

Annex B CARE AND CLEANING OF LAMINATES

The hard, durable melamine surface of high-pressure decorative laminate will maintain its attractive appearance longer than most other decorative surfacing materials. Unlike other fine surfacing materials, high-pressure decorative laminate requires minimal maintenance. The following procedures should be taken to prolong its original appearance.

a. Cleaning

- 1) To clean the surface, use a damp cloth or sponge and a mild soap or detergent.
- 2) Difficult "stains" such as coffee or tea can be removed using a mild household cleaner/detergent and a soft bristle brush, repeating as necessary.
- 3) If a stain persists, use a paste of baking soda and water and apply with a soft bristled brush. Light scrubbing for 10 to 20 strokes should remove most stains. Although baking soda is a low abrasive, excessive scrubbing or exerting too much force may damage the decorative surface, especially if it has a gloss finish.
- 4) Stubborn stains that resist any of the above cleaning methods may require the use of undiluted household bleach or nail polish remover. Apply the bleach or nail polish remover to the stain and let stand no longer than two minutes. Rinse thoroughly with warm water and wipe dry. This step may be repeated if the stain appears to be going away and the color of the laminate has not been affected. **WARNING:** Prolonged exposure of the laminate surface to bleach will cause discoloration.

b. Abrasives

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

c. Harsh chemicals

- 1) Harsh chemicals such as oven cleaner, toilet cleaner, or drain cleaner will etch and discolor the decorative surface.
- 2) High-pressure decorative laminates are not designed to resist continual contact with these chemicals. If spills of these products occur, remove immediately, rinse thoroughly, and wipe dry.

d. Hot objects

- 1) Do not place hot frying pans or dishes directly from the oven or cooktop on the laminate surface. Even though HPDL has high heat resistance, exposure to temperatures greater than 135°C (275°F) is not recommended. As a precaution, protect the surface from heat generating appliances such as pressing irons, toasters, curling irons, and electric slow cookers by using a trivet or insulated pad. Prolonged exposure to temperatures above 65°C (150°F) may result in separation of the laminate from the substrate.

e. Sharp objects

- 1) Never use knives or other sharp objects directly on the decorative surface. A chopping block or counter saver is recommended.

f. Impact

Do not abuse the high-pressure decorative laminate by dropping heavy objects such as cans, dinnerware, or glasses or deliberately hammering directly on the surface. Even though high-pressure decorative laminates have excellent impact resistance, chipping or cracking may occur.