

FORMICA® Freeform® High Pressure Laminates



- Formica® Freeform® is a High Pressure Laminate made from layers of Kraft paper impregnated with phenolic thermosetting resins to make up the product core and melamine impregnated decorative paper to make up the surface layer, manufactured under high pressure and temperature.
- Formica Freeform is a 0.8mm thick laminate designed to allow heat forming with specialist equipment to create internal and external curves as tight as 10mm radius.
- Can be used as a decorative surface for a wide range of applications including benches, worktops, wall linings, furniture and joinery in interior applications.
- Formica High Pressure Laminates are very durable decorative surfaces with a high wear, scratch and moisture resistance manufactured to horizontal grade standards and vertical grade standards.
- The Formica Colour collection includes over 200 decors that co-ordinate with Formica Decorated Boards® and edgings for interior fit-outs.
- Various surface finishes are available to deliver specific visual, tactile and wear properties for selected products and colours.
- A commercially viable and environmentally preferable range of products without compromising design flexibility.
- Formica High Pressure Laminates are made to meet or exceed the requirements of AS/NZS 2924.1 – High Pressure Decorative Laminates
- Formica Freeform High Pressure Laminates have been awarded the Good Environmental Choice Australia mark.

Wood Fibre Sources

The Laminex Group has several suppliers of paper for use in the manufacture of High Pressure Laminates. All suppliers to The Laminex Group use wood pulp sourced from sustainable managed plantations.

There are three types of paper used in the manufacture of High Pressure Laminates:

- (i) Kraft paper is used to construct the core of the laminate. – Kraft paper comes from suppliers in the USA and Scandinavia.
- (ii) Solid colour and Printed paper – This is sourced from suppliers in Europe, USA and Asia.

Paper suppliers source wood pulp from timber plantations certified under one of the following programs:

- FSC (Forest Stewardship Council International)
- PEFC (Pan European Forest Council)
- SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative USA)

Wood species include:

- USA – Elder, Ash and Pine
- Europe & Scandinavia – Birch, Spruce and Pine
- South America – Eucalypt

The Laminex Group specifies the use of ECF – Elemental Chlorine Free bleached pulp for decorative papers. Heavy metals are not present in the colouration pigments used for paper supplied to The Laminex Group.



Reduced Emissions for Better Indoor Air Quality

- The Laminex Group uses Phenolic Formaldehyde resins in the manufacture of high-pressure laminates. The formaldehyde emission levels are very low and easily meet the European E1 limit.
- Formica High Pressure Laminates emit formaldehyde well below the workplace exposure limit set by the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission and comply with the voluntary standards of Good Environmental Choice Australia.

Product Durability

- Formica Freeform High Pressure Laminates are supported by a seven year limited warranty. A copy of the Formica 7 Year Limited Warranty can be obtained from The Laminex Group or an approved supplier.
- The serviceable life of the product will depend on its application.

Modularity & Flexibility

- The standard sheet sizes of Formica Freeform High Pressure Laminates are developed to meet the practical requirements for typical furniture and joinery applications, so that waste can be kept to a minimum.
- Benchtops, worktops and surfaces decorated with Formica Freeform High Pressure Laminates can be refurbished, reused or easily replaced.

Product Stewardship

The Laminex Group is committed to exploring commercially viable environmental programs, and is investigating processes and technologies to collect and re-use its products after the end of their serviceable lives. At present a commercial means of recovering and recycling high pressure laminates in Australia and New Zealand does not exist.

Green Star Office Interiors Compatibility (v1.1)

The Green Building Council of Australia has deemed that products made completely of laminate, which are not pressed onto a wood product substrate (ie. Freeform HPL), are not considered to be composite wood panels. Therefore they are not subject to the Formaldehyde Minimisation (IEQ-12) and Sustainable Timber (MAT-11) credits in Green Star rating tools.