

## **Use and Care Guidelines**

Formica® Brand Laminate, ColorCore® surfacing material, and DecoMetal® laminates 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, colour, 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 are not recommended for use in heavy-duty applications such as countertops.

#### *Scratch and Impact Protection*

Formica® Brand Laminates and ColorCore® surfacing material are resistant to scratch and impacts under normal use conditions.

- 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 metal tenderizer may crack or gouge the surface

#### *Hot Objects*

Cookware still hot from the stove, over or microwave, as well as electric skillets, waffle irons, curling irons and hot rollers, should not be placed directly on laminate surfaces. Prolonged exposure to temperatures of 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 heated objects.

- 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 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 and 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, Sculpted and Dimensional Finish Laminates*

Especially hard-to-clean areas may require special attention. Use a nylon-bristled hand or vegetable brush, along with mild liquid detergent-and-water solution or household cleaner. Clean 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*

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. 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 discolour the laminate surface. Also, make sure that bottles, rags, and other materials contaminated with these cleaners never contact the laminate surface.