

Maintenance and Housekeeping Procedures

Plastic Laminate

Laminate can be easily wiped clean with just a clean damp cloth or sponge using a mild soap or detergent. General purpose cleaners, such as PineSol® and Lestoil® are also effective. 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 conventional laminate since they will permanently dull and scratch the laminate, making it more susceptible to cleaning.

A variety of general purpose cleaners may be safely used to clean laminate, including:

- Lestoil®
- PineSol®
- Top Job®
- Fantastik®Joy®
- *Soft Scrub® (without bleach)
- Formula 409®
- All-Purpose CleanerCrystal
- Simple Green®
- CleanerDow Bathroom Cleaner®
- Ammoniated and/or Vinegar-based Glass Cleaner

***NOTE:** We do not recommend the use of any cleaners with bleach or antibacterial formulas as they may damage the finish of the countertop. Aggressive rubbing with Soft Scrub® (without bleach) in one area can cause a gloss burnish to appear, causing that spot to appear duller than the rest of the counter. For persistent stains, gently rub Soft Scrub® over a large area to minimize burnish marks. No abrasive cleaner should ever be used on gloss or mirror finish laminate.

Food Stains

Though most spills are easily wiped away, certain food stains such as tea, food dyes, fruit drinks or coffee may be more difficult to remove. A thorough cleaning using a mild household cleaner/detergent and a short soft bristle nylon brush or green Scotch Brite® pad is effective. This procedure will also remove 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. Remove such stains as quickly as possible using full strength detergent or a household spray cleaner. Allow cleaner to remain on the stain for several minutes, blot with a damp cloth, then rinse. Chlorine household

strength bleach (5% solution diluted with water) may also be used by dampening a cloth sparingly and blotting the stained area for no longer than one minute -- then rinse with warm water.

If stubborn stains persist, a solvent such as denatured alcohol, fingernail polish remover, mineral spirits, or paint thinner may be required. Several applications may be needed. Follow this with routine cleaning and rinsing procedures.

CAUTION: Most solvents are extremely flammable -- keep away from flame or electrical sparks. Solvents will damage real wood finishes. Be careful not to splash on cabinets or other wood surfaces.

Chemical Stains

High pressure laminates resist many chemicals including alcohol, paint thinners, most cosmetics and drugs. However, care must be exercised when using bleaches, hair dyes, rinses, bluing, drain cleaners and full strength detergents for automatic dishwashers as these chemicals can cause permanent stains.

Precautions must be taken to protect your laminate surface from chemicals commonly found in rust removers, metal/oven cleaners and drain/toilet bowl cleaners. Never put such cleaners on laminate surfaces. Spills from these acid or caustic based products will etch, discolor and permanently damage the laminate if allowed to remain on the surface. Accidental spills should be wiped off immediately and the area rinsed thoroughly.

Paint Stains

Varnish, lacquer and oil based paints can be removed from laminate by thorough cleaning using proper solvent or paint remover. (CAUTION should be taken since 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 such as Lestoil®. If paint spots have dried and are especially stubborn, a plastic (non-metallic), non-abrasive, scouring pad may be used.

Avoid Extreme Heat

Do not operate heated appliances such as irons, toasters, electric fry pans or deep fryers directly on the laminate counter. (Use a trivet or insulated hot pad beneath these hot objects.) Do not allow burning cigarettes to remain in contact with the laminate surface. Permanent damage will occur.

Scratches, Abrasions and Chips

Although high pressure decorative laminates will resist scratches and craze, the surface can be accidentally damaged, even in normal use. Care must be taken when using heavy earthenware and other ceramic products that have rough bottoms. These objects will cause deep scratches and excessive wear in the laminate surface. Use knives and other sharp implements only on a chopping board or counter-saver. Never hammer on the laminate with hard objects, especially near the edges. Heavy impact caused by falling dishes, cans or utensils can result in chips and/or cracks in the laminate surface.

No abrasive cleaner should ever be used on gloss or mirror finish laminates.