

Disinfection Guidance



March 16, 2020

Subject: **Hygiene and Disinfection of Decorative Melamine Laminate Surfaces – COVID-19**

Panolam Industries International Inc. is a producer of melamine-surfaced decorative High Pressure Laminates (HPL) and Thermally Fused Laminates (TFL). These decorative surfaces are used in a wide array of application areas, including those in healthcare, hospitality, residential, commercial, transportation and industrial.

All these melamine decorative surfaces are well known for their ease of cleaning, durability and have been shown to not support the growth of microorganisms under standard use.

Although very easy to clean, there are times when additional disinfection procedures are appropriate. There are many disinfectants that have been identified as effective against a spectrum of infectious agents including bacteria and viruses present on different surface types. Some of these are viewed as having good compatibility with melamine laminates and others are not.

During the current and growing pandemic of COVID-19, caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, there is a need for ongoing and extensive disinfection of many different surfaces and materials. Although not as critical in nature to this vital practice, it is also desirable to achieve disinfection of melamine surfaces with disinfectants that are expected to also preserve the integrity of the decorative surface.

The following link is to the US EPA's List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

The types of disinfectants recommended for use on melamine surfaces and having the best compatibility with melamine surfaces are those listing a quaternary ammonium compound as the active ingredient while also indicating effectiveness against coronavirus.

This information is being provided as examples of the kinds of disinfectants for use with our types of melamine surfaced laminates. Inclusion on this list does not constitute an endorsement by either EPA or Panolam. There may be additional disinfectants that meet the criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2. Please refer to EPA for the updates to this list.