

FORMICA® LAMINATE BY FORMICA GROUP / AVOIDING LAMINATE DAMAGE TECHNICAL BRIEF



Typical damage that can occur to laminate when exposed to harsh chemicals.

- **AVOIDANCE OF ABRASIVE CLEANERS/MATERIALS**
- **RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE FOR TREATING STAINS**
- **AVOIDANCE OF HARSH CHEMICAL CLEANERS**
- **AVOIDANCE OF HARSH CHEMICAL STAINS**

AVOIDANCE OF HARSH CHEMICAL CLEANERS

If in doubt about the suitability of a particular cleaner, detergent, or other substance, consult with its manufacturer to make sure it is recommended for use on decorative laminate surfaces.

DO NOT use cleaners nor compounds containing strong acids or strong bases on laminate surfaces. These may mar, etch, corrode and/or permanently discolor or damage laminate surfaces.

EXAMPLES OF HARSH CLEANERS AND COMPOUNDS TO AVOID ARE:

- toilet bowl cleaners
- drain cleaners
- tub and tile cleaners
- oven cleaners
- rust removers
- metal cleaners
- cleaners containing sodium hypochlorite
- coffee pot cleaners
- ceramic cook top cleaners
- chlorine bleach
- lime/scale removers

Never allow bottles, rags, etc., contaminated with these harsh chemical compounds to contact laminate services. Accidental spills or splatters from these compounds should be wiped off immediately, and the area rinsed thoroughly with water.

AVOIDANCE OF HARSH CHEMICAL STAINING AGENTS

Many common staining agents have no effect on laminate. Stains from the following materials and liquids, however, are more stubborn or even permanent and may not disappear.

EXAMPLES OF THESE ARE:

- hair dyes and rinses
- laundry bluing
- pharmaceuticals (tannic acid, mercurochrome, silver nitrate, povidoneiodine, dermatological tar compounds and peroxide)

OTHER EXAMPLES OF STUBBORN OR PERMANENT STAINS ARE:

- wood stains
- indelible inks
- marking pens
- cash registered ink
- newsprint
- food pricing label ink

AVOIDANCE OF ABRASIVE CLEANERS/MATERIALS

DO NOT use abrasive cleaners, powders, scouring pads, steel wool, sandpaper, etc. to clean laminate surfaces. These can damage the surface finish and make it susceptible to staining. Ceramic or other abrasive objects, due to their inherent hardness, can cause scratching and premature wearing of laminate surfaces. Use placemats, doilies, or trivets to protect horizontal surfaces from exposure.

RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES FOR TREATING STAINS

- Damage caused by abrasion or scratches is irreversible, but can sometimes be masked by applying lemon oil or self stripping waxes, such as Pledge® or Plexus™.
- Harsh chemicals can lighten the color of laminate permanently, but the damage can sometimes be masked by applying lemon oil or self stripping waxes, such as Pledge® or Plexus™.
- Harsh staining agents may be permanent, but the visual effect can usually be lessened by applying a mild household cleaner, or by using a small amount of baking soda and water and then wiping up. DO NOT scrub the area with baking soda as it is slightly abrasive.
- Paints, glues, and other adhesive materials can be removed with solvents like denatured alcohol, paint thinner, lacquer thinner, or acetone (fingernail polish remover). CAUTION: Some solvents are extremely flammable; follow all warnings on the solvent container.

Note: For additional information on the proper techniques for cleaning and maintaining laminate surfaces, consult Formica Corporation's brochure (Form 01-007A), titled "Caring for Formica® Brand Laminate and Color-Core® Brand Surfacing Material."

FORMICA® LAMINATE BY FORMICA GROUP / AVOIDING LAMINATE DAMAGE

TECHNICAL BRIEF CONTINUED



LIMITED WARRANTY

Formica Corporation expressly warrants that, for a period of one (1) year from the date of first sale, these products will be reasonably free of defects in materials and workmanship, and that when properly handled and fabricated, will conform, within accepted tolerances, to applicable manufacturing specifications. This limited warranty only applies to Formica® brand laminate which is stored, handled, fabricated and installed in the manner recommended by Formica Corporation. Due to the variety of uses and applications to which Formica brand laminate may be put,

FORMICA CORPORATION CAN MAKE NO WARRANTY THAT THIS PRODUCT IS SUITABLE FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND CAN MAKE NO OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, OTHER THAN THOSE SET FORTH ABOVE.

Buyer's exclusive remedy for any loss or claim resulting from the use or inability to use this product shall be replacement of the defective laminate, or at the option of Formica Corporation, return of the product and refund of the purchase price. **IN NO EVENT SHALL FORMICA CORPORATION BE LIABLE IN EITHER TORT OR CONTRACT FOR ANY LOSS OR DIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL OR EXEMPLARY DAMAGES.**

This limited warranty gives the purchaser of Formica brand laminate specific legal rights. Other rights may be available which vary from state to state. Any information or suggestion concerning applications, specifications or compliances with codes and standards is provided solely for your convenient reference and without any representation as to accuracy or suitability. Formica Corporation disclaims any legal responsibility. The user must verify and test the suitability of any information or products for the specific application.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Technical assistance may be obtained through your local Formica® brand products distributor or from Formica Corporation trained representatives in sales offices throughout the country. To assist these representatives, Formica Corporation maintains a sales technical services staff in Cincinnati, Ohio. For technical assistance, contact your distributor or sales representative; write the company directly at Formica Corporation Technical Services Department, 10155 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241; call (513) 786-3048 or 1-800-FORMICATM or fax (513) 786-3195. In Canada, call 1-800-363-1405. In Mexico, call (525) 530-3135.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The information and statements herein are believed to be reliable but are not to be construed as a warranty or representation for which Formica Corporation assumes legal responsibility. Users should undertake sufficient verification and testing to determine the suitability for their own particular purpose of any information or products referred to herein. **NO WARRANTY OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE IS MADE.**

Formica is a sublicensed trademark to Formica Corporation. Formica and the Formica Anvil logo are registered trademarks of The Diller Corporation. 1-800-FORMICA is a trademark of The Diller Corporation. Pledge is a registered trademark of Johnson Wax. Plexus is a trademark of BTI Chemical Company. The products and manufacturing processes of Formica Corporation are protected under U.S. and foreign patents.

All ® brands are registered trademarks of the respective owners.
All ™ brands are trademarks of the respective owners.

For warranty information, please visit www.formica.com or call 1-800-FORMICA™.



GreenGuard Environmental Institute
Formica® high-pressure laminate (HPL) is GreenGuard Indoor Air Quality Certified under the GreenGuard Standard for Low-Emitting Products.

©2010 Formica Corporation
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241
Printed in the USA