HOMEOWNER REPAIR GUIDE

EASY DIY LAMINATE SURFACING

For do-it-yourself repairs

Give your kitchen or bath remodel a fresh new look with Formica® brand laminate. Here's how to do it yourself in four simple steps…

Formica® brand laminate is easy to install, easy to clean and care for. That means your new countertops will give you years of carefree pleasure and enjoyment. Choose from a large variety of colors and patterns to get the look you want. With careful planning you can do it yourself without the wait or additional labor costs. You can get results that will make you glad you did it yourself.

STEP 1: GETTING STARTED

Having the right tools on hand will make the job go quickly and easily. Keep in mind that you should work in a well-ventilated room and wear safety glasses when using any power tool. Before beginning, read adhesive precautions and directions.

If you are building new countertops, particleboard is recommended for the core material. On countertops with square edges, **Formica® brand laminate** can be installed over the existing laminate – provided it has been cleaned, degreased and lightly sanded.

REQUIRED TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- Saber saw and metal cutting or fine-tooth cutting blades
- Safety glasses
- J-roller
- Router and laminate trimming bit
- Fine tooth mill file
- Brush, roller and trowel (see adhesive can for recommendations)
- **Formica® brand contact adhesive**
- Dowel rods

STEP 2: MAKE THE CUT

Before cutting your laminate surface, check corners with a carpenter's square; it's the best way to prevent problems later. Cut laminate with a saber saw, using a fine-tooth blade or a table saw with fine carbide tipped blade. If needed, also cut edge strips for Formica® brand laminate, or wood moldings can be used as edging.

WARNING

Measure surface to be covered carefully. Cut core material to size. Be sure to cut laminate surface 3/8″ to 1/2″ larger than the surface to be covered.

STEP 3: PUT IT TOGETHER

SURFACES

1. Apply adhesive to back of laminate with a roller. Follow instructions on adhesive can
2. Apply adhesive to core (dirt-free particleboard or old surface)
3. Allow adhesive to dry completely
4. Position dowel rods 6″ apart on core
5. Position laminate on top of dowel rods
6. Align surfaces and slide rods out
7. Immediately apply pressure with a J-roller

EDGES

1. Apply adhesive to laminate edge strip, following instructions on adhesive can
2. Apply 2 coats of adhesive to core edge of countertop
3. Bond edge strip to core using pressure

> **NOTE**
>
> Some adhesives contain flammable solvents. Follow instructions on adhesive can.

STEP 4: FINISHING TOUCHES

1. Trim excess with router and laminate trimming bit
2. File edge flush, removing sharp edges

> **NOTE**
>
> To prevent moisture damage to the core materials seal all seams, including a backsplash, with caulk.

Home Repair Resource center

Home Repair Resource Center empowers homeowners to maintain their homes for sustainable and diverse communities.

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