

Care & Maintenance

Storage: Sheets should be stored horizontally with the top sheet turned face down and a thick hard board placed on top to protect the material from possible damage and reduce the chances of getting warped. Stored laminate stock should be rotated such that older sheets will be used first. Laminate sheets should be protected from moisture, and should never be stored where they may come in contact with the floor or outside wall. Always carry the sheets vertically. Never slide the sheet but, lift it while moving it from one place to another. We recommend that ideally two people should carry a full size sheet as carelessness can damage the decorative surface.

Resistant to stains: Merino Laminates are resistant to stains belonging to Group 1 and 2 but may take stains of reagents of Group 3 and 4. Group 3 and 4 reagents should not be allowed to spill on the surface, and in case of spillage should be immediately wiped off. Classifications of the reagents:

Group 1: Acetone, trichloromethane, toothpaste, hand cream, urea, alcoholic beverage, natural fruit, fruit drink, meat, vegetable oil, water, NaCl (solution), mustard, soap solution, paint remover (kerosene), phenol and citric acid.

Group 2: Coffee, black tea, milk (condensed and evaporated), cola beverages, vinegar, hydrogen peroxide (3% solution), ammonia (10% solution of commercial concentrate), nail polish remover, lipsticks, water colour, laundry marking ink, ball point ink.

Group 3: Sodium hydroxide (25% solution), hydrogen peroxide (30% solution), concentrated vinegar (30% acetic acid), acid based metal cleaners, shoe polish, hair colouring, iodine, boric acid, lacquers.

Group 4: Citric acid (10% solution), acetic acid (5% solution).

Cleaning:

1. To clean the surface, use a damp cloth or sponge and a mild soap or detergent.
2. Stains belonging to group 2 such as coffee or tea can be removed using a mild household cleaner/detergent and a soft bristle brush.
3. If a stain persists, apply a paste of baking soda and water with a soft bristled brush. Light scrubbing, 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 belonging to Group 3 and 4, which 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 it 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 colour of the laminate has not been affected.

Warning: Prolonged exposure of the laminate surface to bleach will cause discolouration. Acid based cleaners will permanently damage the laminates. Never allow these cleaners, or bottles, rags or other items contaminated with these cleaners, to come in contact with the laminates. Wipe such areas immediately and rinse thoroughly with water.

Abrasives: Abrasive pads, scouring powders or cleansers may permanently damage the laminate surface making it susceptible to staining.

Harsh chemicals: Harsh chemicals such as oven cleaner, toilet cleaner, or drain cleaner will etch and discolour the decorative surface. High Pressure Decorative Laminates are not designed to resist continual contact with these chemicals. If any of these products spill over the surface remove immediately, rinse thoroughly, and wipe dry.

Hot objects: Even though HPL has high heat resistance, exposure to temperatures greater than 135°C is not recommended. Hence, do not place hot frying pans or dishes directly from the oven or cooktop on the laminate surface. As a precaution, protect the surface from heat generating appliances such as pressing irons, toasters, curling irons and electric cookers by using a trivet or insulated pad. Prolonged exposure to temperatures above 65°C may result in separation of the laminate from the substrate.

Sharp objects: Never use knives or other sharp objects directly on the decorative surface. Use of chopping block or counter saver is recommended.

Impact: Even though High Pressure Decorative Laminates have excellent impact resistance, chipping or cracking may occur. 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.

Technical Data

ESD Properties as per IEC 61340 & ESD S-4.1, S-20.20		
Test Condition	Temp.- 25°C	
	Humidity- 45%	
Instrument Used	MEGGER METER	
Surface Resistance (Max.)	Preferred Value	Observed Value
	< 1.0x10 ⁹ Ohm	< 5x10 ⁸ Ohm
Point to Point Resistance (Max.)	< 1.0x10 ⁸ Ohm	< 5x10 ⁷ Ohm
Surface to Ground Resistance (Max.)	< 1.0x10 ⁹ Ohm	< 2x10 ⁸ Ohm
Decay Time (As per NFPA 99-MIL-STD-3010)	< 0.5 sec	< 0.02 sec