

# DECROBOND

## MAINTENANCE INFORMATION

### Laminate Faced Systems Supplied by Decrobond Fabrications LTD

This information outlines the precautions, which should be taken in the handling, processing, and fabrication of decorative laminates. It has been prepared in accordance with the format developed by the British Plastics Federation to comply with Section 6 of the Health & Safety at Work Act, and with reference to Guidance Note G.S.8. - "Articles and Substances for use at Work"

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## 1. Products

The materials referred to are melamine surfaced high-pressure decorative laminates. They are supplied in sheet form in a variety of sizes, thicknesses, and surface finishes. Laminates consist of paper and thermo-hardening synthetic resins. Irreversible chemical bonds are formed between resin molecules in the constituent layers of paper during the curing process, which occurs under conditions of high pressure and temperature. The resins used are the reaction products of phenol and formaldehyde, and melamine and formaldehyde, and are controlled to impact the required characteristics of wear, stain, impact, and fire resistance, and mechanical strength and formability in the finished laminate.

Decorative laminates are essentially for surfacing and may be bonded to almost any substrate, the most common being chipboard, plywood, hardboard, aluminium, and mineral based.

Polyrey laminates do not contain asbestos.

## 2. Handling and Storage

Laminates are chemically stable at normal temperatures and are no hazard under normal storage conditions. They are usually delivered banded on pallets which are suitable for transporting the load to and from stores by folk lift truck. Normal precautions should be taken to avoid injuries in transport and handling from unstable stacks and loads, incorrect lifting methods, and driving practices. The weight of a pallet depends on the size, number of sheets, and grade, but a useful guide in the calculation of a load is half a lb. Per sq. Ft. For a 1.3mm laminate.

All laminates have a hard surface, (some may be smooth), and precautions (e.g. strapping) should be taken to avoid accidental slippage of stacked material in storage or transport.

Precautions should be taken to avoid cut injuries caused by sharp and burred edges. Broken laminates are particularly dangerous in this respect, and the danger can be lessened by taping the break. Gloves should always be worn when handling laminates. Displaced sheets in a stack are also hazardous at face level, and they should be picked up as they are very slippery when face down on a concrete floor.

## 3. Fire Precautions

Laminates are difficult to ignite and are not hazardous as a potential source of ignition, but in a conflagration, they will contribute to the fire. The hazard relating to smoke obscuration and noxious gases from a fire derives mainly from the items in the room, which will ignite first and burn vigorously. Items, which are difficult to ignite, and which have a low surface spread of flame will contribute much less to the smoke obstruction and noxious gas hazard. All organic products, whether synthetically produced - like plastics, or naturally occurring - such as wood or wool, will produce gases of varying composition, depending on the conditions under which burning takes place. The toxic gas most commonly found in fire gases from organic materials is carbon monoxide. The presence of elements other than carbon, hydrogen and oxygen in plastics can result in the production of other toxic gases. In the case of high pressure decorative laminates, if

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any other gases are released, the amounts will be extremely small, and the effects of carbon monoxide and oxygen depletion will far outweigh the dangers from such trace quantities.

Normal fire fighting procedures should be followed, including the wearing of breathing apparatus. Water and dry powder extinguishers are particularly suitable but CO<sub>2</sub> and Halon can be used, the choice depending on the circumstances.

Finely divided dust arising from the fabrication of laminates (i.e. sanding or sawing) are a potential source of explosion and combustion, and the propagation of flame in dust clouds and accumulations is very rapid.

Care must be taken in the design and servicing of pneumatic handling and extraction systems to avoid explosive conditions. Explosion relief and isolation should be provided and potential ignition sources eliminated.

In all cases, expert advice should be obtained. A very useful reference on this subject is booklet NO.22 in the Health & Safety at Work series - "Dust Explosions in Factories" obtainable from HM Stationary Office.

## 4. Machining and Fabrication

Machining of laminates by sawing or grinding may generate dust and noise. Local exhaust ventilation should be provided at points where excessive dust occurs and the comments made in paragraph 3 noted in the design of such systems. The properties of substrates to which the laminate may be bonded must also be taken into consideration when assessing machining hazards. The working of aluminium/laminate composite board requires particular care, as any fine dust generated is highly explosive and requires special precautions. It should not be fed into central dust collecting systems with other materials.

Care should be taken to protect the eyes from splinters and dust and cuts, and the "Protection of Eyes Regulations" must be met.

Excessive noise is likely to occur during grinding and sawing and suitable precautions (i.e. screens and ear protection) should be taken. Reference should be made to the publication "Code of Practice for reducing the Employed Persons to Noise", which is available from HM Stationary Office.

## 5. Health and Environmental Aspects

Decorative laminates are fully cured and chemically inert. They are not classified as toxic or harmful. If finely ground during fabrication, the accidental inhalation of small quantities of dust need be cause for concern. In all cases where the machining generates large scale airborne dust particles, dust masks and local exhaust ventilation should be provided to ensure dust is directed away from the breathing zone of the operator.

Most powders can cause irritation with persistent direct contact with skin. The sensitivity of individuals varies considerably, but a few may develop non-infective industrial dermatitis. Problems of this nature can invariably be avoided by simple basic precautions, such as the use of dust masks, gloves, overalls, and care with personal hygiene. Properly dispensed pre-work barrier creams, soaps, washing facilities and afterwork conditioning creams will prove effective. In the exceptional case of a person

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with an allergic sensitivity to the dust, the only remedy is to avoid all contact at any level of exposure. Professional medical advice should be obtained in such cases. There is no measurable fume or reactive constituent in the laminate.

## 6. Product Information

Technical literature is available describing the properties and characteristics of each grade of laminate and the applications and recommended fabrication methods. Users should be familiar with the contents of this literature. If there is any doubt, further information and advice should be requested.

## 7. Waste Disposal

Much of the content and recommendations in sections 3 to 6 apply equally to waste disposal.

In general, waste may be disposed of by controlled incineration or burial, but the requirements of the "Control of Pollution Act" should be observed.

The material is not classified as a "notifiable" waste.

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## CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS FOR LAMINATE BASED PRODUCTS.

	DRY CLOTH	DAMP CLOTH	WARM WATER	NONE ABRASIVE CLEANER	WHITE SPIRIT	ACETONE
STAIN OR MARK						
GENERAL ITEMS						
DUST	X					
SOAP REIDUE		X	X	X		
OILS		X	X	X		
PAINT WATER BASED			X	X		
PAINT SOLVENT BASED					X	
WASHABLE DYES			X	X		
PERMANENT DYES					X	
SHOE POLISH					X	
WAX CRAYON					X	
BIRO PEN			X	X		
CHALK		X	X	X		
LIPSTICK			X	X		
NAIL VARNISH						X
BLEACH		X	X	X		
FINGER MARKS		X	X	X		
BLOOD			X	X		
NICOTINE			X	X		
SHAMPOO		X	X	X		
TOOTHPASTE		X	X	X		
PERFUME			X	X	X	
HAND CREAM		X	X	X		
TEA/COFFEE		X	X	X		
ALCOHOL			X	X	X	

High pressure decorative laminates are rigorously tested to all current British and European standards which ensure that they will meet the exacting requirements of any contract washroom environment. The hardwearing melamine surface is highly resistant to heat, impact, scratches and moisture and also ensures that the design maintains its aesthetic appearance.

### DOS

General cleaning of the high pressure laminate surface requires only a damp cloth and a non - abrasive detergent diluted in warm water. For regular industrial cleaning applied 4 - 43 cleaner in a dilution of one part to ten parts water is recommended. Grease marks may generally be removed with white spirit and stubborn stains with a non - abrasive scouring cream or mild domestic bleach.

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Paint and graffiti remover is recommended for removing permanent marker and aerosol spray paint.

## SCHEDULE OF RECOMMENDED CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

Wet / humid

location

Dry

location

## CLEANING & MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS FOR LAMINATE PANELS

### Cleaning :

Always start by trying the gentlest method of cleaning. If a stain persists, work through the following

steps, repeating each step several times if the stain seems to be disappearing

*Step 1:* For routine cleaning, use a damp cloth or sponge and a mild soap or detergent.

Rinse the

panels & dry on completion.

*Step 2:* For difficult stains apply a mild household cleaner/detergent with a soft bristled brush.

*Step 3:* If stubborn stains persist, use a non-scratch cleaner such as Cif or Flash, scrubbing lightly with a soft bristled brush for 10 to 20 seconds

*Step 4:* If a stain persists, apply undiluted household bleach, let stand for no longer than 2 minutes,

and rinse thoroughly with warm water. DO NOT expose the laminate surface to household bleach

for prolonged periods of time, as this may lead to permanent discoloration.

*Step 5:* If the surface has been discolored through long exposure to industrial grime, clean

carefully with a cream cleaner containing a mild abrasive.

*DO:* always rinse thoroughly after cleaning (residue from cleaning solutions is the single greatest

cause of damage to laminate surfaces)

*DO:* Wipe up spills immediately, and rinse thoroughly

*DO NOT:* Use acidic or abrasive cleaners, expose the laminate to household bleach for prolonged

periods of time, or apply excessive scrubbing, especially on gloss finish surfaces

### Removing Access Panels :

Access panels are normally fitted using nylon Ke-ku hook and peg fixings. To release a panel, it

must be lifted vertically by 20mm in order for the hook to release from the peg. The panel should be

handled using a glass suction pad. Do not lever the panel using screwdrivers, as this will inevitably

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damage the panel lippings.

Vanity unit Underpanels and the bottom panel to urinal ducts are traditionally fixed using bayonet

friction fixings. These panels can be released using a glass suction pad, with the panel being pulled

forward from it's normal position.

The attached drawings provide details of which type of fixings are used for each application.

## **General Comments :**

In order to avoid water marks / limescale buildup,

standing water should be removed from

horizontal surfaces. Any water that splashed onto a panel edging should be removed immediately.

## **CLEANING & MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS FOR VENEERED PANELS**

### **Cleaning :**

Veneered surfaces should be treated with utmost care. Surfaces should be cleaned using a soft

cloth and furniture polish. DO NOT use abrasive cleaners under any circumstances.

Persistent marks may be removed using a slightly damp cloth (not wet), with panels being dried on

completion

In the event that marks cannot be removed by following the above suggestions, a professional French

Polisher should be sought who may be able to remove marks and make good the veneered surfaces

on completion.

### **Removing Access Panels :**

Access panels are normally fitted using nylon Ke-ku hook and peg fixings. To release a panel, it

must be lifted vertically by 20mm in order for the hook to release from the peg. The panel should be

handled using a glass suction pad. Do not lever the panel using screwdrivers, as this will inevitably

damage the panel lippings.

Vanity unit Underpanels and the bottom panel to urinal ducts are traditionally fixed using bayonet

friction fixings. These panels can be released using a glass suction pad, with the panel being pulled

forward from it's normal position.

The attached drawings provide details of which type of fixings are used for each application.

## **General Comments :**

In order to avoid water marks / limescale buildup,

standing water should be removed from

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horizontal surfaces. Any water that splashed onto a panel edging should be removed immediately.

## CLEANING & MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS FOR LAMINATED CUBICLES

### Cleaning Laminate Components :

Always start by trying the gentlest method of cleaning. If a stain persists, work through the following

steps, repeating each step several times if the stain seems to be disappearing

*Step 1:* For routine cleaning, use a damp cloth or sponge and a mild soap or detergent.

Rinse the

panels & dry on completion.

*Step 2:* For difficult stains apply a mild household cleaner/detergent with a soft bristled brush.

*Step 3:* If stubborn stains persist, use a non-scratch

cleaner such as Cif or Flash, scrubbing lightly

with a soft bristled brush for 10 to 20 seconds

*Step 4:* If a stain persists, apply undiluted household bleach, let stand for no longer than 2 minutes,

and rinse thoroughly with warm water. DO NOT expose the laminate surface to household bleach

for prolonged periods of time, as this may lead to permanent discoloration.

*Step 5:* If the surface has been discolored through long exposure to industrial grime, clean

carefully with a cream cleaner containing a mild abrasive.

*DO:* always rinse thoroughly after cleaning (residue from cleaning solutions is the single greatest

cause of damage to laminate surfaces)

*DO:* Wipe up spills immediately, and rinse thoroughly

*DO NOT:* Use acidic or abrasive cleaners, expose the laminate to household bleach for prolonged

periods of time, or apply excessive scrubbing, especially on gloss finish surfaces

### Cleaning Ironmongery :

Powder coated (or Syntha Pulvin) products should be cleaned at no more than 3 month intervals. A

solution of mild detergent diluted with warm water should be used. A soft cloth, sponge, or natural

bristle brush may be used. Abrasive materials should be avoided. White spirit may be used to remove

oil or grease deposits, but strong solvents must be avoided. The coated items must be thoroughly

rinsed following use of detergents

Metallic surfaces should be cleaned as detailed for powder coating. Care should be taken in order to

avoid scratching the metallic surface.

### Maintenance of ironmongery :



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Cubicle locks & hinges should be wiped clean. A moderate amount of a silicone type lubricant (such as WD40) should be applied to all moving parts, with any excess lubricant promptly removed. Excess use of lubricants may attract dust, which will increase the wear rate of moving parts. It is imperative that the amount of lubricant is kept to a minimum.

## CLEANING & MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS FOR GLASS CUBICLES

### Cleaning Glass Components :

Glass components should be regularly cleaned using a nonabrasive, non toxic detergent and warm soapy water only. The glass should be rinsed on completion, and should then be dried and buffed with a soft cloth.

*DO NOT*: use any abrasive materials / cleaning products.

### Cleaning Ironmongery :

Powder coated (or Syntha Pulvin) products should be cleaned at no more than 3 month intervals. A solution of mild detergent diluted with warm water should be used. A soft cloth, sponge, or natural bristle brush may be used. Abrasive materials should be avoided. White spirit may be used to remove oil or grease deposits, but strong solvents must be avoided. The coated items must be thoroughly rinsed following use of detergents. Metallic surfaces should be cleaned as detailed for powder coating. Care should be taken in order to avoid scratching the metallic surface.

### Maintenance of ironmongery :

Cubicle locks & hinges should be wiped clean. A moderate amount of a silicone type lubricant (such as WD40) should be applied to all moving parts, with any excess lubricant promptly removed. Excess use of lubricants may attract dust, which will increase the wear rate of moving parts. It is imperative that the amount of lubricant is kept to a minimum.

## CLEANING & MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS FOR VENEERED CUBICLES

### Cleaning Veneered components :

Veneered surfaces should be treated with utmost care. Surfaces should be cleaned using a soft cloth and furniture polish. DO NOT use abrasive cleaners under any circumstances.

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Persistent marks may be removed using a slightly damp cloth (not wet), with panels being dried on completion

In the event that marks cannot be removed by following the above suggestions, a professional French Polisher should be sought who may be able to remove marks and make good the veneered surfaces on completion.

## **Cleaning Ironmongery :**

Powder coated (or Syntha Pulvin) products should be cleaned at no more than 3 month intervals. A

solution of mild detergent diluted with warm water should be used. A soft cloth, sponge, or natural

bristle brush may be used. Abrasive materials should be avoided. White spirit may be used to remove

oil or grease deposits, but strong solvents must be avoided. The coated items must be thoroughly

rinsed following use of detergents

Metallic surfaces should be cleaned as detailed for powder coating. Care should be taken in order to

avoid scratching the metallic surface.

## **Maintenance of ironmongery :**

Cubicle locks & hinges should be wiped clean. A moderate amount of a silicone type lubricant (such

as WD40) should be applied to all moving parts, with any excess lubricant promptly removed. Excess

use of lubricants may attract dust, which will increase the wear rate of moving parts. It is imperative

that the amount of lubricant is kept to a minimum.

## **CLEANING & MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS FOR LAMINATE VANITY UNITS**

### **Cleaning :**

Always start by trying the gentlest method of cleaning. If a stain persists, work through the following

steps, repeating each step several times if the stain seems to be disappearing

*Step 1:* For routine cleaning, use a damp cloth or sponge and a mild soap or detergent.

Rinse the

panels & dry on completion.

*Step 2:* For difficult stains apply a mild household cleaner/detergent with a soft bristled brush.

*Step 3:* If stubborn stains persist, use a non-scratch

cleaner such as Cif or Flash, scrubbing lightly

with a soft bristled brush for 10 to 20 seconds

*Step 4:* If a stain persists, apply undiluted household bleach, let stand for no longer than 2 minutes,

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and rinse thoroughly with warm water. DO NOT expose the laminate surface to household bleach

for prolonged periods of time, as this may lead to permanent discoloration.

*Step 5:* If the surface has been discolored through long exposure to industrial grime, clean

carefully with a cream cleaner containing a mild abrasive.

*DO:* always rinse thoroughly after cleaning (residue from cleaning solutions is the single greatest

cause of damage to laminate surfaces)

*DO:* Wipe up spills immediately, and rinse thoroughly

*DO NOT:* Use acidic or abrasive cleaners, expose the laminate to household bleach for prolonged

periods of time, or apply excessive scrubbing, especially on gloss finish surfaces

## Removing Access Underpanels

(where applicable) :

Access panels are normally fitted using nylon Ke-ku hook and peg fixings. To release a panel, it

must be lifted vertically by 20mm in order for the hook to release from the peg. The panel should be

handled using a glass suction pad. Do not lever the panel using screwdrivers, as this will inevitably

damage the panel lippings.

Vanity unit Underpanels and the bottom panel to urinal ducts are traditionally fixed using bayonet

friction fixings. These panels can be released using a glass suction pad, with the panel being pulled

forward from its normal position.

The attached drawings provide details of which type of fixings are used for each application.

## General Comments :

In order to avoid water marks / limescale buildup,

standing water should be removed from

horizontal surfaces. Any water that splashed onto a panel edging should be removed immediately.

## CLEANING & MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS FOR SOLID SURFACE VANITY UNITS

### Cleaning :

Although liquids will not normally penetrate solid surface units, it is best to wipe up spills as they

occur. An ammonia based hard surface

cleaner, a good quality solid surface

cleaner or ordinary

detergent may be used. Clean the sink or top as normal, with a damp cloth and

detergent. Wipe well

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and rinsing on completion in order to get rid of any oils or fats. Alternatively, a spray hard surface cleaner may be applied, left for a few minutes before rinsing / wiping clean with a damp cloth.

If any stains need more attention, sprinkle a gentle abrasive powder bleach on the damp surface and leave for a few minutes before using a sponge or soft cloth to rub with a circular motion before rinsing, wiping and drying.

AVOID abrasive plastic scouring pads.

If hard water scale has built up on the top, a standard household limescale remover can be used per the manufacturers recommendations.

*DO* : Rinse off household chemicals immediately, wash surface with warm soapy water and dry.

*DO* : Avoid harsh chemical liquids such as oven cleaners, drain cleaners containing caustic soda, rust removers, paint strippers, acetone based nail varnish removers and toilet bowl cleaners.

*DO NOT* : Subject solid surface tops to prolonged contact with acids, chlorinated solvents, or ketones which may result in surface discoloration or etching.

## Removing Access Underpanels

(where applicable) :

Access panels are normally fitted using nylon Ke-ku hook and peg fixings. To release a panel, it must be lifted vertically by 20mm in order for the hook to release from the peg. The panel should be handled using a glass suction pad. Do not lever the panel using screwdrivers, as this will inevitably damage the panel lippings.

Vanity unit Underpanels and the bottom panel to urinal ducts are traditionally fixed using bayonet friction fixings. These panels can be released using a glass suction pad, with the panel being pulled forward from it's normal position.

The attached drawings provide details of which type of fixings are used for each application.

## General Comments :

Solid surface tops are susceptible to small surface scratches, which are especially noticeable in dark colour products. The tops should not be used as a cutting board. Minor cuts and scratches can be sanded lightly with fine sandpaper (240 grit), and then buffed with a Scotch Brite pad or similar. We

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would always recommend that an expert is employed to make good any marks other than light surface scratches.

## CLEANING & MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS FOR GRANITE TOPS

### Cleaning Natural

#### Granite :

Granite is a tight grained very hard igneous rock consisting of quartz and other minerals.

Granite is supplied polished and pre-sealed.

Once sealed, the ongoing maintenance is very simple.

However, resealing

every one to two years with a water sealant is recommended, depending upon

local water conditions and individual cleaning habits.

Regular cleaning should be carried out by washing the surface with soapy water using a nonabrasive

cloth, and drying with a clean cloth. Diluted stone cleaning products can also be used.

Resilient

stains can be removed using a more concentrated solution (up to 50%) of a stone cleaning product.

The surface should be scrubbed until the stain is removed. The whole surface should then be rinsed

with clean water and dried with a clean cloth.

Note : When using cleaning agents, it is strongly recommended that a small test area is attended to

prior to cleaning the entire top.

### Cleaning Composite

#### Granite :

Cleaning procedures are generally as those for natural granite.

### Removing Access Underpanels

(where applicable) :

Access panels are normally fitted using nylon Ke-ku hook and peg fixings. To release a panel, it

must be lifted vertically by 20mm in order for the hook to release from the peg. The panel should be

handled using a glass suction pad. Do not lever the panel using screwdrivers, as this will inevitably

damage the panel lippings.

Vanity unit Underpanels and the bottom panel to urinal ducts are traditionally fixed using bayonet

friction fixings. These panels can be released using a glass suction pad, with the panel being pulled

forward from it's normal position.

The attached drawings provide details of which type of fixings are used for each application.

**General Comments :**

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## CLEANING & MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS FOR LAMINATE LOCKERS

### Cleaning Laminate Components :

Always start by trying the gentlest method of cleaning. If a stain persists, work through the following

steps, repeating each step several times if the stain seems to be disappearing

*Step 1:* For routine cleaning, use a damp cloth or sponge and a mild soap or detergent.

Rinse the

panels & dry on completion.

*Step 2:* For difficult stains apply a mild household cleaner/detergent with a soft bristled brush.

*Step 3:* If stubborn stains persist, use a non scratch

cleaner such as Cif or Flash, scrubbing lightly

with a soft bristled brush for 10 to 20 seconds

*Step 4:* If a stain persists, apply undiluted household bleach, let stand for no longer than 2 minutes,

and rinse thoroughly with warm water. DO NOT expose the laminate surface to household bleach

for prolonged periods of time, as this may lead to permanent discoloration.

*Step 5:* If the surface has been discolored through long exposure to industrial grime, clean

carefully with a cream cleaner containing a mild abrasive.

*DO:* always rinse thoroughly after cleaning (residue from cleaning solutions is the single greatest

cause of damage to laminate surfaces)

*DO:* Wipe up spills immediately, and rinse thoroughly

*DO NOT:* Use acidic or abrasive cleaners, expose the laminate to household bleach for prolonged

periods of time, or apply excessive scrubbing, especially on gloss finish surfaces

### Cleaning Ironmongery / framework :

Powder coated (or Syntha Pulvin) products should be cleaned at no more than 3 month intervals. A

solution of mild detergent diluted with warm water should be used. A soft cloth, sponge, or natural

bristle brush may be used. Abrasive materials should be avoided. White spirit may be used to remove

oil or grease deposits, but strong solvents must be avoided. The coated items must be thoroughly

rinsed following use of detergents

Metallic surfaces should be cleaned as detailed for powder coating. Care should be taken in order to

avoid scratching the metallic surface.

### Maintenance of ironmongery :

Locker locks & hinges should be wiped clean. A moderate amount of a silicone type lubricant (such

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as WD40) should be applied to all moving parts, with any excess lubricant promptly removed. Excess use of lubricants may attract dust, which will increase the wear rate of moving parts. It is imperative that the amount of lubricant is kept to a minimum.

## CLEANING & MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS FOR BENCH SEATING

### Cleaning Laminate Seats :

Always start by trying the gentlest method of cleaning. If a stain persists, work through the following

steps, repeating each step several times if the stain seems to be disappearing

*Step 1:* For routine cleaning, use a damp cloth or sponge and a mild soap or detergent.

Rinse the

panels & dry on completion.

*Step 2:* For difficult stains apply a mild household cleaner/detergent with a soft bristled brush.

*Step 3:* If stubborn stains persist, use a non-scratch cleaner such as Cif or Flash, scrubbing lightly with a soft bristled brush for 10 to 20 seconds

*Step 4:* If a stain persists, apply undiluted household bleach, let stand for no longer than 2 minutes,

and rinse thoroughly with warm water. DO NOT expose the laminate surface to household bleach

for prolonged periods of time, as this may lead to permanent discoloration.

*Step 5:* If the surface has been discolored through long exposure to industrial grime, clean

carefully with a cream cleaner containing a mild abrasive.

*DO:* always rinse thoroughly after cleaning (residue from cleaning solutions is the single greatest

cause of damage to laminate surfaces)

*DO:* Wipe up spills immediately, and rinse thoroughly

*DO NOT:* Use acidic or abrasive cleaners, expose the laminate to household bleach for prolonged

periods of time, or apply excessive scrubbing, especially on gloss finish surfaces

### Cleaning Hardwood (Iroko) Seats :

Hardwood surfaces should be treated with utmost care. Surfaces should be cleaned using a soft

cloth and furniture polish. DO NOT use abrasive cleaners under any circumstances.

Persistent marks may be removed using a slightly damp cloth (not wet), with panels being dried on

completion

In the event that marks cannot be removed by following the above suggestions, a professional French

Polisher should be sought who may be able to remove marks and make good the hardwood surfaces

on completion.

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## Cleaning Ironmongery / framework :

Powder coated (or Syntha Pulvin) products should be cleaned at no more than 3 month intervals. A solution of mild detergent diluted with warm water should be used. A soft cloth, sponge, or natural bristle brush may be used. Abrasive materials should be avoided. White spirit may be used to remove oil or grease deposits, but strong solvents must be avoided. The coated items must be thoroughly rinsed following use of detergents. Metallic surfaces should be cleaned as detailed for powder coating. Care should be taken in order to avoid scratching the metallic surface.

## CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS FOR STAINLESS STEEL COMPONENTS

Stainless steel is easy to clean. Washing with soap or mild detergent and warm water followed by a clear water rinse is usually adequate for domestic and architectural equipment. Where stainless steel has become extremely dirty with signs of surface discoloration (perhaps following periods of neglect, or misuse) alternative methods of cleaning can be used, as outlined below. It is recommended that in wet areas such as swimming pools, shower cubicles etc., stainless steel should be cleaned a minimum of once a week.

Routine cleaning of light soiling. Soap, detergent or dilute (1%) ammonia Satisfactory on most surfaces. solution in warm clean water. Apply with a clean sponge, soft cloth or soft fibre brush then rinse in clean water and dry<sup>6</sup>

Fingerprints Detergent and warm water, alternatively, Proprietary spray applied polishes available hydrocarbon solvent. to clean and minimize remarking.

Oil and grease marks Hydrocarbon solvents (methylated spirit, Alkaline formulations are also available with isopropyl alcohol or acetone)<sup>2</sup>. surfactant additions e.g. 'D7' Polish<sup>1</sup>.

Stubborn spots, stains and light Mild, non-scratching creams and polishes. Avoid cleaning pastes with abrasive additions<sup>3</sup>.

discoloration. Water marking. Apply with soft cloth or soft sponge and Suitable cream cleansers are available with soft

Light rust staining. rinse off residues with clean water and calcium carbonate additions, e.g. 'Jif', or with the dry<sup>6,7</sup>. addition of citric acid, e.g. Shiny Sinks<sup>1</sup>. Do not use chloride solutions<sup>8,9</sup>.

Localized rust stains caused by Proprietary gels, or 10% phosphoric acid Small areas may be treated with a rubbing block



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carbon steel contamination. solution (followed by ammonia and water comprising fine abrasive in a hard rubber or plastic rinses), or oxalic acid solution (followed by filler. Carbon steel wool should not be used, nor

water rinse)6. should pads that have previously been used on carbon steel. A test should be carried out to ensure that the original surface finish is not damaged.

Adherent hard water scales and 1015

volume % solution of phosphoric acid. Proprietary formulations available with surfactant mortar/cement splashes. Use warm, neutralize with dilute ammonia additions. Take special care when using

solution, rinse with clean water and dry6. hydrochloric acid based mortar removers8,9. Alternatively soak in a 25% vinegar solution and use a nylon brush to remove deposits.

Heating or heavy discoloration. a) Non-scratching

cream or polish e.g. a) Creams are suitable for most finishes, but only Solvol Auto Chrome Metal Polish1,9. use 'Solvol' on bright polished surfaces. Some slight scratching can be left.

b) Nylontype

pad, e.g. 'Scotchbrite'3,4,5 b) Use on brushed and polished finishes along the grain.

Badly neglected surfaces with A fine abrasive paste as used for car body May brighten dull finishes. To avoid a patchy

accumulated grime deposits. refinishing e.g. 'T-Cut'

rinsed clean to remove appearance, the whole surface may need to be all paste material and driedl. treated.

Paint, graffiti. Proprietary alkaline or solvent paint Apply as directed by manufacturer.

strippers, depending upon paint type. Use

soft nylon or bristle brush on patterned surfaces.

Requirement Suggested Method 1,2 Comments

## CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS FOR STAINLESS STEEL COMPONENTS

### Notes

1. The products referenced in this information sheet are understood to be suitable for stainless steels. However, no endorsement of the products or their manufacturers is implied and it is acknowledged that other manufacturing companies may provide products of equal or better quality. The following companies manufacture proprietary names mentioned:'

Jif' – Lever Brothers Ltd, 'Shiny Sinks'

– Home Products Ltd, 'Ajax' – Colgate Palmolive Ltd, 'D7 Stainless Steel Polish' – Diversey Ltd, 'T-Cut'

– Automotive Chemicals Ltd and

'Solvol Auto Chrome Metal Polish' – Hammerite Products Ltd.

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2. Cleaning agents should be approved for use under the relevant national environmental regulations and, in addition, prepared and used in accordance with the manufacturers or suppliers' health and safety instructions. Solvents should not be used in enclosed areas.
3. Nylon abrasive pads should be adequate for dealing with most deposits. If a more severe treatment is needed to mask coarse scratches or physical damage on a surface, use the finest abrasive medium consistent with covering the damage marks. With directional brushed and polished finishes, align and blend the new "scratch pattern" with the original finish, stages of finishing. Avoid using hard objects such as knife blades and certain abrasive/scouring agents as it is possible to introduce surface scuffs and scratches. Scratching is particularly noticeable on sink drainer areas. These are usually superficial and can be removed with proprietary stainless steel cleaners or, alternatively, with a car paint restorer, such as 'T-Cut'.
4. If wire brushes are used, these should be made of a similar or better grade of stainless steel. Ensure that all abrasive media used are free from sources of contamination, especially iron and chlorides.
5. When cleaning a surface with any chemical preparation or abrasive medium, a trial should be done on a small, unobtrusive hidden or noncritical area of the surface, to check that the resulting finish matches with the original.
6. To avoid water marks, use clean rinsing water, such as reasonable quality potable (tap) water. Drying marks may be avoided using an air blower or wiping with clean disposable wipes.
7. Rust marks or staining on stainless steels is unlikely to be the result of corrosion to the stainless steel itself (similar marks may also be found on porcelain and plastic sinks). These marks are likely to result from small particles of carbon steel from wire wool or scouring pads becoming attached or embedded in the surface. In the damp environment of a sink, these iron particles rust and cause staining. Rust marks may be removed using non-scratching creams or alternatively using an oxalic acid solution, where iron particles have been embedded in the surface. Special precautions are necessary with oxalic acid as, although it may not 'burn' unprotected skin, it is poisonous if ingested.
8. Chloridecontaining solutions, including hydrochloric acid based cleaning agents and hypochlorite bleaches can cause unacceptable surface staining and pitting, and should not be used in contact with stainless steels. Under no circumstances should concentrated bleaches contact decorative stainless steel surfaces. Hydrochloric acid based solutions, such as silver cleaners, or building mortar removal solutions must not be used in contact with stainless steels. Hypochlorite containing bleaches must be used in the dilutions

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suggested in the manufacturers' instructions and contact times kept to a minimum.

Thorough rinsing after use is very important. A

frequent cause of staining and micropitting of stainless steels is splashing with undiluted bleach solutions and mortar cleaners.

9. If all the suggestions and actions in the table have been attempted unsuccessfully, it is worth bearing in mind that stainless steel can

be mechanically polished or electropolished by specialists on site. Stainless steel is homogeneous and does not rely on surface plating

for its corrosion resistance. If in difficulty contact your supplier or the BSSA.

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF STAINLESS STEEL

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Stainless steels are selected for applications where their inherent corrosion resistance, strength and aesthetic

appeal are required. However, dependent on the service conditions, stainless steels will stain and discolor due

to surface deposits and so cannot be assumed to be completed maintenance free.

In order to achieve maximum

corrosion resistance and aesthetic appeal, the surface of the stainless steel must be kept clean. Provided

cleaning schedules are carried out on a regular basis, good performance and long service life will result.

Surface contamination and the formation of deposits on the surface of the stainless steel must be prevented.

These deposits may be minute particles of iron or rust generated during construction.

Industrial and even

naturally occurring atmospheric conditions can produce deposits which can be equally corrosive.

Working environments also provide aggressive conditions such as heat and humidity in swimming pool buildings.

These conditions can result in surface discoloration of stainless steels and so

maintenance on a more frequent

basis may be required.

Modern processes use many cleaners, sterilizes and bleaches for hygienic purposes.

Proprietary solutions,

when used in accordance with makers instructions, should be safe but is used incorrectly (e.g. warm or

concentrated), may cause discoloration or corrosion on stainless steels. Strong acid solutions are sometimes

used to clean masonry and tiling of buildings. These acids should never be used where contact with metals,

including stainless steel, is possible. If this happens, the acid solution must be removed immediately, followed

by dilution and rinsing with clean water.

With care taken during fabrication and installation, cleaning before 'handover'

should not present any problems.

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More attention may be required if the installation period has been prolonged or handover delayed. Where surface contamination is suspected, immediate cleaning after site fixing should avoid problems later.

The frequency of cleaning is dependent on the application – a simple rule is:

*Clean the metal when it is dirty in order to restore it's original appearance.*

Factors affecting maintenance

Maintenance programme

Introduction

## **How to clean CORIAN® kitchen tops & sinks:**

CORIAN® is not self-cleaning whatever you have been told! But it is simple to maintain.

*For everyday cleaning, try the easy way first!* Although liquids cannot penetrate CORIAN®, it is best to wipe up spills as they occur. Just use an ammonia-based hard surface cleaner; a good solid-surface cleaner; or ordinary detergent. Clean the sink or top as usual, with a damp cloth and detergent, wiping it well and rinsing it to get rid of any oils and fats - or

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spray with a hard-surface cleaner and leave a few minutes before rinsing/wiping clean with a damp cloth and finishing with a dry cloth. If any stains need more attention sprinkle a gentle abrasive powder bleach on the damp surface and leave for a few minutes before using a sponge or soft cloth to rub with a circular motion and rinsing/wiping, then drying.

*Once or twice a week*, give your sink a beauty treatment. Remove all fat and oil residues of normal food preparation from the sink, using detergent or hard-surface cleaner. Partially fill the sink with warm (not boiling) water. Add 1-2 teaspoons (5-10 ml) of liquid household bleach, and leave a few hours or overnight. *You do not need a strong solution*. In the morning, the sink should be beautifully clean, with very little effort.

## Dealing with obstinate offenders:

On any problem area, try the easy way out first.

**Metal marks** from pots & pans (in particular, aluminium and cast iron) show on CORIAN® sinks, just as they do on porcelain, ceramic, or acrylic.

**Food preparation stains** or discolouration (from wine, tea, coffee, vegetable oils, food residues, etc.) build up in CORIAN® sinks, just as in stainless steel sinks where they are less evident on the darker base colour.

**Hard water** leaves visible water marks on CORIAN®, just as on glassware which is why it should be wiped dry with a soft cloth or paper towel after use. First, try the easy methods, then progress to the gentle abrasive powder bleach, or mild cream abrasive you used to develop the sheen. Avoid abrasive plastic scouring pads in normal cleaning. Only with a really persistent stain as lilly pollen, or saffron, or with a severe scratch, should you need to resort to a harsh abrasive powder, or an abrasive plastic scouring pad (e.g. Scotch-Brite™). If you do have to use abrasive cleaners or pads, always restore the overall lustre afterwards, using the gentle abrasive powder bleach or mild cream abrasive and blend the scrubbed area into the entire surface by rubbing in a circular motion.

If hard water scale has built up around the waste or taps, use a standard household lime-scale remover and follow the manufacturer's instructions. Only if necessary, use an abrasive scouring pad to remove the deposit, rinse well and buff dry. Restore the gloss level as described above.

## Preventing Damage

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## What to watch out for...

**Heat:** Rather than cause accidental heat damage, prevent such damage in the first place:

Always use a heat protection pad or trivet (with rubber feet) for hot cookware, or leave cookware to cool on the hob first. Never put hot pans, particularly cast iron directly on a CORIAN® top of in a sink. Such heat can damage any surface!

If you must put a hot pan on the base of the sink use a protective sink mat, sponge, or cloth beneath. Best, leave the utensil to cool slightly first, or put a few inches of cool water in the sink before the pan.

Avoid pouring boiling liquids directly into sinks without turning on the cold tap as well.

**Hob and grill cooking methods:** Modern appliances reach higher temperatures quicker - and often hold heat longer. To avoid worktop damage follow both appliance manufacturer's instructions, and these rules:

*Always use the correct size of pan* for the burner, placed centrally. An overhanging pan can scorch surrounding surfaces.

*Do not use two burners as one* (e.g. for a large griddle) - it has the same effect as above.

*To reduce hear, turn the burner down* instead of pulling the utensil partially off the heat source.

**Scratches:** It is not a good idea to cut or chop on CORIAN® - it will score the work surface!  
*Use a chopping board instead.*

Like all materials CORIAN® will develop slight abrasion marks in normal daily use. Use occasional overall cleaning as described. Darker colours may show such wear and tear more readily and need a bit more attention, just as will dark coloured wood. However if CORIAN® is accidentally scored or scratched more severely (e.g. by a kettle, toaster, or unglazed ceramic pulled across the surface) you can usually restore it yourself ([see cleaning methods](#)).

**Chemical Spillage:** Accidental spills of strong chemicals (e.g. paint stripper, brush cleaners, metal cleaners, oven cleaners, cleaners containing methylene chloride, acid drain cleaners, acetone-based nail varnish removers, etc.) should be flushed promptly with plenty of soapy water to avoid damaging worktops! For nail varnish spills, non-acetone based remover can be used, and then flushed with water.

Undetected or prolonged exposure to chemicals with subsequent damage (perhaps from a leaking container), may require attention of a CORIAN® expert.

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## Whatever happens, do not despair!

If more serious damage occurs, or if you simply want to "freshen" up your worktops in a few years time, we have CORIAN® experts to provide maintenance or remedial work.

The beauty of CORIAN® is that even after many years use your CORIAN® worktops still look good. Most damage can be repaired and original surface restored. It provides a long term, renewable, easy-to-work-on, sympathetic surface.

Most of our Care & Maintenance guidelines, you probably already follow instinctively. But we hope these reminders will be useful to you. These guidelines have grown out of years of using, living with and enjoying CORIAN®. We would like you to enjoy living with CORIAN® in your home, for a very long time to come.

Corian® Care & Maintenance Product References

Gentle Abrasive Powder	Mild Cream Abrasive (w. or w.o. bleach)	Lime-scale Remover	Hard Surface cleaner
Bar Keepers Friend (Homecare Products, London)	Jif Active Cream (with bleach) (Lever Bros.)	Viakal (Procter & Gamble)	Flash (with bleach) (Procter & Gamble)
	Ajax (Colgate-Palmolive)	Lime-lite (Cussons Ltd.)	Mr. Muscle (Johnson)

This table lists only a limited number of products suitable for the routine care and maintenance of CORIAN®.