LAMIN-ART

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Lamin-Art® is concerned about the impact that the production of our high-pressure decorative laminates has on the environment. As a committed and responsible member of the global community, we continuously strive to conserve energy and resources, reduce pollution, and source raw materials that are environmentally friendly.

CORPORATE PHILOSOPHY

- Lamin-Art has completed the conversion of its entire fleet of corporate vehicles to Toyota Prius featuring Hybrid Synergy Drive technology which offers greater fuel efficiency and low emissions.
- Lamin-Art is a proud corporate member of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).
- Lamin-Art high-pressure decorative laminates are GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certified® by the GREENGUARD Environmental Institute.

RAW MATERIALS

- High-pressure laminate is composed chiefly of paper (printed decorative paper and Kraft paper) and resin (phenol formaldehyde resin and melamine formaldehyde resin). The composition of HPL is approximately 75% paper and 25% resin.
- The manufacturing of our laminate products is done at our factory in Montreal, Canada and distributed through our corporate headquarters outside Chicago, IL.
- Our raw material suppliers, i.e. paper and resin suppliers, go to great lengths to maximize the use of recycled materials in their processes.
- The production of laminate involves the processing of supplied raw materials and does not involve the acquisition or harvesting of these raw materials. Our paper suppliers use raw materials sourced from SFI-Certified (Sustainable Forestry Initiative) forests where trees used for paper pulp are harvested and re-planted within a 10-year cycle or less. No rain forest timber or tropical hardwoods are used in our products.
- The post-consumer recycled content of our high-pressure decorative laminate varies between 11% and 18%, depending on the grade (GP48 Standard Grade = 11%, GP28 Vertical Grade = 18%).
- Many of our paper suppliers are involved in programs to certify that their supplied products are environmentally responsible.
- Since the manufacturing of laminate involves the "curing" of resin in the paper matrix, recycling the laminate for other laminate applications is not usually possible. However, post-industrial laminate scrap is used for filler materials in other products.
- Our products do not contain, nor are they manufactured with, ozone-depleting substances.
- Lamin-Art brand high-pressure decorative laminate and Veneer-Art High-Performance Wood Veneer contain no added urea-formaldehyde.

MANUFACTURING

- Water used in manufacturing for cooling purposes is recycled and re-used within the factory.
- Heat from the incineration of laminate dust (sanding) and the incineration of fume particles released during the resin treatment of paper is used to produce steam for the manufacturing plant, substantially reducing the plant's energy use. The corrugated core on which our kraft and decorative papers are shipped are recycled into other cardboard products.

PACKAGING AND SHIPPING

- Lamin-Art is committed to utilizing the minimal amount of material required to pack and ship our products. Lamin-Art products typically ship either in cardboard boxes (containing approximately 75% pre-consumer recycled content) or on shipping pallets. Both materials are either re-useable (i.e. the pallets) or recyclable (i.e. the boxes).
- Our sample department actively recycles product binders as well as sample chips for re-use in the marketplace.
- Samples of discontinued products are donated to design schools for students to use in their projects.
- Usable portions of sheets that have been damaged are salvaged either for re-sale at smaller sheet sizes or for sample material.

BUILDING OPERATIONS

- When laminate is used in vertical applications (wall panels), it will act as an insulator. Generally, though, the use of laminate does not result in a direct reduction in energy costs.
- In cabinetry, casework and other laminate applications, HPL can serve as a barrier that blocks the formaldehyde emissions from the adhesives and/or substrate used to manufacture the final product.

DESIGN INNOVATION

- Using high-pressure decorative laminate instead of real wood contributes to preserving one of the world's most precious resources.
- Our Premium Wood Prints collection features a wide selection of exotic species that are either no longer available in real wood veneers, extremely difficult to source, or cost prohibitive to use. Our decorative laminate offers a rich, exotic look without the use of any rain forest timbers or tropical hardwoods.
- Applied using the proper adhesives, high-pressure decorative laminate minimizes the amount of VOCs that would be released by using a conventional finishing process on wood veneers.
- HPL requires little maintenance and no re-finishing during its useful life.