



Formica®

Brand Laminate

T E C H N I C A L B R I E F

Resurfacing Laminated Assemblies with Formica® Brand Products

Outdated, worn or damaged high pressure laminate-clad worktops, countertops, bars, fixtures, etc. may be made to look new again by resurfacing the existing item with Formica® brand laminate. These important steps will help assure satisfactory performance for resurfacing self-edged or flat surfaces. Do not attempt to relaminate over formed surfaces such as postformed countertops or other items having rounded or no drip edges. Items such as sink bowls and range tops must be removed from the existing top before resurfacing.

MATERIALS

Standard Formica brand laminate or ColorCore® brand surfacing material, and Formica brand non-flammable contact adhesive #100.

PRECAUTIONS

The item to be resurfaced must be examined closely for loose or poorly bonded laminate. New laminate should be applied only to a clean substrate or well-bonded laminate. *Do not* apply laminate over deep texture laminates, paint, vinyl, paper, or other similar materials.

Determine the proper order for applying the laminate edges, face, etc. Check the clearances of doors, hardware, joints, and corners. Trim the substrate as required prior to applying the new laminate. Be certain to allow for the additional thickness of the new laminate to be applied.

PREPARATION

Acclimate the new laminate to the same environment as the old top for at least 48 hours. This will allow the laminate to “move” (expand or contract) before it is bonded. Acclimation greatly reduces the chances of seam opening or buckling, shrink-back, and reduces stress on the glue line.

Clean the top with a strong detergent or non-flammable solvent to remove any wax, grease, and polish deposits. Clean the top thoroughly prior to sanding so that the top is not contaminated by them during sanding.

Using a belt sander, sand the entire surface to remove the original finish. It is not necessary to sand off the color or pattern. After sanding, remove sanding dust with a vacuum and tack cloth.

ADHESIVE AND ASSEMBLY

Coat the sanded surface and the back of the laminate with a uniform coating of contact adhesive. Allow to dry thoroughly prior to assembling. **Note:** Assembling wet adhesive lines will trap solvent and may result in a poor bond. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations. *Do not use water-based adhesives.*

Index the laminate with the substrate. Make initial contact by smoothing with palms and apply pressure using a "J" roller or rotary press. Trim as usual with recommended tools.

PAINTING LAMINATE

Residual release agent is transferred to the laminate surface during manufacturing. This release agent prevents good adhesion of paints and inks. The best way to remove this release media is to sand it off. When doing signage, it is not possible to sand the laminate. Therefore, it must be cleaned as thoroughly as possible.

Entire Surface

- Clean dirt, waxes, etc. with suitable cleaner or solvent such as Formica® brand non-flammable contact adhesive solvent.
- Sand the entire surface with 220-240 grit sandpaper. Use an orbital sander if possible.
- Brush sanding dust and wipe with tack cloth.
- Paint. Spraying is preferable.

Signage

- Clean entire surface with household cleaner and non-flammable solvent. For small surfaces, scrub entire area evenly with cleanser (without bleach) and rinse. This will dull the matte finish and provide tooth for the media.
- Wipe with damp isopropyl alcohol cotton rag followed immediately by clean, dry cotton rag.
- Turn and repeat. Change rags frequently.
- Paint or silk screen.

Paint Selection:

Epoxy
Polyurethane
Acrylic
Latex
Lacquer

Degree of Adhesion:

Best
—
—
—
Least

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Technical assistance may be obtained through your local Formica brand products distributor or from Formica Corporation trained representatives in sales offices throughout the country. To assist these representatives, Formica Corporation maintains a sales technical services staff in Cincinnati, Ohio. For technical assistance, contact your distributor or sales representative, write the company directly at Formica Corporation Technical Services Department, 10155 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241, call (513) 786-3048 or 1-800-FORMICA™; or fax (513) 786-3195. In Canada, call 1-800-363-1405. In Mexico, call (525) 530-3135

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