

# CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF ARBORITE® HIGH PRESSURE LAMINATES

The hard, durable melamine surface of high-pressure decorative laminate will maintain its appearance longer than most other decorative surfacing materials. Unlike other surfacing materials, high-pressure decorative laminates require minimal maintenance. However, the following simple procedures can extend its original appearance.

## 1. Always rinse after cleaning

Even the gentlest cleaning agent can leave a residue that may, over time, damage or mar the appearance of your surfaces.

For everyday cleaning, simply wipe the surface with a soft, damp cloth and mild detergent; then rinse thoroughly with warm water and wipe dry.

For stubborn stains, use an all-purpose cleaner, with a damp cloth; then rinse thoroughly with warm water and wipe dry.

For really tough stains, create a paste composed of baking soda and water. Using a soft brush, scrub gently in a circular motion – 10 to 20 strokes should remove most stains (keeping in mind that excessive scrubbing can dull or damage the finish); then rinse thoroughly with warm water and wipe dry.

If all else fails, persistent stains may require the use of undiluted regular bleach or nail polish remover. Apply to the stain and let stand no longer than two minutes; then rinse thoroughly with warm water and wipe dry. This step may be repeated if the stain appears to be fading and the color of the laminate remains unaffected (keep in mind that prolonged exposure to any kind of bleach will cause discoloration).

## 2. Avoid harsh chemical cleaners

Many commercial products contain substances that may damage or discolor the surface of laminates. The following should never come in direct contact with your surfaces; if they do, wipe off immediately and rinse the surface thoroughly:

- Toilet bowl cleaners
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Oven cleaners
- Drain cleaners
- Coffee pot cleaners
- Rust removers

**3. Always use an insulated pad or trivet**

Although Arborite® decorative laminates are heat resistant, prolonged exposure to temperatures over 135°C (275°F) may cause blistering or other damages to your surfaces. Never place pots and pans removed from the stove or oven directly onto the laminate surface.

**4. Beware of all abrasives**

Arborite® decorative laminates resist impact and scratches under normal use. However you should always use a cutting board to avoid scratching the surface with a knife, as this could decrease its wear and stain resistance. Sliding heavy or abrasive objects across the laminate and using steel wool or other abrasive pads can also damage your surfaces and lead to premature wear. In addition, chipping or cracking may occur upon impact with heavy or sharp-edged objects such as dinnerware and cans.

**5. Always protect your surfaces when using staining agents**

Hair, textile and food dyes can cause permanent stains. Should you spill this type of product on your laminate surface, immediately wipe it up and rinse several times with cold water.