

Coast Road - North Shields
Tyne & Wear NE29 8RE
United Kingdom
Telephone (44) 0191 2593000
Facsimile (44) 0191 2582719

Compact Laminate Flatness

In order to minimise the risk of bowing the following points should be observed during transport, storage, fabrication and installation of Formica Compact laminates.

Transport

Pallets must be of sufficient size to support the whole of the sheet area, and must be of adequate strength and stability to support their load without buckling or deformation.

Storage

Compact laminates should be stored in an enclosed area maintained at normal interior conditions, i.e. 18 - 25 °C and 50 - 60% relative humidity.

Sheets and panels should be stored horizontally in packs, with all edges flush, on a flat base-board which must also act as a moisture barrier. The top board of each stack should also be covered with a moisture barrier/cover board of sufficient weight to keep it flat and in contact with the whole surface area of the top board.

Throughout storage, the top cover board must be reinstated whenever a sheet or panel is removed.

Fabrication and installation

In common with all high-pressure decorative laminates Compact laminates undergo a certain amount of dimensional movement when subjected to changes in humidity. In order to minimise the risk of bow occurring as a result of this movement, the following points should be observed :-

- During all fabrication processes and subsequent storage, the top cover board must be reinstated whenever a sheet or panel is removed from a stack.
- Panels should be cut with the long edge parallel to the length of the sheet, as dimensional movement across the width of the sheet is twice as great as it is along the length.
- If the product is protective coated, it is very important that the film is removed from both sides at the same time.
- As far as possible the ambient conditions should be the same on each side of the panel, as it is important that both sides gain or lose moisture at roughly the same rate. Where panels are mounted on a wall or enclose a vanity unit, adequate ventilation must be provided to ensure that temperature and humidity conditions at the backs of the panels are essentially the same as those at the front.
- Fixing centres should be sufficiently close to prevent excessive freedom of movement. Cubicle doors should be hinged along their length to provide a measure of rigidity. Doors greater than 1500mm high should have three hinges.

Failure to follow these recommendations can result in panels bowing and since the storage and installation of panels cannot be controlled by Formica we will automatically reject any claims submitted against material delivered by Formica more than **ONE MONTH** prior.