



## **Care and Cleaning Instructions**

All ALLIED high-pressure laminates will provide years of beauty and performance when used and cared for properly. This guide offers suggestions and recommendations on care and cleaning techniques to help your laminate surfaces stand the test of time.

### **ROUTINE CLEANING**

High-pressure laminates can be easily wiped clean with just a clean, damp cloth or sponge using a mild soap, non-bleach detergent or one of the general-purpose cleaners listed below. Water spots can be removed by using Dow Bathroom Cleaner®. Ammoniated and/or vinegar based glass cleaners are best for cleaned grease soiled surfaces.

**Polishes and sealers are not recommended as ALLIED laminates have their own luster. Application of these products will cause a residue buildup.**

ALLIED tested a variety of general purpose cleaners and found them safe for cleaning all laminates, including:

- Lestoil®
- Pinesol®
- Top Job®
- Fantastik®
- Joy®
- Formula 409® All Purpose Cleaner
- Crystal Simple Green® Cleaner
- Dow Bathroom Cleaner®
- Ammoniated and or Vinegar-based Glass Cleaner

ALLIED has not tested all cleaners. Other cleaners may be equally effective. If you choose to use a cleaner not listed above, we recommend you carefully review the use and warranty information of other products. We do not recommend the use of any cleaners with bleach or anti-bacteria formulas as they may damage the finish of the laminate surface.

**Abrasive cleaners/powders and metal or abrasive coated scouring pads should NOT be used on most laminates as they may permanently dull and scratch the laminate and make it more susceptible to staining.**

**Do not use excessive water or liquid cleaner to clean the tables, especially close to the edge of the table where the laminate meets the edging. This may result in liquid intrusion between the edging and the substrate, which can cause the substrate to expand. This expansion is sometimes referred to as a “sponging action” which is undesirable for wood products of all kinds, including tables.**

**Tables should never be placed on their sides and dragged across the floor. This may result in severe scuffing and possible damage to the edging and substrate. If scuffing occurs, use the cleaning procedures and recommended cleaners above sparingly to remove any scuff marks.**

## **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 cleaner, detergent or general purpose cleaner and a short bristle nylon brush is recommended for removing stains. 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. In order to reduce the risk of permanent damages, stains should be removed as quickly as possible. If necessary, use full strength detergent or glass spray cleaner. Allow cleaner to

remain on the stain for several minutes, blot with a damp cloth, then rinse. If stubborn stains persist, a solvent such as denatured alcohol, fingernail polish remover, mineral spirits or paint thinner may be used. Several applications may be needed. Follow routine cleaning and rinsing procedures.

## **CAUTION**

Most solvents are extremely flammable --- keep away from flame or electrical sparks. Solvents will damage real wood finishes. Solvents will also attack the glue line (between the vertical edging and the top) causing de-lamination. 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 also 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 & ADHESIVE STAINS**

Varnish, lacquer and oil base paints can be removed from laminate by thoroughly cleaning using proper solvent or paint remover. See **CAUTION** above when using solvents. Water based paints are best removed with an ammoniated household detergent such as Lestoil®. Super Glue™ adhesive can be removed with nail polish remover or Acetone.

## **CARE INSTRUCTIONS**

### **AVOID EXTREME HEAT:**

Applying extreme heat should be avoided. Exposure to heat above 150° may result in a separation of the laminate from the substrate. Do not place hot frying pans or dishes directly from the burner or oven onto the laminate. 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 wear and abrasion, the surface can be accidentally damaged, even in normal use. Care **MUST** be taken when using heavy earthenware and other ceramic or metal objects 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.