

blfa

British Laminate
Fabricators Association



endless possibilities...



www.blfa.co.uk

endless possibilities...

colour

Decorative laminates offer a fantastic array of colours and patterns which are carefully reproduced using the very latest in high definition print technology.

Designers can find a colour match to almost any RAL®, NCS® System or Pantone® colour reference. In addition to colours, a wide range of woodgrains, stone effects, abstract designs and patterns are available.



graphics

Decorative laminates are available with digital, screen and direct print technology which provides the designer with an infinite resource when creating striking, innovative interiors and exteriors of buildings.

Any scene, image or photograph can be digitally formatted and used to create a unique laminate design without the need for large production runs.





texture

It's not just about great images and colours. A host of complex textures on the surface can also bring a further dimension to the appeal of laminates.

Whether it is the smooth mirror like feel of a gloss finish or the natural feel of a stone surface, laminate can provide realistic textures to suit any project.

shape



The ability of laminate to form shape allows fabricators to offer a wide variety of designs including broad curves and rounded edge details on panels, doors, work surfaces and furniture, even to a radius of just 5mm.

Creating shapes with laminate can be both visually dramatic and highly practical. The continuous surface of a postformed laminate panel maintains a durable, hygienic and easy to clean surface.

quality assurance



environmental benefits

The very concept of reproducing natural finishes, including rare wood species and stone, promotes the idea of conserving natural resources. Decorative laminates are readily available in extremely realistic finishes that make it possible to create durable, natural finishes for buildings and furniture without the need to use valuable natural materials.

Some laminates are manufactured using paper which is made using wood from environmentally sustainable resources.

Many laminate manufacturers are continuing working towards their aim of using paper from sustainable resources as part of their commitment to the environment.

the blfa

The British Laminate Fabricators Association promotes the highest standards of decorative laminate fabrication in the UK.

Designers, architects, building contractors and end users can all benefit from using products made by a BLFA Approved Fabricator or Laminate Manufacturer.

These companies are all committed to working to the methods and standards in the BLFA Code of Practice which covers all aspects of the use of decorative laminates.





code of practice

The BLFA Code of Practice, created by industry experts, is a comprehensive technical manual regarded as the industry benchmark for quality.

Membership of the BLFA is strictly limited to companies who comply with the Code and accreditation is only gained following an audit of a company's manufacturing skills, systems and equipment.



peace of mind

Choosing a BLFA Approved Fabricator or Laminate Manufacturer provides clients with peace of mind, knowing that the services and products available from these companies is underpinned by a reliable benchmark of quality.

You can find a full directory and profile of each member company on our website www.blfa.co.uk

You can also contact our helpline on **0845 056 8496** where our friendly staff will be pleased to discuss your requirements and find a BLFA member who can provide the products and services that you require.



specifications



lamininate grades

Decorative laminate is manufactured in different grades for a wide range of applications and is used extensively as the preferred surface finish for furniture, flooring, doors, partitions and wall panels. The possibilities really are endless.

BLFA approved fabricators and laminate manufacturers can assist with selecting the appropriate grade along with suitable substrate and edging materials where applicable.



Need help to find a BLFA
Approved Fabricator?

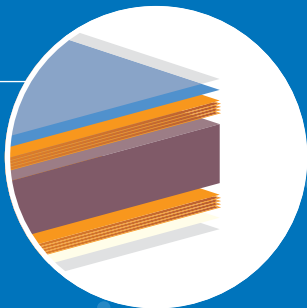
Call now on 0845 056 8496
or visit www.blfa.co.uk



what decorative laminate grades are available?

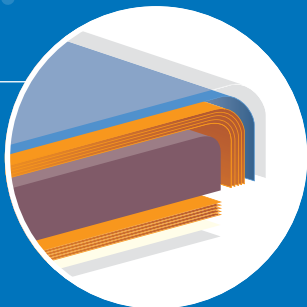
STANDARD GRADE

Standard grade laminate to the surface and white balancing grade laminate to the underside of a substrate



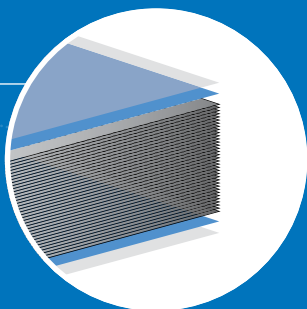
POSTFORMING GRADE

Postforming grade laminate to the surface and white balancing grade laminate to the underside of a substrate



COMPACT GRADE

Compact grade laminate which does not require a substrate or balancing grade laminate



STANDARD GRADE

Suitable for creating flat panel products for either vertical or horizontal applications with plain colours, patterns or graphics. Some are even made using real wood veneer and metal foils.

POSTFORMING GRADE

Available with many of the decor options of Standard Grade, Postforming Grade laminate can also be formed around the curved face of a substrate or an edge with a radius to create a variety of profiles.

COMPACT GRADE

Most decorative laminates are approximately 1mm in thickness. However, compact grade is a decorative laminate that has been built up to thicknesses ranging from 3mm – 20mm and can have an identical decorative surface on both sides.

The result is a very tough, high impact resistant product that is almost totally waterproof and does not require bonding to a substrate. It is ideal for cubicles, lockers, laboratories and exterior wall cladding.

EXTERIOR COMPACT GRADE

Some compact grade laminate is also available with a UV resistant surface which makes it suitable for use as an exterior cladding material.

FIRE RETARDANT GRADE

For areas that require a fire performance certificate in accordance with BS476 or Euroclass standards. Most decorative laminates will achieve Class 2 fire performance.

With the correct substrates and adhesives, decorative laminates can also achieve Classes 1 and 0 and Euroclass B. Please note that with the exception of compact grade decorative laminates, it is necessary to obtain a certificate of fire performance for the decorative laminates and the substrates to which they are bonded.

BALANCING GRADE

This is a non-decorative, low cost laminate that is bonded to the substrate on the opposite side to the decorative laminate surface.

The balancing grade gives moisture protection and equalises the different humidity expansion co-efficient of a decorative laminate and a substrate. The result is a flat and stable construction.

how to contact the blfa

For further details please contact:

British Laminate Fabricators Association Limited
PO BOX 775
Broseley Wood
TF7 9FG

Telephone: **0845 056 8496**

Email: **info@blfa.co.uk**

www.blfa.co.uk

BLFA member contact details:

Choose a member of the BLFA to ensure that all fabrication is in accordance with the Code of Practice.

The BLFA would like to thank the following organisations for kindly supplying the images used in this brochure:

- © Abet Laminati
Pizza Express, Richmond, Photography: John Short
- © Formica Group
- © Polyrey, images from their 'Collection 2017'
- © Westag & Getalit AG
Posthoorn church, Amsterdam, Photography: Hans Morren i.o.v. Espero
aPLEX-Berlin, Photography: Christoph Buckstegen
© nhow Berlin
- © The BLFA