

Cleaning and care

Duropal's HPL surface makes cleaning simple. Usually a moist cloth is sufficient. Common stains such as fats, finger marks, rust, juice, tea, coffee and blood may be wiped away with diluted washing-up liquid. If necessary, leave for a while to allow the cleaner to soak in to the stain. Old stains may require washing powder or bleach, but take care and do not repeat too often. Methylated spirits or acetone (nail varnish remover) will shift more stubborn marks left by felt tip pens, wax, nicotine and make-up. Glues and paints require either water or white spirit depending on their formulation. Two-part adhesive should be removed immediately otherwise it will harden. Although Duropal worktops will resist most scratches, impacts, burns, cuts and scouring, do be careful. Never cut directly on the surface; use a cutting board (sometimes known as a 'worktop protector'). Duropal worktops can resist temperatures of around 200 degrees centigrade but don't subject your worktop to heat for the sake of it. Try to avoid placing a hot pan on your worktop, and keep hot cast casserole dishes and irons well away unless using a protective pad. Scouring powder will damage the surface. Cuts and scratches are most noticeable on gloss and dark laminates. Kettles, coffee machines and any other heat or damp source should not be positioned over worktop joints. Constant changes in temperature cause the joint to move and eventually fail.

Independent assessment of Duropal worktops

An important European consumer magazine intensively tested popular worktop brands. Their conclusion: choose with care, there are problems and differences in quality. Extracts from the report are reproduced here. 'The most important conclusion of our test is that modern worktops are not only nicer, but also more solid and easier to look after than directly laminated particle board. Nevertheless they are not immune to abuse. They can all suffer damage from scratches and knocks. Furthermore there are differences in quality between laminates from different manufacturers. In our tests, Duropal came out best'.

'On Duropal tops, the damage from cuts, scratches and pointed objects was rather less than on other manufacturers' tops'. 'In our test, only Duropal tops were completely watertight. The others were all protected to some extent by impregnated paper.'



The Duropal Guide

TO GOOD WORKTOPS



Remember to use our 24-hour A5 sample service

Only original samples can give a realistic impression of colours, designs and surface finishes. It is recommended that you ask to see actual samples prior to making your final selection.



24-hour service

Samples available round the clock
 Phone 01625 660 411
 Fax 01625 617 301
www.pfleiderer.co.uk



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Duropol guide to good worktops

While cabinets are examined for quality, door styles selected to suit individual tastes, and appliances chosen to save labour, the work surface can be an afterthought. Yet worktops are the most visible part of the kitchen and subject to the most punishment. Colour and finish must complement the cabinet fronts and withstand knocks, abrasions, chemical attack, damp, cigarette burns and steam. There is no other furniture component that is expected to tolerate so much. Those who buy a poor quality worktop will soon be looking for a replacement. That entails removing the sink and hob, disturbing tiles, re-cutting joints and trimming edge banding. An expensive and disruptive remedy.

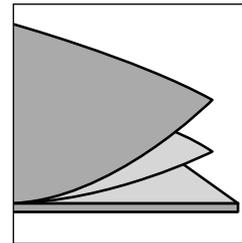


If worktop colour, pattern and finish have not been carefully selected to match the surroundings, the kitchen will be a disappointment. Again replacement may be necessary. Pfleiderer Industrie has published this guide to help you get it right first time, saving you time and money and contributing to a kitchen that you can be proud of.

Alternatives

For over forty years the best selling worktops have been manufactured from a dense wood particle board protected by a decorative high pressure laminate (HPL). The majority of kitchens will continue to feature this type of worktop as it is durable, hygienic, easy to fit and available in many styles at a reasonable price. Other materials may be used, most notably in prestige kitchens. Particle board edged round the perimeter forms a tray for tiles. Tiles can make an attractive surface but the grouting must be sealed and hygienic cleaning can be difficult. Solid wood tops require regular treatment with oils and may lack long-term durability. Slate and granites give a fine finish but it is not possible to make a secure, 'invisible' joint. Composite worktops benefit from a smooth, seamless surface even in to sink bowls and upstands and are resistant to normal kitchen hazards. However, the choice of decorative effects is limited and prices for such tops are high. Pfleiderer Industrie has chosen to make Duropol worktops from dense wood particle board and decorative HPL.

How Duropol worktops are made



The core of Duropol worktops is E1 grade high density particle board. Pfleiderer manufactures this material from a mixture comprising resin and small wood chips, pressed to make a large sheet. A cut section will reveal layers. Small particles form the outer surfaces and the core is made from larger chips. This structure gives strength, retains fittings, allows machining and has an excellent surface for adhesion to HPL. Particle board alone will not withstand the rigours of a kitchen top, so it is sealed all round to prevent moisture damage and give a

durable surface. Duropol is genuine high pressure laminate for maximum durability and protects top surfaces and edges. Duropol HPL is a 'sandwich' of 'kraft' papers impregnated with phenolic resin, an underlay paper to prevent the core showing through, a pattern paper and a protective overlay, both soaked in melamine resin. The resulting structure is pressed at 150 degrees centigrade at a pressure of 100 kg per square centimetre for over an hour. This process yields an incredibly tough sheet to bond to the particle board.

The underside is protected by a melamine foil. Leading edges are 'postformed' (radiused) to the underside demonstrating an attractive and practical profile. The joint between the postformed HPL and the melamine foil is rendered absolutely moisture-proof by a 'V' groove filled with cast resin. This is exclusive to Duropol worktops and gives extra protection when used in hazard areas such as above dishwashers and laundry appliances.

Duropol worktops are 4.1 metres long, the optimum length for the average kitchen. Such a length reduces unwanted offcuts. Some worktop brands are just 28 mm thick, but problems can arise when boring for joint fixings. A little slip with the drill means a pierced surface and a wasted worktop. Being so thin, such worktops can bow or twist.

Duropol worktops are 40 mm thick, giving a rigid surface, a firm anchor for fixing bolts and an aesthetically pleasing appearance.

Choice

Choose colour, pattern, texture and profile to suit your kitchen. The Classic and Quadra profiles have a tight postformed radius which prevents liquid spills reaching drawer interiors. High gloss looks great but can require a little more care in the working kitchen than standard finishes. The 'Top Face' (TC) surface is best suited to heavy domestic conditions. Other Duropol textures are available for practical applications or simply to enhance the appearance of the décor.



**Classic profile—
6 mm radius**



**Quadra profile—
3 mm radius**

Colour and pattern combinations run in to hundreds, with a core of around sixty popular worktop décors kept at UK distributors to speed delivery. Patterns range from realistic reproductions of wood, granite and 'solid' surfaces to imaginative fantasy designs. These are reviewed annually to ensure that they complement the kitchen styles currently in vogue. Make your choice with care, referring to cabinet style, tile pattern and room character. Don't be afraid to contrast but avoid a 'clash'. Ask your Duropol dealer for advice. He knows the rules of colour coordination and will ensure that you do not make a mistake.