

# Laminex® Squareform® Benchtops

Laminex Squareform is a laminated bench top produced to a thickness of 39mm and incorporates a square-shape moulded edge. The radius of the moulded edge is 5mm providing a square look to the profile. Moisture resistant particleboard is used to ensure maximum water resistance. The use of high-pressure laminate on the surface of the bench top provides a hardwearing and durable decorative surface.



## APPLICATIONS

Laminex® Squareform® Benchtops are designed for applications such as kitchen worktops, countertops, bathroom vanities and laundry bench tops where a durable decorative surface is required.

## PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

Thickness:	39mm
Weight:	25kg / m <sup>2</sup>
Profile:	Square shape, 180 degree rolled edge, 5mm radius moulded top and bottom edges.
Finish:	Natural or Flint
Colours & Pattern Range:	Refer to current Squareform™ brochure

The ends of Laminex Squareform Benchtops are not post formed. Colour-matched laminate can be used to cap ends as required.

## FIRE TESTS

(Typically achieved when tested to AS/NZS 1530.3)		
Indices	Result	Range
Ignitability	0	0-20
Spread of Flame	0	0-10
Heat Evolved	0	0-10
Smoke Developed	4	0-10

Cone Calorimeter AS/NZS 3837 (Irradiance of 50kW/m <sup>2</sup> )		
Classification	Result	Unit/Range
Group Number	1	1-3
Average Specific Extinction Area	44.9	m <sup>2</sup> / kg

Laminate non-adhered

## PROPERTIES

Laminex Squareform Benchtops are decorated using high-pressure laminate. The surface hardness of high-pressure laminate provides resistance to surface wear and scratching under normal conditions of use. High-pressure laminate is adhered to the particleboard surface using a durable adhesive, which ensures surface bond soundness. The use of moisture resistant particleboard for substrate ensures structural integrity and added protection against high humidity or occasional wetting.

F(AS/NZS 2924.1)	
PROPERTY	RESULTS
Resistance to Surface wear:	Initial wear not less than 150 cycles; Average wear not less than 350 cycles
Resistance to scratching:	Not less than 2.0 Newtons
Resistance to Dry Heat at 180°C:	No deterioration other than slight loss of gloss/colour

Resistance to Steam:	No deterioration other than slight change of gloss and/or colour
Resistance to Staining:	Reagents Groups 1 and 2 = no visible change. Reagents Groups 3 and 4 = moderate change of colour/gloss
Resistance to Colour Change in Artificial Light*:	Not more than slight colour change in Xenon arc light (minimum) 6 on Blue Wool Scale
Resistance to Cigarette Burns:	No deterioration other than moderate change on gloss and moderate brown staining.

\* Laminex Squareform Benchtops have good colour retention and dimensional stability in normal interior applications. However prolonged exposure to sunlight may cause shrinkage and/or some change in colour. Laminex Squareform Benchtops are therefore not recommended for external applications or interior applications with prolonged exposure to direct sunlight.

## WHEN SPECIFYING

Surfacing shall be Laminex Squareform Benchtop as supplied by The Laminex Group, Pattern shall be ... in ... sizes and ... profiles.

## FABRICATION GUIDELINES

### Storage and Handling

Store Benchtop elements with protective paper between each element keeping bulk stocks stacked flat and supported. Avoid exposure to low humidity and extreme temperature. Do not slide elements over one another as this may damage the decorative surface, lift carefully instead. Note the weight specification for the product.

### Preconditioning

Prior to installation Laminex Squareform should be allowed to reach moisture equilibrium over a period of 48 hours within the environment of its end use. Remove the packaging to enable this process to occur.

### Machine Routing

Vertical spindle moulding machines with tungsten carbide-tipped cutters operating at 18,000 to 22,000 RPM are preferred for edge finishing and for making perfect mitres. Twin fluted cutters with replaceable tips are recommended for this process. Equipment must have the capability to handle the size of the bench top element.

### Machine Sawing

Circular saws with 3-4 teeth per 25mm with only a slight set and a saw blade tip speed of 3,000 metre/minute will give a clean cut. Tungsten carbide-tipped blades 300mm to 350mm in diameter and operating at 3,500 to 4,500 RPM are recommended to achieve this. Always cut with face up to minimise surface chipping. For cutting of double-edged post form elements it is recommended to use a saw with a drop down blade (post form saw or scribing saw). The direction of the edge cut must always be towards the post-formed edge and not away from it. A slow feed speed is important in preventing charring of the bench top element when cutting.

It is advisable to consult machine or tooling suppliers for optimum operating settings for routing or sawing equipment.

### Hand Tools and Portable Tools

The use of hand tools and portable tools are not recommended for the preparation of benchtop joints. Machine routing and/or machine sawing give superior results.

### Cut Outs

All cut outs must have clean chip free edges and a small (2-3mm) internal radius at corners. Ensure that machined edges of cut outs are sanded smooth and that the top edge of the laminate is arched to eliminate stress points. Ragged edges with underside chip out or square cut internal corners provide weak spots for cracking to occur.

### Joins

Where two fabricated components are to be joined, lightly sand the ends of each component. Apply a complete spread of silicone adhesive or Colorfill Adhesive and Sealant to one surface of the components before clamping them together. Close the join and allow excess adhesive or sealant to squeeze out. Secure the join using work top connectors and clean away excess adhesive with appropriate solvent. If shrinkage of adhesive or sealant occurs re-apply a second application to the outside of the join and wipe away excess. Whenever possible avoid placement of joins close to sink areas. This can minimise the risk of water damage to joins.

Where external joins are formed with Postformed components it is important to dull any sharp edges using fine sand paper to prevent injury from accidental contact.

#### General Site Work Notes

Appendix 1. Handling & Product Application Guidelines  
Section 9:1

#### Laminate Product: Care & Maintenance

Appendix 2. General Care and Maintenance  
Section 9:2