas may require special attention. Use a nylon bristled hand or vegetable brush, along with a mild liquid detergent-and-water solution or household cleaner. Clean the soiled area using a rotating motion. Rinse and dry the surface as indicated above.

SCULPTURE AND DIENSIONAL FINISH LAMINATES

These surfaces may require special attention to clean the depressed areas. Use a nylon-bristled hand or vegetable brush, along with a mild liquid detergent-and-water solution or household cleaner. Clean the soiled area, using a rotating motion. Rinse and dry the surface as indicated above.

HIGH GLOSS FINISH LAMINATES

If residual streaks and smears remain after normal cleaning, use a mild glass cleaner and then dry with a clean, non-abrasive cotton cloth. Avoid exterior glass cleaner.

ABRASIVES

Abrasive pads, scouring powders or cleaners may permanently dull and scratch the laminate surface making it susceptible to staining.

Ceramics, including unglazed materials and other abrasive objects, can cause scratching and premature wear – do not slide these items across surface.

CHEMICAL DAMAGE

Never use cleaners containing acid, alkali, or sodium hypochlorite. These cleaners will mar, etch, corrode, and permanently discolor the laminate surface. Also, make sure that bottles, rags, and other materials

contaminated with these cleaners never contact the laminate surface. Accidental spills or splatters from these compounds should be wiped off immediately, and the area rinsed thoroughly with water.

USE AND CARE GUIDE

EXAMPLES OF CLEANERS CONTAINING ACID, ALKALI, OR SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- ceramic cooktop cleaners
- oven cleaners
- chlorine bleach
- rustremovers
- coffeepot cleaners
- some countertop cleaners drain cleaners
- some disinfectants lime scale removers
- toilet bowl cleaners
- metal cleaners
- tub and tile cleaners

SPECIAL CLEANING RECOMMENDATIONS

RESIDUAL GLUE

Sometimes new decorative laminate has a streaky appearance caused by contact adhesive used during fabrication. Clean with a non-abrasive cotton cloth and an adhesive solvent such as Formica® Brand Non-flammable Contact Adhesive Solvent. Use solvent sparingly, as excessive amounts may delaminate edges. Read and follow all warnings and instructions on the labels of all solvent products.

PAINT AND VARNISH

Remove most oil-base paints, varnishes and lacquers from decorative laminate surfaces with a suitable solvent. Read and follow all warnings and instructions on the labels of all solvent products, and remember that most solvents are extremely flammable. Use solvent sparingly, as excessive amounts may delaminate edges. Remove most water-based paints with an ammoniated household cleaner. For stubborn paint spots, gently use a plastic, non-metallic, non-abrasive pad. Never use steel wool or other abrasive scouring pads.

STAINS

To remove or minimize stains, use full strength Fantastik® All Purpose Cleaner, Formula 409®, Pine-Sol® (original formulation) or other mild household cleaner on the affected area, and allow it to draw out the stain. Blot with a clean, damp, non-abrasive cotton cloth, and then rinse with clean water. When a recommended cleaner changes its formulation, the change may be harmful to the laminate surface. Formica Corporation cannot be held responsible for these changes. Solvents such as denatured alcohol can also be used. Follow all directions and warnings on the solvent label because many are extremely flammable.

STUBBORN OR "FUGITIVE" STAINS THAT MAY DISAPPEAR ON THEIR OWN, AFTER A SHORT TIME OR AFTER REPEATED CLEANINGS, INCLUDE:

- coffee and tea stains
- food stains fingerprints
- glass rings food dyes
- water marks

STAINS WHICH ARE STUBBORN OR EVEN PERMANENT, AND MAY NOT DISAPPEAR, INCLUDE:

- cash register inks
- lemon juice
- food pricing ink
- marking pen inks
- indelible inks
- newsprint
- label inks
- wood stains

SOME MATERIALS AND LIQUIDS, SUCH AS DYES AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, WILL PERMANENTLY STAIN LAMINATE. EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- dermatological
- povidone-iodine
- hair dyes and rinses
- Red-2B dye
- laundry bluing
- silver nitrate
- Mercurochrome®
- tannic acid
- peroxides
- tar compounds

These stains may be reduced by applying a paste of baking soda and water on the area to pull out the stain. The paste will be slightly abrasive, so do not rub. wipe up the paste with a clean, damp, non-abrasive cotton cloth, and then rinse clean with water.

Periodic application of a self-cleaning wax can help minimize future staining.