

Advice for applications of decorative panels

1. Differences in touch & feel and light reflection between HPL, melamine-faced panels, and edgetape

Despite the use of advanced production techniques, minor differences may occur in the **touch & feel** and light reflectance between **HPL (High-Pressure Laminate)**, **melamine** and **edging tape**. This is because every material, even with the same colour and structure, has unique properties and uses different production methods.

HPL is manufactured by compressing multiple layers of paper and resin under high pressure, resulting in a strong and durable top layer. **Melamine**, on the other hand, consists of a thin decorative layer applied on a chipboard or MDF. Although the visual finishing of HPL and melamine are highly similar, subtle differences may occur in terms of texture and light reflectance.

Edging tape, which is used to finish panel edges, can also vary in gloss and texture as a result of the use of ABS plastic and its production process.

Even with the most accurate techniques, it is all but impossible to achieve a completely identical appearance between HPL, melamine and edging tape. These differences are usually minimal but may still be noticeable under certain lighting conditions or on close inspection. It is important to take this into account for applications where these materials are combined in a single surface.

2. Use of dark colours and deep structures in HPL and melamine-faced panels

With the use of **dark colours** and **deep structures** (such as Master Oak V2A) in **HPL (High-Pressure Laminate)** and **melamine-faced panels** there are several key considerations to keep in mind:

1. Scratch sensitivity

Dark colours and deeper structures are more susceptible to visible scratches and wear and tear, even under normal use. Scratches stand out more, causing the material to look worn sooner.

2. Maintenance and fingerprints

Dark surfaces show smudges, dust and dirt more easily. In intensively used spaces, frequent and efficient maintenance is required to keep the surface clean.

3. Surface wear

With deeper structures, the texture may wear over time in often used places, such as worktops or furniture. Intensive use may give smoother surfaces a slight shine or polish effect.

Keep these aspects in mind when opting for darker colours and deep structures for HPL and melamine-faced applications, especially in environments with intensive use.

3. Practical tips for the use of HPL and melamine-faced panels

When choosing **HPL (High-Pressure Laminate)** or **melamine-faced panels** there are several important applications for which one material is better suited than the other. Below you will find an overview of the preferred applications for each type.

Applications where HPL is preferred

1. Table tops, worktops and kitchen surfaces

HPL is ideally suited for table and worktops thanks to their high resistance to scratches, wear and heat. They are easy to clean, stain-resistant and have a high impact resistance.

2. Wall panels

Use HPL for decorative or functional wall panels, especially in commercial or residential spaces with a high risk of impact. The material is durable as well as impact and moisture-resistant, making it the perfect choice for humid spaces such as bathrooms and kitchens.

3. Furniture

HPL is an excellent choice for furniture such as desks, cabinets and tables. It offers versatile design and processing options thanks to the many available colours and patterns.

4. Doors

HPL is often used as a top layer for inside doors because of its scratch and impact resistance, and its easy maintenance.

5. Wall cladding in high-risk environments

HPL is ideally suited for use in hospitals, schools and sports facilities because of its antibacterial properties and high impact resistance.

Applications for melamine-faced panels

1. Cabinets and storage furniture

Melamine-faced panels are a popular choice for cabinet carcasses and shelving. They are affordable, sustainable and available in a broad spectrum of colours and designs.

2. Wall panels and partition walls

These boards are particularly well suited for use as decorative panels or partition walls in both commercial properties and private homes. They provide a visually attractive and sustainable solution.

3. Interior furniture

Melamine-faced panels are highly recommended for affordable and durable furniture such as bedroom and living room furniture, or storage cabinets.



Unilin Panels

Breestraat 2B
8710 Wielsbeke
Belgium
T +32 56 66 70 21
info.panels@unilin.com
www.unilinpanels.com