

## High Pressure Laminate Care & Maintenance

The hard, durable melamine surface of decorative high pressure laminates (HPL) will maintain its attractive appearance longer than most decorative surfacing materials. Decorative high pressure laminates require minimal maintenance under normal use and conditions.

### Routine Cleaning

High pressure laminates can usually be wiped clean with just a damp cloth or sponge using a mild soap, non-bleach detergent, or a general-purpose cleaner. Ammoniated and/or vinegar-based glass cleaners are best for cleaning surfaces soiled by grease. Abrasive cleaners/powders and metal or abrasive-coated scouring pads should not be used on most laminates as they may permanently dull and scratch the laminate and make it more susceptible to staining.

### Types Of Stains

#### Food Stains

While most spills wipe away easily, some food stains—such as tea, food dyes, fruit drinks, and coffee—may be harder to remove. For these stains, use a mild cleaner, detergent, or general-purpose cleaner with a soft-bristle nylon brush for thorough cleaning. This method also helps eliminate water marks, glass rings, and greasy fingerprints.

#### Ink Stains/Pencil Marks

Stains from pencil marks and inks such as felt-tipped pens, food-pricing labels, textile dyes, newspaper print, and other indelible inks can sometimes transfer to the laminate surface and could become permanent. In order to reduce the risk of permanent damage, stains should be removed as quickly as possible. If necessary, use full-strength detergent or a glass spray cleaner. Allow cleaner to remain on the stain for several minutes, blot with a damp cloth, and then rinse. If stubborn stains persist, a solvent - such as denatured alcohol, fingernail polish remover, mineral spirits, or paint thinner - may be used. Several applications may be needed. Follow with routine cleaning and rinsing procedures.

#### Chemical Stains

High pressure laminates resist many chemicals, including alcohol, paint thinners, cosmetics, and drugs. However, bleaches, hair dyes, rinses, bluing, drain cleaners, and strong dishwasher detergents can cause permanent stains. Avoid

rust removers, oven cleaners, and toilet bowl cleaners, as they may damage the surface. If spilled, wipe immediately and rinse thoroughly to prevent staining or etching.

### Abrasives & Harsh Chemicals

Abrasive cleaners and pads may permanently dull and scratch the laminate surface. Harsh chemicals such as oven cleaner, toilet cleaner, rust remover, ceramic cook-top cleaners, or drain cleaner will discolor and or etch the surface of decorative high pressure laminates. This includes any cleaners containing acid, alkali, or sodium hypochlorite (bleach). If any of these products are spilled on the surface of the laminate, remove immediately, rinse thoroughly with water, and wipe dry.

### Paint & Adhesive Stains

Varnish, lacquer, and oil-based paints can be removed from laminate by thorough cleaning using proper solvent or paint remover. (Caution: Most solvents are extremely flammable.) Solvents will damage real wood finishes; be careful not to splash on cabinets or other wood surfaces. Water-based paints are best removed with an ammoniated household detergent. If spots have dried and are especially stubborn, a plastic (non-metallic), non-abrasive scouring pad may be used. Super Glue™ adhesive can be removed with nail polish remover or acetone.

### Hot Objects

Cookware still hot from the stove or oven should not be placed directly on the laminate surface. While high pressure laminates are heat resistant, exposure to temperatures above 135°C (275°F) is not recommended.

### Sharp Objects

Never use sharp objects such as knives directly on decorative high pressure laminates, as they can scratch or damage the surface. Always use a chopping block or cutting board to protect the laminate.