



## NEVAMAR DECORATIVE SURFACES CARE AND CLEANING BROCHURE

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### LOOKING NEW LONGER

*Beauty secrets to stand the test of time.*

From exciting solids to innovative patterns to realistic woodgrains and more, Nevamar® high pressure laminates offer the latest designs and finishes for a variety of decorative and functional needs. And only Nevamar laminates have the exclusive Armored Protection™ surface to keep them looking new longer. With proper maintenance, Nevamar laminates will provide years of beauty and performance. This guide offers suggestions and recommendations on care and cleaning techniques to help your laminate surfaces stand the test of time

### ROUTINE CLEANING

Nevamar® high pressure laminate can be easily wiped clean with just a clean, damp cloth or sponge using a mild soap, non-bleach detergent or one of the general purpose cleaners listed below. Water spots can be removed by using Dow Bathroom Cleaner®. Ammoniated and/or vinegar-based glass cleaners are best for cleaning surfaces soiled by grease. **Polishes and sealers are not recommended as Nevamar laminate has its own luster. Application of these products will cause a residue buildup.**

Nevamar® tested a variety of general purpose cleaners and found them safe for cleaning all Nevamar laminate, including:

- Lestoil®
- PineSol®
- Top Job®
- Fantastik®
- Joy®
- Formula 409® All-Purpose Cleaner
- Crystal Simple Green® Cleaner
- Dow Bathroom Cleaner®
- Ammoniated and/or Vinegar-based Glass Cleaner

\*Nevamar® has not tested all cleaners. Other cleaners may be equally effective. If you choose to use a cleaner not listed above, we recommend you carefully review the use and warranty information of other products. **We do not recommend the use of any cleaners with bleach or anti-bacteria formulas as they may damage the finish of the countertop.**

Abrasive cleaners/powders and metal or abrasive coated scouring pads should NOT be used on most laminates as they may permanently dull and scratch the laminate and make it more susceptible to staining. However, if you purchased a Nevamar laminate with the ARmored Protection™, stubborn stains might be removable by carefully using a mild abrasive such as Soft Scrub® (without bleach) or one which contains calcium carbonate. If unsure, check with your Nevamar® dealer to be certain your laminate has the ARmored Protection™ surface before cleaning.

Rubbing with Soft Scrub® (without bleach) in one area may cause a gloss burnish to appear, causing that spot to appear duller than the rest of the counter. For persistent stains, gently rub Soft Scrub® over a large area to minimize burnish marks. **No abrasive cleaner should ever be used on gloss or mirror finish laminate.**



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### FOOD STAINS

Though most spills are easily wiped away, certain food stains such as tea, food dyes, fruit drinks or coffee may be more difficult to remove. A thorough cleaning using a mild cleaner, detergent or general purpose cleaner and a short soft bristle nylon brush is recommended for removing stains. This procedure will also remove water marks, glass rings and greasy fingerprints.

### INK STAINS/ PENCIL MARKS

Stains from pencil marks and inks such as felt tipped pens, food pricing labels, textile dyes, newspaper print and other indelible inks can sometimes transfer to the laminate surface and could become permanent. In order to reduce the risk of permanent damage, stains should be removed as quickly as possible. If necessary, use full strength detergent or a glass spray cleaner. Allow cleaner to remain on the stain for several minutes, blot with a damp cloth, then rinse. If stubborn stains persist, a solvent such as denatured alcohol, fingernail polish remover, mineral spirits, or paint thinner may be used. Several applications may be needed. Follow with routine cleaning and rinsing procedures.

**CAUTION:** Most solvents are extremely flammable ---- keep away from flame or electrical sparks. Solvents will damage real wood finishes. Solvents will also attack the glue line (between the vertical edging and the top) causing delamination. Be careful not to splash on cabinets or other wood surfaces.

### CHEMICAL STAINS

High pressure laminates resist many chemicals including alcohol, paint thinners, most cosmetics and drugs. However, care must be exercised when using bleaches, hair dyes, rinses, bluing, drain cleaners, and full strength detergents for automatic dishwashers as these chemicals can cause permanent stains.

Precautions must also be taken to protect your laminate surface from chemicals commonly found in rust removers, metal/oven cleaners and drain/toilet bowl cleaners. Never put such cleaners on laminate surfaces. Spills from these acid or caustic based products will etch, discolor and permanently damage the laminate if allowed to remain on the surface. Accidental spills should be wiped off immediately and the area rinsed thoroughly.

If greater chemical resistance is needed, ChemArmor™ laminate by Nevamar® provides outstanding resistance to more than 100 acids/bases, solvents, stains, indicators and general regents. Please refer to the ChemArmor spec data sheet for details.

### PAINT & ADHESIVE STAINS

Varnish, lacquer and oil base paints can be removed from laminate by thorough cleaning using proper solvent or paint remover. (**CAUTION** should be taken since most solvents are extremely flammable. Solvents will damage real wood finishes. Be careful not to splash on cabinets or other wood surfaces.) Water based paints are best removed with an ammoniated household detergent such as Lestoil®. If paint spots have dried and are especially stubborn, a plastic (non-metallic), non-abrasive scouring pad may be used. Super Glue™ adhesive (cyanoacrylate) can be removed with nail polish remover or Acetone.

### AVOID EXTREME HEAT

Nevamar laminate can withstand heat up to 275° F. However, exposure to temperatures above 150° F may result in a separation of the laminate from its substrate. Do not place hot frying pans or dishes directly from the burner or oven onto the laminate. Do not operate heated appliances such as irons, toasters, electric fry pans or deep fryers directly on the laminate counter. (Use a trivet or insulated hot pad beneath these hot objects.) Do not allow burning cigarettes to remain in contact with the laminate surface. Permanent damage will occur.



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### SCRATCHES, ABRASIONS AND CHIPS

Although high pressure decorative laminates will resist wear and abrasion, the surface can be accidentally damaged, even in normal use. Care must be taken when using heavy earthenware and other ceramic products that have rough bottoms. These objects will cause deep scratches and excessive wear in the laminate surface. Use knives and other sharp implements only on a chopping board or counter saver. Never hammer on the laminate with hard objects, especially near the edges. Heavy impact caused by falling dishes, cans or utensils can result in chips and/or cracks in the laminate surface.

### CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPECIFIC NEVAMAR FINISHES

#### TEXTURED FINISH

The minute graining of this finish softens the appearance of woodgrains, solids and patterns. Textured finishes are easier to maintain when cleaned properly on a regular basis. Stubborn stains can be removed with Dow Bathroom Cleaner® and a soft bristle nylon brush. This cleaning instruction is only applicable to water soluble stains.

#### CRYSTAL AND HI-LUSTER FINISH

These textured, dimensional finishes add a unique look to solid colors, patterns and woodgrains. An occasional thorough cleaning with one of the general purpose cleaners listed above is recommended. Crystal and Hi-Luster finishes are easier to maintain when an application of Hope's Countertop Polish® is sparingly applied to the surface. For best results the surface of the laminate must be thoroughly cleaned prior to the application of Hope's® Polish. For specifics see manufacturer's application instructions listed on the container.

#### GLOSS FINISH

This elegant finish provides reflective beauty and intensifies color for a simulated "lacquered, hand rubbed" look. (Care must be exercised in the use of Gloss Finish products since they do tend to highlight surface scratches and abrasions.)

These finishes *must* be cleaned only with a mild soap/detergent using a clean damp cloth or sponge or with an ammoniated and/or vinegar-based glass cleaner. Wipe dry carefully with a soft, dry cloth or soft paper towel. No abrasive cleaner should ever be used on gloss or mirror finish laminates.

#### SPECIALTY FINISHES

ChemArmor™ and Static Dissipative laminates feature matte surfaces, which you may clean exactly as you would any textured Nevamar laminate. (See above.)

For information on finish availability, contact your local Nevamar laminate distributor. For unusual or specific questions on care or cleaning, call or write:

**Technical Services**  
**Nevamar Decorative Surfaces**  
**One Nevamar Place**  
**Hampton, SC 29924**  
**Telephone: (803) 943-7200**  
**Toll Free: (800) 638-4380**  
or visit [www.nevamar.com](http://www.nevamar.com)