

44. Cleaning of RESOPAL surfaces

Although a wide range of positive product application experience over many years is available with regard to our products, we recommend that users carry out their own tests as to the possible applications of our products.

We shall not be liable – inasmuch as this is permitted by law – for any technical application advice that we may give.

Explanations and Notes

1. Scope of application

The details provided in the summary below apply to the surfaces of decorative high pressure laminates (HPL) according to EN 438, Part 1, and elements manufactured from this material. These cleaning notes apply to contamination arising from normal use as well as to heavier contamination that may arise when HPL materials are processed and/or HPL elements are fitted.

2. General notes

Due to their resistant and hygienic, dense surface, HPL do not require any special care. They are generally easy to clean; as a rule, this also applies to structured surfaces. Care products are superfluous. Furniture polish and cleaning agents containing wax tend to fill up HPL surface structure patterns and to build up into a sticky, unattractive, dirt-trapping layer; therefore, they must not be used! During their service life HPL surfaces should be cleaned at regular intervals.

For any necessary cleaning work, it should be ensured that only non-aggressive cleaning agents are used. In particular, they must not contain any scouring components as such agents may cause changes in the degree of gloss and scratching. In some cases, where special contamination or soiling has occurred, cleaning agents must be used which may be corrosive, contain solvents, or be inflammable. In all such cases, you must comply with the relevant accident prevention regulations, suitable precautionary measures must be taken, and the premises must be well ventilated in sufficient measure.

3. "High gloss HPL surfaces"

Cleaning these surfaces requires somewhat more care. Cleaning agents containing abrasive or scouring components - even in minimum quantities - will cause irreversible changes in the gloss effect. In the same way, care products (e.g. furniture polishes) will leave residues that detract from the even gloss of the HPL surface.

Therefore, only cleaning solutions or solvents may be used that dry without leaving any residue whatever. Note here that, immediately after cleaning, HPL high gloss surfaces will be rubbed dry without leaving any stria by means of a clean, soft, absorbent cloth - preferably made of cotton.

4. Cleaning recommendations

The table contains contamination-type specific cleaning notes and (example only) explanations with regard to special problems. Naturally, users should start with the most non-aggressive method first.

For handling chemical agents in trade areas, such as in

- drugstores and chemists' shops
- medical practices, premises for medical treatment, operating theatres
- hairdressers' shops
- photographic laboratories
- physical and technical laboratories
- medical and biological laboratories
- chemical laboratories
- food retail premises, and the food industry (meat processing)

additional notes are provided in the chapter "Application of RESOPAL sheets in areas subject to special chemical loads and high hygiene requirements".

Note: This cleaning recommendation was prepared by the International Committee of the Decorative Laminates Industry. The recommendation is based on the state of processing technology in the European countries.

Sheet 1 – Page 2 Cleaning of RESOPAL Surfaces

Contamination (Examples)												
1	Dust Dirt Dust/grease mixture Pencil Chalk	Lime residues Lime stains (water stains) Rust	Coffee Tea Fruit juices Sugar solutions	Grease, oil Finger marks Felt-tip pen Marker pen Ball pen ink Nicotine deposits (tar residues) Rubber marks (stains)	Wax residues (candles, release agent for presses) Crayons	Lipstick Shoe paste Floor wax Wax polish "Allstift"	Bacteriolog. contamination (soap residues, skin epithels, disease germs, blood, urine, faeces)	Shadings that occur after treatment with solvents (stria)	Water-soluble paints, varnishes, caustic solutions, dispersion paints, water-soluble adhesives, dispersions (PVAc)	Solvent-based varnishes, paints, and adhesives (varnish residues and splashes, spray paint, stamp ink)	Two-component varnishes and adhesives, synthetic resins, e.g. urea resin	Silicons, sealing compounds, furniture polishes
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Heavy and hard to remove contamination; old stains												
Allow detergent or pulp made of detergent and water to react overnight. Liquid cleaning agent with fine grinding chalk. - Mild bleaching agent (with care)												
<i>Note: Liquid cleaning agent with grinding chalk as well as bleach should be used only infrequently! Take care with high gloss surfaces (see item 3 in the Explanations)</i>												
For particularly hard to remove lime contaminations, you may possibly also use acid-based cleaning agents (e.g. 10% solution of acetic acid or citric acid).												
Use water or organic solvents to soak and soften, then peel or pull off.												
Paint residues can sometimes be removed mechanically after drying.												
Cleaning no longer possible! Generally, residues of hardened condensation and reaction resin adhesives cannot be removed any more once they have fully cured and hardened.												
WARNING! When cleaning by means of solvents: comply with all accident prevention regulations! Open windows! No naked flames!												