



Formica® High Pressure Decorative Laminate – Hygiene and Food Contact

Introduction

Formica® decorative laminates, manufactured to EN 438:2005 and ISO 4586, consist of layers of specially selected papers, impregnated with thermosetting resins and bonded together under heat and very high pressure.

The resulting high-pressure laminate is a homogeneous, high-density sheet that is ready to use and ideal for a wide variety of surfacing applications.

Formica® laminates are highly resistant to impact, wear, heat and staining and provide a hygienic, durable and easily-maintained surfacing solution for the most demanding of environments.

They can be fabricated to produce curved surfaces which, with their absence of visible seams, will eliminate joints on internal and external angles in which dirt and liquids can accumulate.

Also, the wide variety of sheets sizes offered enables surfaces to be designed and manufactured with the minimum number of joints or seams.

This is especially applicable in environments where a hygienic, cleanable surface with a minimum of seams and crevices (offering minimal harbour for germs) is desirable.

Hygiene

The inherent physical properties of Formica laminate give performance to help meet the strictest of cleaning and maintenance regimes, without the need for further additives or treatments.

Because the surface is completely sealed, Formica decorative laminates are impervious to liquids and are very easy to clean and maintain. Laminate surfaces are best kept clean simply by using water and mild detergent. Non-scratch liquids or creams are recommended for stubborn stains.

They are resistant to steam and boiling water and are therefore ideal for applications where cleanliness and hygiene are important factors.

Formica laminate is inert and does not support microbial growth.

Independent testing for antimicrobial activity and efficacy, to test method JIS Z 2801, shows the required reduction of >2 log against an inert control surface after 24 hours of incubation for all of the tested organisms: *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Candida albicans*, *Aspergillus brasiliensis*.

Food contact

Formica® HPL has no migration affecting food and, consequently, is approved for contact with foodstuffs.

Formica® HPL has been independently tested to ENV1186 Materials and Articles in Contact with Foodstuffs – Plastics and has been passed as suitable for uses involving contact with foodstuffs.

Substances

Formica decorative laminates have been widely and satisfactorily used for many years in laboratories in medicine and industry. They easily meet the requirements of EN 438:2005, which specifies resistance to staining by over 40 substances which are likely to be encountered in everyday use.

These include tea, coffee, milk, citric acid, acetone, alcohol, fruit juices, detergents, bleaches and colouring agents.

For resistance against more aggressive substances, Chemtop 2™ by Formica Group features advanced surface technology to provide enhanced chemical resistance for the demanding needs of laboratories and related environments.