

# FORMICA® LAMINATE BY FORMICA GROUP

## TECHNICAL DATA (GENERAL PUPOSE GRADE 10 AND POST-FORMING GRADES 12 & 20)



### PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Melamine-impregnated decorative surface papers are combined with phenolic-treated kraft paper and consolidated in a press at high pressures. The sheet back is sanded to maintain a uniform thickness and facilitate bonding.

### COLORS AND FINISH

Formica® Brand Laminate sheets (horizontal general purpose grade 10/HGS) are available in a broad selection of designs and colors. Standard finishes for each pattern are detailed in the *Formica Corporation - National Product Guide* (Form No. 02-034W). Not all finishes are available in all Solid Colors / Patterns / Wood-grains. Polished finish (-90) is not recommended for heavy-duty horizontal surfaces.

Formica Brand Laminate sheets (horizontal post-forming grade 12/HGP and vertical post-forming grade 20/VGP) are available in a broad selection of designs and colors. Standard finishes for each pattern are detailed in the *Formica Corporation - National Product Guide* (Form No. 02-034W). Not all finishes are available in all Solid Colors / Patterns / Woodgrains. Polished finish (-90) is not recommended for heavy-duty horizontal surfaces.

### RECOMMENDED APPLICATION

#### Grade 10/HGS

Formica Brand Laminate – general purpose grade 10/HGS is intended for application to interior horizontal or vertical surfaces where design, appearance, quality, durability, resistance to stain, and resistance to heat from ordinary sources are important considerations.

#### Grade 12/HGP

Formica Brand Laminate – post-forming laminate grade 12/HGP is intended for application to interior horizontal or vertical surfaces requiring 1/2" (12.7mm) or greater outside radiused edges, and/or 3/16" (4.8mm) cove radii, where design, appearance, quality, durability, resistance to stain, and resistance to heat from ordinary sources are important considerations.

#### Grade 20/VGP

Formica Brand Laminate – post-forming grade 20/VGP is intended for application to interior vertical surfaces requiring 3/8" (9.5mm) or greater outside radiused edges, where design, appearance, quality, durability, resistance to stain, and resistance to heat from ordinary sources are important considerations.

### FABRICATION AND ASSEMBLY

#### LIMITATIONS

Formica Brand Laminate is designed for interior use only. Do not adhere directly to plaster, drywall (gypsum board), or concrete. Do not use in areas exposed to temperatures exceeding 275°F (135°C) or for exterior applications. When using Grade 20, **finished panel widths should not exceed 24" (610mm) maximum**, unless the adhesive system is a rigid set adhesive like PVA (wood glue). We do not recommend contact adhesive for Grade 20 panels wider than 24" (610mm).

#### MACHINING LOW SHEEN LAMINATE SHEETS

Formica Brand Laminate with low sheen surfaces are subject to marring. Fabricating with peel coat on surface (if applicable) is recommended. Router base should be clean and free of burrs and debris. Table saws should be clean, flat, and free of burrs.

#### STORAGE

Formica Brand Laminate should be stored horizontally, with a caul board or other protective sheet placed on top to protect the material from possible damage. The material should be protected from moisture, and should never be stored in contact with the floor or an outside wall. Optimum conditions for storage are approximately 75°F (24°C), and 45% to 55% relative humidity.

#### PRECONDITIONING

Prior to fabrication, allow laminate sheet and substrate to acclimate for at least 48 hours at the same ambient conditions. Optimum conditions are approximately 75°F (24°C), and relative humidity of 45% to 55%. Provisions should be made for the circulation of air around the materials.

#### SUBSTRATES

Formica Brand Laminate sheet should be bonded to an appropriate substrate, such as #45 density particleboard (ANSI A208.1 - 1999), or Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF). Due to the potential for stress cracking, shrink-back, and surface telegraphing problems, the use of plywood is strongly discouraged and not recommended. The substrate should be sanded smooth, and should be clean, free of oil or grease, and uniform in thickness.

Formica Brand Laminate sheet (grade 10/HGS) can be bonded to metal substrates using contact adhesive (see recommendations below, under Adhesives). Refer to Formica® Laminate Brief - Veneered to Metal Substrates for General Information, Materials, Conditions and Methods. Formica Corporation does not warranty this particular application.

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### ADHESIVES

Contact, semi-rigid (PVAc), or rigid (urea, resorcinol) adhesives may be used. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations. Certain combinations of finish, substrate, and adhesive can cause telegraphing.

When bonding Formica Brand Laminate sheet (grade 10/ HGS) to metal substrates using contact adhesive, use Formica brand flammable solvent-based #155 or non-flammable solvent-based #120M contact adhesives. Do not use water-based or SBR types of contact adhesive when bonding laminate sheets to metal substrates.

### ASSEMBLY

Material, equipment, and workmanship should conform to the Formica Corporation recommended standard practices, conditions, procedures, and recommendations as specified by ANSI/ NEMA LD3-2005, Architectural Woodwork Quality Standards and ANSI 161.2-1998 Standards.

Formica Brand Laminate sheets (grade 10, 12, and 20) can be sawed, drilled, routed, and fabricated using standard carbide-tipped cutting tools.

Holes for screws or bolts should be drilled oversized.

Panel assemblies should be laminated with the appropriate backing sheet to minimize warpage. Formica backing sheets (grade 91/BKV or 92/BKH) are recommended for less critical applications. Optimum balancing is obtained by bonding the same surface laminate on both sides of the assembly with the same adhesive. Always align sanding marks in the same direction.

All inside corners of cutouts must be radiused as large as possible, 1/8" (3.18mm) minimum, to avoid stress cracking. The edges and corners should be routed, sanded, or filed smooth and free of chips or nicks. Panels fabricated using metal substrates, which are more dimensionally stable than wood-based materials, should be installed in a framing system, which captures the perimeter of the panel yet allows for the normal dimensional movement of the laminate. This is to protect the panel edge and prevent edge lifting or separation from the substrate, which can occur under dry conditions.

### TECHNICAL DATA

Performance compliance of Formica Brand Laminate General purpose grade 10 and Post-forming grades 12 and 20

#### ANSI / NEMA STANDARDS PUBLICATION — LD3-2005

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES	LD3 TEST	10/HGS
Appearance	3.1	No ABC Defects
Light Resistance	3.3	Slight
Cleanability	3.4	20 (max.)
Stain Resistance	3.4	
Reagents 1 - 10		No Effect
Reagents 11 - 15		Moderate
Boiling Water Resistance	3.5	No Effect
High Temperature Resistance	3.6	Slight
Ball Impact Resistance - in	3.8	50 (min.)
- mm		1270 (min.)
Radiant Heat Resistance - sec	3.10	125 (min.)
Dimensional Change	3.11	
Machine Direction - %		0.50 (max.)
Cross Direction - %		0.90 (max.)
Wear Resistance - cycles	3.13	400 (min.)

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES	LD3 TEST	12/HGP	20/VGP
Appearance	3.1	No ABC Defects	No ABC Defects
Light Resistance	3.3	Slight	Slight
Cleanability	3.4	20 (max.)	20 (max.)
Stain Resistance	3.4		
Reagents 1 - 10		No Effect	No Effect
Reagents 11 - 15		Moderate	Moderate
Boiling Water Resistance	3.5	Slight	Slight
High Temperature Resistance	3.6	Slight	Slight
Ball Impact Resistance - in	3.8	30 (min.)	20 (min.)
- mm		762 (min.)	508 (min.)
Radiant Heat Resistance - sec	3.10	100 (min.)	80 (min.)
Dimensional Change	3.11		
Machine Direction - %		1.1 (max.)	1.1 (max.)
Cross Direction - %		1.4 (max.)	1.4 (max.)
Wear Resistance - cycles	3.13	400 (min.)	400 (min.)
Formability - in	3.14	5/8	1/2
- mm		16	12
Blister Resistance - sec	3.15	55	40

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### FIRE TEST DATA – ASTM E-84

Formica Corporation conducts and maintains an active fire testing program to provide code regulators, architects, and designers with current information on a variety of panel assemblies. Fire test data using Formica® Brand Laminate sheets (grades 10/HGS, 12HGP, and 20/VGP) is available upon request. Contact Formica® Technical Services at 1-800-FORMICA™ (option 2) or 513-786-3578 for assistance.

### CODES AND SPECIFICATIONS

#### FORMICA BRAND LAMINATE (GENERAL PURPOSE – GRADE 10/HGS / HORIZONTAL APPLICATION)

U.S. Federal Specification, LP-508-H, Style D, Type I, Class 1  
U.S. Military Specification, MIL-P-17171E(SH), Type I  
FMVSS 302  
NSF Standard 35  
ASTM-G22 Approved  
City of New York, Board of Standards and Appeals,  
MEA No. 326-86M

#### GREENGUARD CERTIFICATION

#### FORMICA BRAND LAMINATE (POST-FORMING – GRADE 12/HGP / HORIZONTAL APPLICATION)

U.S. Federal Specification, LP-508-H, Style D, Type II, Class 1  
FMVSS 302  
NSF Standard 35  
City of New York, Board of Standards and Appeals,  
MEA No. 327-86M

#### GREENGUARD CERTIFICATION

#### FORMICA BRAND LAMINATE (POST-FORMING – GRADE 20/VGP / VERTICAL APPLICATION)

U.S. Federal Specification, LP-508-H, Style D, Type II, Class 2  
CFR Part 3280 Manufacturing Home Construction and  
Safety Standards  
FMVSS 302  
NSF Standard 35

#### GREENGUARD CERTIFICATION

### SIZES

Sheet widths: 36" (914mm), 48" (1219mm), 60" (1524mm)  
Sheet lengths: 96" (2438mm), 120" (3048mm), 144" (3658mm)

### THICKNESS

	TYPICAL THICKNESS	NEMA THICKNESS RANGE
Grade 10 (HGS)	.045" (1.1mm)	.043" - .053" (1.08mm - 1.32mm)
Grade 12 (HGP)	.035" (0.9mm)	.034" - .044" (0.88mm - 1.12mm)
Grade 20 (VGP)	.026" (0.7mm)	.024" - .032" (0.6mm - 0.8mm)

### WEIGHT PER SQUARE FOOT

Grade 10/HGS: 0.324 pounds  
Grade 12/HGP: 0.252 pounds  
Grade 20/VGP: 0.180 pounds

### TO ORDER FORMICA BRAND LAMINATE SAMPLES, PLEASE CALL

U.S.: 1-800-FORMICA™ (select option 1)  
Canada: 1-800-363-1405 for ZIP-CHIP service

### HOW TO SPECIFY

Surface (and appropriate backing sheet) shall be Formica Brand Laminate by Formica Group, Cincinnati, Ohio.

#### COLOR NUMBER

#### COLOR NAME

#### GRADE

#### FINISH

#### SIZE

### USE AND CARE

Refer to *Formica Brand Laminate Use and Care Guide* – Form No. YLT 02358w for specific details.

Formica Brand Laminate sheet may be cleaned with a damp cloth and mild detergent.

If in doubt about the suitability of a particular cleaner or detergent, check with its manufacturer. Use of abrasive cleaners, powders, scouring pads, steel wool, sandpaper, etc., can damage the finish of the decorative surface and are not recommended.

Acid or alkaline-based cleaners, compounds, etc., will mar, etch, corrode, and permanently discolor the decorative surface of laminate. Never use these materials on laminate, nor allow bottles, rags, etc., contaminated with them to contact the surface. Accidental spills or splatters from these harsh materials should be wiped off immediately, and the area cleaned thoroughly with a damp cloth.

## FORMICA® LAMINATE BY FORMICA GROUP TECHNICAL DATA (GENERAL PUPOSE GRADE 10 AND POST-FORMING GRADES 12 & 20) CONTINUED



### LIMITED WARRANTY

Formica Corporation expressly warrants that, for a period of one (1) year from the date of first sale, these products will be reasonably free of defects in materials and workmanship, and that when properly handled and fabricated, will conform, within accepted tolerance, to applicable manufacturing specifications. Colors subject to dye lot variations. This limited warranty only applies to Formica Brand Laminate which is stored, handled, fabricated and installed in the manner recommended by Formica Corporation. Due to the variety of uses and applications to which Formica Brand Laminate may be put, **FORMICA CORPORATION CAN MAKE NO WARRANTY THAT THIS PRODUCT IS SUITABLE FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND CAN MAKE NO OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, OTHER THAN THOSE SET FORTH ABOVE.**

### DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES

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### LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

No claim by buyer of any kind, including claims for indemnification, whether as to quality or amount of products delivered or for non-delivery of products, shall be greater in amount than the purchase price of the products in respect of which damages are claimed. **IN NO EVENT SHALL FORMICA CORPORATION BE LIABLE TO BUYER FOR ANY SPECIAL, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, RELIANCE, EXEMPLARY, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OR COVER, OR LOSS OF PROFIT, REVENUE OR USE, IN CONNECTION WITH, ARISING OUT OF, OR AS A RESULT OF, THE SALE, DELIVERY, SERVICING, USE OR LOSS OF USE OF THE PRODUCTS SOLD HEREUNDER, OR FOR ANY LIABILITY OF BUYER TO ANY THIRD PARTY WITH RESPECT THERETO. BUYER SHALL INSPECT FOR NONCONFORMITY PROMPTLY UPON RECEIPT.** Failure by buyer to give Formica Corporation written notice of claim within 30 days from date of delivery or, in the case of non-delivery from the date fixed for delivery, shall constitute a waiver by buyer of all claims in respect of such products.

This limited warranty gives purchaser of Formica Brand Laminate specific legal rights. Other rights may be available and vary from state to state.

Any information or suggestion concerning application, specifications or compliances with codes and standards is provided solely for your convenient reference and without any representation as to accuracy or suitability. Formica Corporation disclaims any legal responsibility. The user must verify and test the suitability of any information or products for their own particular purpose of specific application.

### MANUFACTURER

Formica Brand Laminate sheets are manufactured by Formica Corporation.

Formica Corporation  
10155 Reading Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241-5279

### 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 and 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) 786-3578 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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For warranty information, please visit [www.formica.com](http://www.formica.com) or call 1-800-FORMICA™.



GreenGuard Environmental Institute  
Formica® high-pressure laminate (HPL) is GreenGuard Indoor Air Quality Certified under the GreenGuard Standard for Low-Emitting Products.

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