Decorative laminate
Decorative laminates are more than just a surface. Rather, they are a modern, highly attractive and multifunctional material. Outstanding product and environmental features turn them into a material flexible in application, which can be individually designed.

Decorative laminates were developed in the first half of the 20th century. Back then they e.g. were used as surface material in the kitchen of a zeppelin. Since then Decorative laminates have gone a long successful way as surface material. Today they are applied in nearly all areas of everyday life – no matter if it is outside or inside application.
One reason for the great success of Decorative laminates is that there are nearly no limits in the variety of décor.

In order to understand the enormous range of visual and haptic design varieties of Decorative laminates it is necessary to have a close look on the way they are produced.

Decorative laminates are made of

- **Resined cellulose layers (Core paper),** which are used as core material
- **Overlay paper,** which is used to improve the abrasion resistance
- **Melamine resin decorative paper,** which is printed respectively coloured and defines the design

which are pressure and heat compacted.

Decorative laminates are distinguished between HPL (High Pressure Laminates) / CPL (Continuos Pressure Laminates) and Compact decorative laminates. They differ in thickness and composition.

Special surface structure (e.g. high gloss, matte or with structure) is given to the laminates by pressing plates.
Another reason for the long lasting success of Decorative laminates are their outstanding product features. Laminates in the European market have to fulfil the guidelines of the EN 438 and ISO 4586. These standards define more than 20 features Decorative laminates have to match.

The most important product features are:

Furthermore they are damp resistant, dirt resistant, anti-static and easy to clean. From 0.5 mm thickness they are available in standard, post forming and fire retardant quality. The sum of all their properties makes decorative laminates superior to other surfaces.

- Impact resistant
- Abrasion- and scratch-resistant
- Light resistant
- Resistant to chemicals
- Heat resistant (up to 180° C)
- Hygienic
- Food safe
Decorative laminates consist largely of natural cellulose and resins and can therefore be disposed of easily.

Decorative laminates are environmentally neutral. From a current perspective, they represent the ideal choice and provide a cast-iron guarantee in terms of fulfilling the ecological demands of the future, when environmental conditions will continue to tighten.

Decorative laminates are environmentally neutral because:
- their properties mean the material has a very long life,
- their use produces virtually no emissions,
- they consist of 70 per cent cellulose and 30 per cent resins,
- decorative laminate waste can be reused by being processed in officially approved industrial incineration units.
Decorative laminates:
The ideal surface for all aspects of living

Due to their product features and the constant development Decorative laminates expand to more and more areas of application. They currently include for example kitchen, office and living room furnishings, bathrooms, interior finishes, wall and façade coverings, construction of retail and trade fair units as well as vehicle manufacture.
They are especially used in laboratories and within the health service.
HPL / CPL are remouldable, enabling continuously rounded edges to be created, for example. This is of particular benefit in opening up whole new furnishing and finishing possibilities. They have décor paper only at one side and need to be used together with a base material as chipboard for example.

Compact decorative laminate (from 2 mm thickness) can be given a creative surface on both sides. This makes the boards especially moisture resistant, provides particular antistatic properties and gives a high level of shock resistance, thus rendering them vandal proof. These boards do not require a base material or an edging band. They are the preferred laminate for outside application.
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About the ICDLI
The ICDLI is the international representation of the European laminates manufacturers.
Today, it numbers 21 members, 14 full and seven associate members.
The competences of the members are bundled in different commissions for economic, technique and standardization as well as public relations.

Members

Associate members

![Member Logos](image)

![Associated Logos](image)