

MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING

FORMICA® LAMINATES

Formica® decorative laminates do not easily scratch or chip and will withstand normal wear and tear, but should never be used as a cutting or chopping surface.

They will resist the effects of vandalism and, properly fabricated, will provide very durable surfaces suitable for public areas.

Laminate surfaces are best kept clean using water and mild detergent. Non-scratch liquids or creams are recommended for stubborn stains.

More persistent marks and discolouration (for example after long term exposure to tobacco smoke or industrial grime) can usually be removed by careful use of a mild abrasive cream or paste cleaner, however on no account should scouring pads or harsh abrasive cleaning agents be used.

Ink marks from felt-tip and ball-point pens can be removed with a suitable solvent (e.g. methylated spirits, acetone, etc.) on a clean cloth. Organic solvents such as white spirit and cellulose thinners can also be used to remove paint splashes and graffiti, as they will not affect the laminate surface.

Acid based ceramic cleaners and limescale removers must not be used as they can cause permanent staining. Any spillage or splashes of these cleaners must be washed off the laminate surface immediately.

After using a cleaner, the surface should be rinsed with clean water and polished dry with a soft cloth.

Proprietary window-cleaning products are excellent for avoiding and removing drying marks and smears on the final finish.

Furniture polishes should not be used, as a build up of silicone wax on the surface may result causing eventual discolouration and smear marks which can be very difficult to remove.

Because of the nature of the surface, deep textured finishes are inevitably more difficult to clean than smooth surfaces and light textures. For stubborn marks in textured surfaces a nylon bristle brush can be used in conjunction with any of the above cleaners to remove deep-seated stains and marks.

AR Plus®

AR Plus laminates should be cleaned with warm soapy water or mild household detergent solution and a soft cloth. Abrasive cleaners must not be used.

Solvent cleaners must be used with care and should be tried first on a scrap off-cut to ensure that no surface damage results.

DecoMetal®

DecoMetal laminates should be cleaned with warm soapy water or mild household detergent solution and a soft cloth. Abrasive cleaners must not be used.

Solvent cleaners must be used with care and should be tried first on a scrap off-cut to ensure that no surface damage results.

Solvents must not be used on products having polyurethane lacquer finishes.

Chemtop®2

Formica Chemtop2 laminate surfaces may be cleaned with a damp cloth and mild detergent. Use of abrasive cleaners, powders, scouring pads, steel wool, sandpaper, etc., will damage the finish and can permanently reduce the stain and chemical resistance of the laminate. Good laboratory practice dictates that all chemical spills should be wiped up promptly. Stubborn stains may be removed by use of organic solvent or hypochlorite bleach, followed by wiping with a soft, damp cloth. If in doubt about the suitability of a particular cleaner or detergent, check with the manufacturer of the cleaning product.

CLEANING REQUIREMENTS

Dust, dirt, dust/grease mixture, pencil, chalk	Chalk residue, chalk rims, (water rims), rust	Coffee, tea, fruit juice, sugar solutions	Grease, oil, finger-marks, felt-pen, marker-pen, ballpoint pen, nicotine deposits, tea leaves, rubber marks	Wax residues, candle-grease, wax crayon	Lipstick, shoe polish, floor polish, wax polish	Bacteriological stains, soap residues, skin excretions, germs, blood, urine, vomit	Dark patches appearing after treatment with solvents	Water colours, corrosives, Disperse dyes, water-soluble adhesives	Solvents containing varnishes, dyes and adhesives, varnish residues, varnish sprays, colour sprays, marking inks	Dual-constituent varnishes and adhesives, synthetic resins	Silicone sealants, furniture polish
Light, recent marks	Use paper towels; soft, clean cloths (dry and damp; sponge or similar. After using a damp cloth, wipe down afterwards with adsorbent paper towels.										
Normal soiling of longer duration	Use clean hot water, clean water or towels, soft sponge or brush (eg nylon brush. Use normal non-abrasive cleaning agent, washing powder (especially heavy-duty clean water detergent), liquid soap or hard soap. Remove dirt with solution of cleaning agent, or let it soak according to the degree of soiling, then wash off with clean water or glass cleaner. Wipe several times if necessary. Remove all traces of cleaning agent, to prevent streaks developing. With clean, absorbent cloths (or better still, paper towels) wipe the surface dry. Change cloths frequently.										
				Organic solvents (eg acetone, spirits, petrol, trichlorethylene, MEK). Nail varnish remover.		Can be steam cleaned. Disinfect as appropriate.		Water or organic solvent.	When using adhesives or varnishes in manufacturing, consultation with the makers is recommended to discover the cleaning agents best suited for removing soiling which might occur during fabrication.	Remove immediately using water or organic solvent.	Cleaning is possible only before hardening takes place. Remove at once after contact using water or organic solvent.
Hard, stubborn marks, old stains	Soak dirt overnight in washing-up liquid or solution of washing powered in water. Then use liquid detergent in conjunction with a fine cutting/polishing compound. Gentle bleach may be used, but with great caution. NB Use liquid detergent, cutting/polishing compound, or bleach, as seldom as possible!										
		Certain chalk residues may be removable by an acidic cleaning agent (eg 10% acetic or citric acid.			Carefully remove wax or paraffin by hand. Avoid plastic or wooden spatulas. Remove any residue using absorbent paper and flat iron.		Soften with water or organic solvent, then peel or pull off.	When using adhesives or varnishes in manufacturing, consultation with the makers is recommended to discover the cleaning agents best suited for removing soiling which might occur during fabrication.	No cleaning possible! Residues of condensation adhesives or reagent adhesives can no longer be removed.	Soften with water or organic solvent, then peel or pull off.	Colour residues can sometimes be removed by hand after hardening.