

# MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING

## FORMICA® LAMINATES and WORKTOPS

### GENERAL CLEANING

- ☞ 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) as well as 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.

### DRY HEAT

- ☞ Formica® decorative laminates will withstand surface temperatures of up to 180°C (356°F) for short periods without deterioration of surface or colour (although in some cases a slight loss of gloss may occur) but continuous localised heat must be avoided.
- ☞ It should be noted that cooking vessels can achieve much higher temperatures in normal usage, e.g. the base of a pan containing cooking fat can exceed 250°C, which is why it is recommended that hot pans etc. should not be placed directly onto laminate faced work surfaces.

## **RESISTANCE TO BOILING WATER**

-  Formica decorative laminates are resistant to steam and boiling water and are therefore ideal for applications where cleanliness and hygiene are important factors.

## **RESISTANCE TO CIGARETTE BURNS**

-  Formica decorative laminates have a good resistance to damage by lighted cigarettes, and will normally only suffer a loss of gloss and/or slight to moderate brown staining; however, excessive localised heating can result in blistering of the laminate surface and it is therefore prudent to avoid direct contact with burning cigarettes or cigars.

## **MELAWOOD (MELAMINE FACED BOARDS)**

### **GENERAL CLEANING**

-  Melawood surfaces are best kept clean using water and mild detergent in the form of a damp, clean cloth.
-  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) as well as 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 melamine surface.
-  Care must be taken to prevent moisture / water from penetrating any unprotected or exposed edges.