



A WILSONART COMPANY

PRODUCT DATA SHEET

ABACA HIGH PRESSURE DECORATIVE LAMINATE

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Abacá is a distinctive decorative surface manufactured using recycled banana fibers. Abacá's natural look and texture result from the banana fibers that are randomly sprinkled over the surface of the material. Each sheet is therefore unique and offers a totally organic, nondirectional design and texture.

RECOMMENDED APPLICATIONS

Abacá is manufactured in the same way as conventional high-pressure decorative laminate. It can therefore be specified for use in horizontal or vertical commercial interior applications that require a decorative surface with wear, impact, and stain resistance. LaminArt brand high pressure decorative laminate is for interior use only and is not recommended for direct application to plywood, steel, aluminum, fiber reinforced plastic, plaster, gypsum board or concrete. Do not use in areas exposed to temperatures in excess of 275°F (135°C) or high humidity.

PRODUCT COMPOSITION

Abacá high pressure decorative laminate is manufactured by laminating phenolic resin-impregnated kraft sheets with melamine resin impregnated decorative papers and a melamine overlay sheet embedded with recycled banana fibers sourced from Central and South American banana plantations (recycled banana fiber content = 1% of the total weight of the finished product). The lamination is performed under a minimum pressure of 1,000 psi (2068 kPa) at a temperature of approximately 300°F (149°C). The pressed laminate is trimmed to various sizes, and the back is sanded to provide uniform thickness and to facilitate adhesive bonding.

SPECIAL NOTE

Abacá is made with natural materials, therefore slight variations in design and texture may occur and each sheet is unique.

CONDITIONING

Abacá high pressure decorative laminates may be sensitive to changes in temperature and humidity conditions. If adhered with excess moisture present, there is a risk of cracking and open seams due to shrinkage, particularly in winter conditions or when relative humidity is low. Prior to adhesive application to a suitable substrate, Abacá panels should be carefully conditioned. (The recommended method of conditioning is to store panels and substrates together in the same room for a period of at least 72 hours with adequate air movement, under stable temperature and humidity conditions as close as possible to actual conditions at the installation site.) Recommended conditioning for all panels is at approximately 75° F (24° C), with 45-55% relative humidity.

STORAGE AND HANDLING

Abacá sheets should be stored horizontally, back-to-back and face-to-face, with the top sheet turned face down and a caul board placed on top to preserve the material. Storing the panels in an atmospherically stabilized room is recommended to avoid extreme fluctuations of moisture.

LaminArt recommends that full-sized sheets be carried by two people with the decorative facing upward whenever possible.

FABRICATION

All surfaces to be laminated should be inspected prior to installation to ensure that they are clean and free of surface defects. The protective coating (peel coat) should be removed prior to inspection. All defects should be corrected before application. Material, equipment, and workmanship should conform to industry-standard practices, conditions, procedures, and recommendations specified by National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) LD 3-2005 Annex A, Architectural Woodworking Institute (AWI) Quality Standards, and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) 161.2-1979 standards.

SUBSTRATES

Abacá high pressure decorative laminates should be adhesively bonded to a substrate, or to a sheet substrate forming a new composite component which will be used in other assemblies. Suitable substrates may include but are not limited to particleboard (minimum density 45 pounds/cubic foot), medium-density fiberboard (MDF) or high density fiberboard (HDF). Materials with insufficient dimensional stability or internal bond strength such as plywood, steel, aluminum, fiber reinforced plastic, plaster, gypsum board, and similar materials are not recommended for use as substrates. Concrete is not a recommended substrate.

ADHESIVES

Surfaces to be adhered must be sound, thoroughly dry, clean, free of dust, wood chips, oil and other types of surface contamination. When a laminating press is not available, such as an on-site installation, contact adhesives may be used, however this method should be restricted to small areas only. Ensure 80-100% adhesive coverage of both surfaces to be bonded and apply 40 pounds per square inch to achieve a strong bond. In all cases, with all types of adhesives, comply with the adhesive manufacturer's usage recommendations

BACKING SHEETS

To avoid warping of a panel assembly faced with Abacá, stresses resulting from thermal and hygroscopic forces on both sides of the assembly must be balanced. The best results are obtained when a backing sheet, with characteristics comparable to the face sheet, is laminated to it. Alternatively, balance may be achieved using an ordinary high pressure laminate of the same thickness on the back side of the assembly. Narrow panels for wall applications, held rigidly in place by a securing system can have just a face side if the back side is protected from excess humidity and covered with a suitable sealant such as paint, lacquer, or a vapor-retarding varnish.

MAINTENANCE

Abacá high-pressure decorative laminate may be cleaned with a damp cloth, warm water and a mild soap or household cleaning product. Cleansers that contain abrasives, acids or alkalis may damage the decorative surface and are not recommended. Stubborn stains may require the use of hypochlorite bleach followed by a clean water rinse.

WARRANTY

LaminArt Inc. expressly warrants that its products are free of defects in material and workmanship, are of merchantable quality, and meet or exceed performance standards for high-pressure decorative laminates as established by NEMA, LD 3-2005. Please note that some of our products contain special pearlized inks and do not meet NEMA standards for abrasion/scratch resistance in all finishes. In as much as LaminArt has no control over the end products fabricated with the materials sold, no warranty or guarantee is expressed or implied, other than those set forth above, and is limited to the replacement cost of the material alone.

Questions? Call Customer Service at 800.323.7624.

SPECIFICATIONS

SIZES	
48"x 96"	These are the standard dimensions of regularly stocked Abacá items.
48"x 120"	
FINISHES	
RELIEF (F)	The tactile relief of the actual materials embedded in the laminate sheet (Abacá LRV 10.0)
GRADES	
STANDARD GRADE GP48 HSG (.048"/1.2 mm)	The most commonly used. Recommended for horizontal and vertical applications where maximum impact-resistance and durability are required. Standard Grade GP48 material can be cold bent to a radius no smaller than 12" (304.8MM).
VERTICAL GRADE GP28 VSG (.028"/0.7 mm)	Suitable for applications where the economics of a thinner material are desirable and impact resistance is not critical. Offers the same surface durability as thicker grades. Vertical Grade GP28 material can be cold bent to a radius no smaller than 7" (177.8 mm) Postform grade (.28"/0.7mm) - This specialized grade is manufactured specially for those applications that require the material to bend to a radius smaller than 5/8" with the application of heat.

PERFORMANCE

NEMA TEST	TEST RESULTS FOR LAMINART ABACA HPL	NEMA STANDARD FOR GENERAL PURPOSE HPL
THICKNESS STANDARD GRADE VERTICAL GRADE	0.048" (1.2 mm) 0.028" (0.7 mm)	0.048" +/- 0.005" (1.2 mm +/- 0.13 mm) 0.028" +/- 0.004" (0.7 mm +/- 0.10 mm)
APPEARANCE	DOES NOT APPLY	DOES NOT APPLY
LIGHT RESISTANCE	NO EFFECT	SLIGHT EFFECT
CLEANABILITY (CYCLES)	7	20 MAX
STAIN RESISTANCE REAGENTS 1-10 REAGENTS 11-15	NO EFFECT NO EFFECT	NO EFFECT SLIGHT EFFECT
BOILING WATER RESISTANCE	NO EFFECT	NO EFFECT
HIGH TEMPERATURE RESISTANCE	NO EFFECT	SLIGHT EFFECT
BALL IMPACT RESISTANCE STANDARD GRADE VERTICAL GRADE	50" (1270MM) 8" (200MM)	50" (1270MM) 8" (200MM)
DART IMPACT RESISTANCE STANDARD GRADE VERTICAL GRADE	20" (500MM) 8" (200MM)	20" (500MM) 8" (200MM)
DIMENSIONAL STABILITY STANDARD GRADE MACHINE DIRECTION CROSS DIRECTION VERTICAL GRADE MACHINE DIRECTION CROSS DIRECTION	.33% .9% .7% 1.2%	.5% .9% .7% 1.2%
SURFACE WEAR RESISTANCE (CYCLES)	GREATER THAN 400 CYCLES	400 CYCLES MINIMUM