

FORMATOP

CARING FOR YOUR COUNTERTOPS

Formatop countertops are very durable, but like any product they can be damaged by abuse, neglect or carelessness. When used and cared for properly, your Formatop countertop will give you years of satisfaction.

GUIDELINES

Water Damage

Water that is allowed to sit on the countertop for any length of time, especially near mitre joints, can penetrate and cause the core to swell and eventually delaminate. Be very careful in areas where sinks, dishwashers, coffee makers or kettles are located on or near a mitre joint. Wipe off water or other liquids immediately.

Normal Cleaning

In the majority of cases you can clean your Formatop countertop with a clean, damp, non-abrasive cotton cloth and a mild liquid detergent or household cleaner.

- Rinse with clean water but do not use excess water, especially near mitre joints.
- Dry the surface with a clean, soft, non-abrasive cloth.

Special Cleaning

For matte or sculptured finishes.

- Use a nylon-bristled hand or vegetable brush along with a mild liquid detergent and water solution, or household cleaner.
- Clean the countertop with a rotating motion.
- Rinse and dry the top with a clean, soft, cotton cloth.

If streaks remain after cleaning use a mild glass cleaner and then wipe dry with a soft, non-abrasive, cotton cloth.

GLUE REMOVAL: Any contact adhesive residue on the countertop should be removed by using a reputable, non-flammable, contact adhesive solvent and a non-abrasive, cotton cloth. Use solvent sparingly. Read and follow all instructions and warnings before use.

PAINT AND VARNISH REMOVAL: Use a suitable solvent but use it sparingly. Excessive amounts can delaminate surface. Follow all warnings and instructions. For water-based paints use an ammoniated household cleaner. For stubborn spots use a plastic, non-metallic, non-abrasive pad. Use it gently. **NEVER USE** steel wool or other abrasive scouring pads. These will scratch the surface of the laminate.

STAINS: To remove or minimize stains use a mild, all-purpose, household cleaner and allow it to draw out stain. Blot

with clean, damp, non-abrasive, cotton cloth and rinse with cold water. Read and follow all instructions carefully. Some things can permanently stain the laminate. Newsprint, marking pens, hair dyes, wood stains and other staining agents should be kept away from the countertop. These stains may be reduced by using a paste of baking soda and water to pull out stain. Do not rub. Wipe up paste with clean, damp, non-abrasive, cotton cloth, then rinse and dry. Periodic application of a self-cleaning wax can help minimize future staining.

CAUTION:

Never use cleaners containing acid, alkali, or sodium hypochlorite on the laminate surface. These will mar, etch, corrode and permanently discolour the laminate. Do not place bottles or items containing these cleaners on the laminate surface. Examples: drain cleaners, oven cleaners, ceramic cleaners, coffee pot cleaners, tub and tile cleaners, chlorine bleach, lime scale removers and more.

Scratch and Impact Protection

Under normal use your countertop is very durable, but care should be taken to minimize certain conditions.

Use cutting boards, chopping blocks or other protective elements when working on the countertop. **DO NOT** chop, slice, pound or hammer directly on the laminate surface. Knives or other sharp utensils can slice or scratch surface. Heavy blows from a hammer or meat tenderizer can crack or gouge surface. Ceramics and abrasive objects can scratch the surface. Use placemats, doilies or trivets to protect surface.

DO NOT use abrasive cleaners, powders, steel wool, sand paper or scouring pads on the laminate surface.

HOT OBJECTS: Do not place hot objects directly on the countertop. Electric skillets, waffle irons, curling irons, hot rollers etc. can damage the surface. Do not iron or place iron on laminate surface. Avoid cigarette contact.

Prolonged exposure to temperatures of 140 degrees F (60 degrees C) or higher may cause the laminate to separate from the core material.

Choice of Surface

Consider the type of use the countertop will receive. Rough textured surfaces have certain advantages over smooth surfaces in high usage areas. High gloss finishes are not recommended for high use areas.

Your authorized Formatop dealer: