



# Formica®

## Brand Laminate

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### USE AND CARE GUIDE AND WARRANTY

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#### USE AND CARE GUIDELINES

Formica® Brand Laminate, ColorCore® surfacing material, and DecoMetal® laminates and solid metals are designed for beauty and durability. Like any surfacing materials, however, they can be damaged by abuse and carelessness. When used as recommended with proper use and care, the end result is years of satisfaction.

#### PROTECTING THE SURFACE

Before selecting the surface material, consider the type of use it will receive, as well as its texture, color, and reflective values. A rough-textured surface has different advantages, depending upon use, than a smooth-textured surface. High gloss finish laminates and DecoMetal laminates and solid metal items, for example, are not recommended for use in heavy-duty applications such as countertops. Dark colors tend to enhance scratches, marring and fingerprints.

**Scratch and Impact Protection.** Formica Brand Laminates and ColorCore surfacing material are resistant to scratches and impacts under normal use conditions.

*Use cutting boards, chopping blocks, or other protective surfaces.*

- Do not chop, slice, pound, or hammer on any laminate surface.
- Knives or other sharp utensils may slice or scratch the surface.
- Heavy blows from a hammer or meat tenderizer may crack or gouge the surface.

*Use place mats, doilies, and trivets on laminate surfaces when necessary.*

- Ceramics and abrasive objects can cause scratching and premature wear – do not slide these items across surface.

*Follow recommendations for cleaning – do not use abrasive cleaners, steel wool, sandpaper, or Scotch-Brite® scouring pads (see Cleaning section inside).*

**Hot Objects.** Cookware still hot from the stove, oven or microwave, as well as electric skillet, waffle irons, curling irons and hot rollers, should not be placed directly on

laminate surfaces. Prolonged exposure to temperatures of 140°F (60°C) or higher may cause the laminate to separate from the core material.

Use a trivet, insulated hot pad or other protective device beneath all hot cookware, heat generating appliances, or other heated objects.

- Formica Brand Laminate and ColorCore surfacing material can withstand heat up to 275°F (135°C) for short periods of time.
- Never expose DecoMetal laminates and solid metal items to heat exceeding 140°F (60°C).

*Avoid ironing or placing a hot iron on laminate surfaces.*

*Do not place lighted cigarettes directly on laminate surfaces.*

#### ORDINARY CLEANING

Formica® Brand Laminate, ColorCore® surfacing material, and DecoMetal® laminates and solid metal items are very easy to clean.

- In most cases, you only need to use a clean, damp, non-abrasive cotton cloth and a mild liquid detergent or household cleaner.
- Rinse with clean water, using a clean, non-abrasive cotton cloth.
- Do not flood the laminate, especially near seams, since water can penetrate and cause the substrate to swell.
- Dry the surface with a soft, clean, non-abrasive cotton cloth.

For specific types of surfaces, use the following care guidelines.

**Matte and Sparkle Finish Laminates.** Especially hard-to-clean areas may require special attention. Use a nylon-bristled hand or vegetable brush, along with a mild liquid detergent-and-water solution or household cleaner. Clean the soiled area, using a rotating motion. Rinse and dry the surface as indicated above.

**Sculptures and Dimensional Finish Laminates.** These surfaces may require special attention to clean the depressed areas. Use a nylon-bristled hand or vegetable brush, along with a mild liquid detergent-and-water solution or household cleaner. Clean the soiled area, using a rotating motion. Rinse and dry the surface as indicated above.

**High Gloss Finish Laminates.** If residual streaks and smears remain after normal cleaning, use a mild glass cleaner and then dry with a clean, non-abrasive cotton cloth. Avoid exterior glass cleaner.

**DecoMetal® laminates and solid metals.** Clean these items with a soft, clean, damp, non-abrasive cotton cloth and a mild liquid detergent. Do not use solvents or waxes on DecoMetal laminates and solid metal surfaces. Mild glass cleaners may be used to remove streaks.

### **Chemical Damage**

Never use cleaners containing acid, alkali, or sodium hypochlorite. These cleaners will mar, etch, corrode, and permanently discolor the laminate surface. Also, make sure that bottles, rags, and other materials contaminated with these cleaners never contact the laminate surface.

**Examples of cleaners containing acid, alkali, or sodium hypochlorite include, but are not limited to:**

drain cleaners	rust removers	coffeepot cleaners
metal cleaners	tub and tile cleaners	chlorine bleach
oven cleaners	toilet bowl cleaners	lime scale removers
ceramic cooktop cleaners	some “countertop cleaners”	(high alkali) disinfectants

### **SPECIAL CLEANING RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Residual Glue.** Sometimes new decorative laminate has a streaky appearance caused by contact adhesive used during fabrication. Clean with a non-abrasive cotton cloth and an adhesive solvent such as Formica® Brand Non-flammable Contact Adhesive Solvent. Use solvent sparingly, as excessive amounts may delaminate edges. Read and follow all warnings and instructions on the labels of all solvent products. Use only hexane or heptane on DecoMetal laminates and solid metal items.

**Paint and Varnish.** Remove most oil-base paints, varnishes and lacquers from decorative laminate surfaces with a suitable solvent. Read and follow all warnings and instructions on the labels of all solvent products, and remember that most solvents are extremely flammable. Use solvent sparingly, as excessive amounts may delaminate edges. Remove most water-based paints with an ammoniated household cleaner. For stubborn paint spots, gently use a plastic, non-metallic, non-abrasive pad. Never use steel wool or other abrasive scouring pads.

**Stains.** To remove or minimize stains, use full strength Fantastik® All Purpose Cleaner, Formula 409®, Pine-Sol® or other mild household cleaner on the affected area, and allow it to draw out the stain. Blot with a clean, damp, non-abrasive cotton cloth, and then rinse with clean water. When a recommended cleaner changes its formulation, the change

may be harmful to the laminate surface. Formica Corporation cannot be held responsible for these changes. Solvents such as denatured alcohol can also be used. Follow all directions and warnings on the solvent label because many are extremely flammable.

**Stubborn or “fugitive” stains that may disappear on their own, after a short time or after repeated cleanings, include:**

food stains	glass rings	food dyes
water marks	coffee and tea stains	fingerprints

**Stains which are stubborn or even permanent, and may not disappear, include:**

wood stains	cash register inks	indelible inks
newsprint	marking pen inks	food pricing ink
label inks	lemon juice	

**Some materials and liquids, such as dyes and pharmaceutical products, will permanently stain laminate. Examples include:**

hair dyes and rinses	silver nitrate	laundry bluing
tannic acid	Mercurochrome®	povidone-iodine
dermatological	peroxide	Red-2B dye
tar compounds		

These stains may be reduced by applying a paste of baking soda and water on the area to pull out the stain. The paste will be slightly abrasive, so do not rub. Wipe up the paste with a clean, damp, non-abrasive cotton cloth, and then rinse clean with water.

Periodic application of a self-cleaning wax can help minimize future staining.

## LIMITED WARRANTY

Formica Corporation expressly warrants that, for a period of (1) one year from the date of first sale, Formica® Brand Laminate and ColorCore® surfacing material will be reasonably free of defects in materials and workmanship, and that when properly handled and fabricated, will conform, within accepted tolerances, to applicable manufacturing specifications. This limited warranty only applies to products which are stored, handled, fabricated and installed in the manner recommended by Formica Corporation. Due to the variety of uses and applications to which Formica® Brand Products may be put, Formica Corporation can make no warranty that these products are suitable for any particular purpose and can make no other warranties, expressed or implied, other than those set forth above. Buyer's exclusive remedy for any loss or claim resulting from the use or inability to use this product shall be replacement of the defective product or, at the option of Formica Corporation, return of the product and refund of the purchase price. In no event shall Formica Corporation be liable in either tort or contract for any loss or direct, special, incidental, consequential or exemplary damages. This limited warranty gives the purchaser of Formica® Brand

Products specific legal rights. Other rights may be available which vary from state to state, province to province, country to country. Any information or suggestion concerning applications, specifications or compliances with codes and standards is provided solely for your convenient reference and without any representation as to accuracy or suitability. Formica Corporation disclaims any legal responsibility. The user must verify and test the suitability of any information or products for the specific application.

## MANUFACTURER

Formica® Brand Laminate and ColorCore® surfacing material are manufactured by Formica Corporation, Cincinnati, Ohio, with plants in Evendale, Ohio, and Sunset Whitney Ranch, California. Formica Canada Inc. manufactures Formica Brand Laminate in St. Jean sur Richelieu, Quebec, Canada. DecoMetal® laminates and solid metal items are manufactured by Homapal Plattenwerk GmbH & Co. KG, in Herzberg, Germany, and distributed by Formica Corporation. DecoMetal and solid metal items are manufactured by Aluminum Coil Anodizing Corporation in Streamwood, Illinois, Pacific Crest in Lake Elsinore, CA and distributed by Formica Corporation.

## CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

Customer and technical assistance may be obtained through your local Formica Brand Products distributor or from Formica Corporation trained representatives in sales offices throughout the country. For technical assistance, contact your distributor or sales representative, or write the company directly at Formica Corporation, 10155 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241, or call 1-800-FORMICA™.



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1-800-FORMICA™  
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In Canada, call (800) 363-1405.  
In Mexico, call (525) 530-3135.

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