

LAMINEX®

FACTSHEET – LAMINATE 101



- Laminate is a decorative surface, most commonly used in benchtops (horizontal) but can also be used in vertical applications. It's used widely in kitchens, bathrooms and laundries, including benchtops around ovens and hotplates. It is not recommended for exterior use or as a splashback surface behind gas appliances
- Laminate is the most cost effective decorative surface for benchtops, manufactured from layers of paper, with a decorative paper providing the colour/pattern and an overlay providing durable properties. It is considered a good environmental choice, with all decorative papers free of elemental chlorine
- Your tradesperson will cut and shape a suitable substrate board (such as moisture resistant particleboard) to your specifications and then bond the laminate to the board to create your benchtop. Edges are then carefully heated and shaped to a specific profile. This creates your benchtop. They can also postform laminate with heat, which allows the laminate to curve around an edge to create a shaped edge to the benchtop
- Laminate has good durability including resistance to surface wear, boiling water (up to 180°C) dry heat, impact and staining. However direct exposure to steam, or direct radiant heat can cause a moderate change in colour or gloss level. Cigarette burns can cause moderate change in gloss level and moderate brown staining
- Laminex® Laminate conforms with Australian Standards (AS/NZS 2924.1) If you experience cracking, blisters or delamination with your laminate benchtop then you should contact your cabinetmaker/kitchen designer. It is the responsibility of the cabinetmaker/kitchen designer to comply to all regulations when installing laminates

- All Laminex Laminates come with a 7 year limited warranty. Please check with your cabinetmaker/kitchen designer on the benchtop warranty or download it from laminex.com.au
- There are a range of edge styles available through your cabinetmaker/kitchen designer – see Factsheet – Ideal Benchtop Solutions
- 216 colours from the Laminex Colour Palette are available in Laminate provide a wide array of colour and designs
- Other speciality laminates available include DiamondGloss for a gloss benchtop or Squareform which provides the look of a stone slab with a square edge.

DISPELLING THE MYTHS

1. Laminate is plastic – laminate is made from layers of paper and is not plastic. The paper is resin forced with thermosetting resins
2. Laminate is not durable – laminate is very durable for interior applications and meets all Australian standards. Laminate benchtops that are maintained and cared for will last many decades
3. Laminate doesn't look like stone – digital printing has allowed even greater print clarity and realistic stone patterns to be printed onto paper that are then manufactured into laminate. Choosing specialist laminates such as DiamondGloss and Squareform provide even better stone interpretations.

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GENERAL CARE - INFORMATION

Laminate surfaced products are hardwearing materials, but like all materials can be damaged if used without some care and maintenance. The following information should help in assisting you to maintain the surface of your laminate products with minimum time and effort.

- Avoid scourers and abrasives as they will damage the surface
- Do not place hot objects, electrical appliances or pots straight from the oven or cooker onto your Laminex laminate surface
- Do not cut on the Laminex laminate surface
- Keep waxes and polishes well away as they dull the natural shine
- Do not use strongly acidic, alkaline cleaners or bleach for normal cleaning as these might etch the surface.

CLEANING

A wipe over with a clean soft damp cloth should be sufficient to keep all decorative surfaces clean and remove spills and greasy spots. Rub with a clean dry cloth to bring back brightness. Occasionally clean with mild dishwashing detergent. To remove heavy build-up of dirt use cleaners such as Mr Muscle, Windex or Ajax Spray n Wipe spray cleaners.

Streaks

Streaky marks sometimes show on dark colours after cleaning. An all-purpose cleaner such as Windex spray cleaner or Ajax Spray n Wipe usually removes them.

Grease

Using a mild dishwashing detergent in water will remove greasy marks. Dab, wait and wipe away. Finish with an all-purpose cleaner such as Windex spray cleaner or Ajax Spray n Wipe.

Spills

Spills of any nature should be wiped up as soon as they occur. Laminate surfaces are resistant to most household products, but not absolutely stainproof.

Laminates are unaffected by normal household reagents such as detergents, non-bleach washing powders, nail polish remover, petrol, methylated spirits, mineral turpentine, flyspray and shoe polish.

With some accidental spills however, prompt action is essential. Wipe off beetroot, tea, grape and berry juices, red wine, first aid preparations, concentrated bleach, oven cleaners, dishwasher detergents, artificial dyes, hair colouring and solvent based pen ink immediately. Specialty glues such as Super Glue must also be removed straight away with acetone (nail polish remover).

Stains

If the stain won't budge with Extra Strength Windex, try methylated spirits or dab the stain with a diluted bleach mixture (1 part bleach to 8 parts water); leave for 3 minutes then wash off with water and dry. Finish off with Extra Strength Windex. Only as a last resort if a stain persists try 2 or 3 rubs with a crème cleanser or white toothpaste, wash and dry. Please note that bleach or these abrasive cleaners may irreversibly damage the laminate surface.

Scratches

Laminex laminate surfaces will withstand normal wear and tear, but can be damaged by scratching or cutting with utensils, knives and unglazed pottery. Darker colours will show scratches more readily than lighter colours. In general, dark colours and high gloss surfaces require more care and maintenance than lighter colours or lower gloss colours. To minimise scratching, always place and lift objects from the surface – never drag or slide them across the surface. A cutting board or chopping board should always be used. Severe cuts can be repaired with Laminex Colorfill specially formulated colour matched kit for sealing joints and repairing damaged decorative surfaces.

LAMINEX DIAMONDGLOSS® LAMINATES

Wipe off spills or marks promptly with gentle rubbing using a soft cloth and mild dishwashing detergent. Dry with a soft, dry cloth. For more persistent marks, use a glass window cleaner. Never use abrasive cleaners – even those in liquid form – as they will mark the high gloss surface.