



**DORBY<sup>®</sup> MICA**  
IMAGINE. IMPLEMENT

# **CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES**

# CARE & MAINTENANCE



## REGULAR DUSTING IS IMPORTANT

Dust seems futile and casually harmless, right? Not right. Laminate sheets for furniture and other layered surfaces should be regularly dusted with a cloth or a duster. You can also choose a microfiber cloth for better output. Corners of decorative laminates which are difficult to reach can be cleaned using nylon dusters with smaller bristles or using a toothbrush. To protect your surfaces from dust, Dorby Mica has anti – bacterial laminates. Nothing feels 100% clean and safe unless cleaned with at least a little water. Laminated furniture can be wiped once a week using a damp cloth. But too much water can spoil the decorative laminate sheets due to moisture.

## PREVENT SPILLS AND STAINING

Between kids, pets and kitchen spills, who remembers cleaning, right? Then try to cover it up! Use coasters and transparent table covers wherever possible. This can prevent direct contact of liquids with the laminates. Heat producing kitchens appliances like coffee makers and toaster ovens should not be placed beneath laminated cabinets. Excess heat and moisture from these appliances can damage laminate sheets on cabinets. If you wish to opt for fire resistant properties, flip through Dorby Mica's laminate collection.



## AVOID CHEMICALS

Got a nice bottle of high bleach cleanser? Unfortunately, that won't do your surfaces any good. Many commercial products contain substances that may damage or discolour the laminate sheets. Mild household class and surface cleaners in smaller portions are advisable. The following should never come in direct contact with your surfaces; if they do, wipe off immediately and rinse the surface thoroughly:

- Drain cleaners
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Oven cleaners
- Rust removers
- Toilet bowl cleaners
- Any other product containing high portions of chemicals



## KEEP AWAY FROM SUNLIGHT

Sunlight tans our skin, but it fades your laminates. Sunlight tends to cause fading and crumpling of designs. That is why, as an added benefit, Dorby Mica provides laminates with high colour fastness to protect your surfaces.

## AVOID SCRUBBING PADS

Scrubbers made of bad plastic or metal can lead to scratches on your laminate surfaces.



## DO NOT POLISH OR WAX

Polishing your decorative laminates can lead to residue and major permanent damage on the designs. It can also lead to permanently trapping the grease on your decorative laminate surface. Remember, laminates are not made by real wood. You can always get your hands on Dorby Mica's High Gloss laminate sheets for a polished finish.

## ALWAYS USE AN INSULATED PAD OR TRIVET

Although decorative laminates are heat resistant to an extent, prolonged exposure to temperatures over 135°C (275° F) may cause blistering or other damages to your wooden laminate sheets. These pads and/or trivets absorb the heat, therefore saving your laminates from getting damaged.



In case of major damages, there is no option but to replace that sheet of laminate with a new one. After all, they can only take so much of our everyday life spills, damages and stains!

Hope these tips and DIYs help you save your versatile decorative laminate sheets from harm's way. Try to follow these techniques and your laminates will live for longer! In case you require any information or have questions, feel free to contact us.

# STORAGE & HANDLING

Laminates don't just require utmost attention during installation but also during the process of transferring them from one location to another and while storing them. Decorative laminates may be thick, protective layers which we install on our furniture but are extremely versatile in nature. Designs of decorative laminates are highly prone to abrasion and harm if they aren't handled appropriately.



## HANDLING

At the time of loading decorative laminate sheets, extreme care has to be taken so that accidental breakage, dents and cracks can be avoided. Ensure that you do not slide the laminate surfaces on top of each other. Instead, lift them while moving them. While carrying the High-Pressure Laminates, make sure that the decorative laminate sheet is facing towards your body to lower the possibilities of damage. Don't forget to roll or bow the laminate sheets vertically. This makes it easier to carry them around.

## STORING

Store the laminates in the protective films until they get installed. Try to store the laminate sheets in a flat, horizontal form over a surface. If the location of temporary storage does not have the possibility of horizontal storage, store the laminate sheets vertically at a slightly inclined position. Investing in cover boards will help to cover and protect the laminates when they are to be stored for a shorter time period. High-Pressure Laminates are to be stored at a temperature between 10° to 30° Celsius. The humidity levels of storage should not be higher than 60% or lower than 40%.



## MACHINING & CUTTING

Cutting laminate sheets for furniture requires a perfect combination between the speed of the cutting tool, the thickness of the laminate sheet and the kind of cutting tool one uses. To get a perfect cut, following elements are required:

- Rigid sacrificial panels
- Diamond cutting tools
- Tungsten carbide
- Prefer using a diamond tipped tool for Unicore laminates for better precision.

## PRE-CONDITIONING

To make sure that your laminates stay in good conditions even in different environments and locations, it is important to use core materials which are of high quality to make the best laminates. This means that pre-condition is a form of precaution. Laminate sheets which are going to be a part of the same composite board should be treated like twins and should have similarly sanded backs. Twin laminate sheets should be stored for at least 4 days, so they end up having stronger core bonds. Wood based core materials for wood laminate sheets should entail a 9% moisture rate, make sure that the laminate also has the same moisture content. Innovative laminate sheets and their core materials should not be too wet or too dry. These pointers are necessary steps to keep in mind during the process of storing and installing laminate sheets. Because, your surface matters.



## CLEANING

**Basic Cleaning:** For general surface cleaning, use a damp cloth or sponge along with a mild soap or detergent.

**Group 2 Stains:** To tackle stains like coffee or tea (Group 2), employ a mild household cleaner and a soft-bristle brush.

**Persistent Stains:** If stains persist, make a paste using baking soda and water. Gently scrub with a soft-bristle brush. Generally, 10 to 20 seconds of scrubbing should effectively remove most stains. Be cautious, as excessive scrubbing or force may harm decorative surfaces, especially glossy finishes.

**Challenging Stains (Group 3 & 4):** For stubborn stains belonging to Group 3 & 4, utilize undiluted household bleach or nail polish remover. Apply the bleach or nail polish remover to the stain and allow it to sit for a maximum of 2 minutes. Thoroughly rinse with warm water and dry with a cloth. If the stain disappears without affecting the laminate's color, this step can be repeated if needed.

## WARNING

Extended exposure of laminate surfaces to bleach can lead to discoloration. Likewise, acid-based cleaners are capable of causing permanent damage to laminates. Prevent any contact between laminates and these cleaners, as well as items such as bottles, rags, or any other items contaminated by these substances. Should contact occur, promptly wipe the affected area and thoroughly rinse it with water. Stain Categories:

**Group 1:** This group includes substances like acetone, trichloroethane, toothpaste, hand cream, urea, alcoholic beverages, natural fruits, fruit drinks, meat, vegetable oil, water, NaCl (solution), mustard, soap solution, paint remover (kerosene), phenol, and citric acid.

**Group 2:** Stains in this category consist of coffee, black tea, condensed and evaporated milk, cola beverages, vinegar, 3% hydrogen peroxide solution, 10% ammonia solution (commercial concentrate), nail polish remover, lipsticks, watercolor, laundry marking ink, and ballpoint ink.

**Group 3:** This group involves substances like 25% sodium hydroxide solution, 30% hydrogen peroxide solution, concentrated vinegar (30% acetic acid), acid-based metal cleaners, shoe polish, hair coloring, iodine, boric acid, and lacquers.

**Group 4:** The final group pertains to citric acid (0% solution) and 5% acetic acid solution.