

Maintenance and cleaning of laminated surfaces including toilet cubicles & vanity tops

Decorative laminates will withstand normal wear and tear and do not easily scratch or chip. Laminates will resist the effects of vandalism and will provide very durable surfaces suitable for public areas: they should never be used as cutting or chopping surfaces.

They do not lend themselves to being repaired by filling, stopping, re-staining etc.

Cleaning

Extreme care must be taken when cleaning high-gloss laminates.

Laminate surfaces are best kept clean by wiping with a damp cloth moistened with a dilute detergent solution. Persistent marks can be removed by using a mild non-abrasive cleaner. On no account should scouring pads or harsh abrasive cleaning agents be used.

Light applications of non-scratch liquids such as *Mr Muscle* or *Ajax Liquid* can be used but these may permanently mark the surface, so a trial application should be undertaken first. For heavy staining, for instance where the surface has become discoloured by long-term exposure to tobacco smoke or industrial grime, *Cif* and *Gumption* are very effective, but should be used carefully, as they are very abrasive.

The above cleaners will also be found useful in removal of ball-pen marks, pencil marks and indelible-ink and felt-pen inks. A few drops of methylated spirits on a clean cloth will also assist greatly in the removal of ink markings.

After cleaning, the surface should be washed thoroughly with clean water and polished dry with a soft cloth. Window cleaning agents such as a few drops of vinegar on a wash-leather or proprietary products such as *Windowlene* are excellent in removing and avoiding smears on the final finish. Spray-on car-windscreen cleaners can also be used.

Furniture polish should not be used as a build-up of wax or silicone on the surface can result, with eventual discolouration and smears.

Cumulative staining over a long period, such as by tea or coffee spillage can usually be removed by a dilute solution of household bleach. This should only be allowed to remain in contact with the surface for a short time and should only be used very occasionally.

Deep textured finishes are inevitably more difficult to clean than plain surfaces and light textures. For stubborn marks in textured surfaces a nylon bristle brush can be used in conjunction with any of the above cleaners to remove deep-seated stains and marks.

Hardware

Nylon cam hinges - these should be greased with *Vaseline* periodically but never less than once a year. Lift the door a few millimetres and insert the lubricant on the bearing surfaces.

Aluminium slide bolts may be lubricated with a light machine oil if required or if signs of stiffness develop.

Stainless Steel bolts should be repacked with grease every 3 years or earlier should stiffness develop.

Where used, the 4mm Allen Key through-bolt fixings should be tightened up three months after installation and then checked periodically.

Decra Ltd
Cleaning instructions for laminate surfaces

| | <i>Dust, dirt, dust/grease mixture, pencil chalk</i> | <i>Chalk residue, chalk rims, water rims, rust</i> | <i>Coffee, tea, fruit juice, sugar solutions</i> | <i>Grease, oil, finger-marks, felt pen, marker pen, ball-point pen, nicotine deposits, tea leaves, rubber marks</i> | <i>Wax residues, candle grease, wax crayon</i> | <i>Lipstick, furniture polish, shoe polish, wax polish</i> | <i>Bacteriological stains, soap residues, skin excretions, germs, blood, urine, vomit</i> | <i>Dark patches appearing after treatment with solvent</i> | <i>Water colours, corrosives, disperse, dyes, water soluble, adhesives</i> | <i>Solvents containing vanishes, residues, vanish sprays colour sprays, marking inks</i> | <i>Dual constituent varnishes & adhesives, synthetic resins</i> | <i>Silicone sealants, furniture polish</i> |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Light recent marks | Use paper towels, soft clean cloths (dry or damp), sponge or similar. After using a damp cloth, wipe down afterwards with absorbent towels | | | | | | | | Organic solvents | Remove immediately using water or organic solvent | Rub off dry using silicone remover | |
| Normal soiling of longer duration | Use clean hot water cloths or towels, soft sponge or brush e.g. nylon brush. Use normal cleaning agents without abrasive constituents, washing powder (especially heavy-duty detergents, liquid soap or hard soap). Remove dirt with a solution of cleaning agent or let it soak according to the degree of soiling then wash off with clean water or glass cleaner. Wipe several times if necessary. Remove all traces of cleaning agent to prevent streaks developing. With clean absorbent cloth (or better still paper towels, wipe the surface dry. Change cloths frequently. | | | | | | Water or organic solvent | Organic solvents e.g. Acetone, spirits, petrol, trichloroethylene, MEK | Cleaning is possible only before hardening takes place. Remove at once after contact using organic solvent. | Silicone remover | | |
| | | | | | Organic solvents (e.g. acetone spirits, petrol, trichloroethylene, MEK, nail varnish remover) | Can be steam cleaned. Disinfect as appropriate | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Carefully remove wax or paraffin by hand. Avoid scrapers, use plastic or wooden spatulas. Remove any residue using absorbent paper and flat iron | | | | | | | |
| Hard stubborn marks, old stains | Soak dirt overnight in washing up liquid or solution of washing powder in water. Then use liquid detergent in conjunction with a fine cutting/polishing compound. Gentle bleach may be used but with great caution. N.B. use liquid detergent, cutting/polishing compound, or bleach as seldom as possible. | | | | | Soften with water or organic solvent, then peel or pull off. | | | | | | |
| | Certain chalk residues may be removable by an acidic cleaning agent e.g. 10% acetic or citric acid | | | | | Colour residues can sometimes be removed by hand after hardening | No cleaning possible. Residue of contact adhesives or reagents adhesives can no longer be removed | | | | | |

Decra laminated surfaces will give excellent wear characteristics if cleaned with care. Always begin by trying the gentlest method first.