



International Committee of the Decorative Laminates Industry

Cleaning of HPL surfaces

December, 2017



Preface

High-pressure laminate (HPL) in accordance with EN 438 has been used in the construction and furniture sector for decades. The European standard EN 438 defines the material, requirements and properties of HPL.

HPL is a resin and paper-based thermosetting composite material and features a unique, extremely robust, resistant, modern and very decorative surface. HPL is omnipresent in our day-to-day lives and is self-supporting or used in conjunction with substrates. The application and usage areas of HPL are extremely diverse and are constantly evolving. This requires knowledge management which provides regularly updated information and assistance with regard to different applications and processing, in the form of technical bulletins.

The technical leaflet “Cleaning of HPL surfaces” provides information on cleaning of these surfaces. This technical bulletin is an update and an expansion for the document issued in 2007 covering the same topic.

This document makes no claim of completeness regarding listing the full details of any standards referred to in the text.

All information is based on the current state of technical knowledge, but it does not constitute any form of liability. It is the personal responsibility of the user of the products described in this information leaflet to comply with the appropriate laws and regulations.

For more than 50 years the ICDLI has been the international representative of the interests of European laminate manufacturers. Further information about the ICDLI and the data sheets published up to now can be found at www.icdli.com.

This application was compiled by the International Committee of the Decorative Laminates Industry.

It considers the conditions of application technology in the European countries. If you have further questions, please contact us:

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Congratulations

You have chosen decorative high pressure laminate (HPL) as a Surface Material which has special beauty, outstanding cleanability and durability properties. HPL, manufacturing is based on proven technology. HPL was developed in order to resist the hard requirements of daily use. Although HPL is extremely durable and needs minimal care due to its non porous surface, it is nevertheless not indestructible. Following will provide some cleaning recommendations, that will ensure the continuing value of your product.

Cleaning

Clean the surface simply using water and dry it with a paper tissue or a soft cloth. If the impurities cannot be removed, use a common cleaning solution without abrasive agents. Afterwards clean the surface with water and dry it.

Resistant Contamination

Use clean, hot water, clean cloths or paper tissues. Use normal cleaning agent without abrasive constituent, washing powder (especially heavy-duty detergent), liquid soap or hard soap. Remove dirt with solution of cleaning agent, or let it soak according to the degree of soiling, then wash off with clean water or glass cleaner. Wipe several times if necessary. Remove all traces of cleaning agent, to prevent streaks developing. With a clean, absorbent cloth or paper towel wipe the surface dry.

The above procedure can be improved by means of a cleaning sponge or a soft plastic brush.

Contaminations/Stains

HPL, a homogeneous, and non-porous material is resistant to most household chemicals. Although liquids cannot penetrate into the material, contaminations or stains should be wiped off immediately. Longer contact with mainly acidic substances e.g. aggressive household cleaner, metal cleaner, toilet cleaner and certain oven cleaner should be avoided.

In the case of special contamination please find below the relevant cleaning methods.

- **Calcium deposit form hard water**

Clean with warm, 10% acetic acid or citric acid solution. Afterwards clean the surface with pure, hot water. If using commercial calcium deposit removers wash the surface immediately with hot water.



- **Paraffine or wax residues**

Residues of paraffine or wax shall at first be mechanically removed using a plastic or wood spatula. Scratching the surface must be avoided! Remaining residues can be ironed with a sheet of blotting paper.

- **Water-soluble dyes, lacquers, adhesives and dispersions**

Fresh contaminations usually can be cleaned with warm water. Dried residues can be cleaned using solvents like ethanol, acetone, benzine or nail-varnish remover.

- **Solvent-based dyes, lacquers and adhesives**

Fresh contaminations usually can be cleaned with solvents, dried residues if necessary after a longer application time. Suitable solvents must be inquired from dye-, lacquer- or adhesive supplier.

- **2-Component adhesives and lacquers**

An example of 2 component adhesives are condensation resins (adhesives) based on formaldehyde, urea (UF), melamine (MF), phenol (PF) and resorcinol. Examples of reactive systems are epoxy resin, unsaturated polyester and polyurethane (PU). Contaminations of these types can not be removed from the laminate surface after hardening! The surface must immediately be cleaned with suitable organic solvents, recommended by the supplier of the adhesive/lacquer system.

- **Sealing material based on silicone or polyurethane**

Residues shall at first be mechanically removed using a plastic or wood spatula. Scratching the surface must be avoided!

Remaining residues can be cleaned with a silicone remover, if necessary after a longer application time. Longer contact times with the silicone remover can change the laminate surface.

- **Streaking after cleaning with solvents**

Streaking can be removed through subsequent cleaning with hot water and drying with a clean, soft, absorbent cloth or a household-type paper tissue.