

Cleaning & Maintenance

Decorative Surfacing Materials





Keep It Clean

Cleaning and maintaining your Starbank panel products in the correct manner helps to increase the life span of the product.

As each material option we deal with requires different cleaning techniques it is important from your point of view to follow these guidelines as well as the guidelines of any cleaning products you choose to use.

Failure to follow the correct guidelines can result in the deterioration of your panel products ultimately causing it to fail and need replacing.

MFC, HPL, CDF & SGL

Melamine surfacing technology continues to be developed to withstand the harsh requirements and environments of ultimate daily use. Whilst an extremely durable and tried and tested material it still requires cleaning to maintain its high performance and aesthetic qualities.

General Cleaning

Clean the panel surface using water and a damp cloth, alternatively try a common cleaning agent WITHOUT abrasive components. Always rinse and dry the panel after cleaning. Do not allow the panels to remain soaked or standing in water for any period of time. Furniture polishes and similar treatments are to be avoided as they tend to create a film on the surface. If components have been jointed with exposed edges, ensure these are sealed using a waterproof sealant during installation.

Persistent Contamination

Clean the panel using hot water, clean cloths/ paper towels. A normal cleaning agent can be used WITHOUT abrasive components, washing powders (especially heavy duty detergent), liquid or hard soaps. Wipe over the dirt with the cleaning solution, or let it soak according to the degree of soiling, then wash away with clean water and dried using either an absorbent lint free cloth or paper towels to prevent streaking. This process should be repeated if the stain persists.

Cleaning Advice & Tips

Contamination and potential staining should be removed straight away to prevent any permanent damage.

Rinsing with clean water and drying should occur after all cleaning methods listed.

Acidic cleaning agents such as: metal cleaner, toilet cleaner and certain oven cleaners should be avoided at all costs.

Limescale contamination - Clean with warm, 10% acetic or citric acid solution. After cleaning, rinse the surface with pure, hot water and dry with clean non abrasive cloths or paper towels.

Paraffin or wax residues - Carefully remove as much residue as possibly with a plastic or wooden spatula, taking care not to scratch the surface. Remaining residue can be ironed off with blotting paper.

Water-soluble dyes, lacquers & adhesives - If treated immediately, warm water should remove the stain. Dried residues can be cleaned using solvents such as ethanol, acetone, benzine or nail varnish remover.

Solvent-based dyes, lacquers & adhesives - If treated immediately, solvents should remove the stain. Suitable solvents must be inquired from the dye, lacquer or adhesive supplier.

Two component adhesives - These must be removed immediately with a suitable organic solvent as they cannot be removed once hardened.

Silicone or polyurethane sealing material - Carefully remove as much residue as possible with a plastic or wooden spatula, taking care not to scratch the surface. The remaining residue can then be removed with a silicone remover.

Streaking after cleaning with solvents - The streaks can be removed by subsequent cleaning with hot clean water and drying with a lint free absorbent cloth or paper towels.

Veneer

Veneered panels should be treated with the upmost care. When cleaning, always start with the gentlest method first. If the stain starts to disappear, then repeat that step until the stain has gone.

General Cleaning

Wipe over regularly (ideally monthly) with a soft dry cloth or chamois leather moistened with tepid water. For more difficult staining apply furniture polish and remove with a slightly damp cloth.

Persistent/ Stubborn Contamination

If coating becomes excessively dirty, add a small amount of mild detergent with water. If the marks or stains cannot be removed by any of the above methods, please consult a professional French polisher.

Cleaning Advice & Tips

Contamination and potential staining should be removed straight away to prevent any permanent damage.

Rinsing with clean water and drying should occur after all cleaning methods listed.

Acidic cleaning agents such as: metal cleaner, toilet cleaner and certain oven cleaners should be avoided at all costs.

Always test your chosen cleaning method on an inconspicuous area first to ensure no adverse reaction occurs.

Abrasive cleaning equipment and agents as well as excessive cleaning techniques such as scrubbing MUST NOT be used.

Any water or liquid spilt onto the veneer surface or edging must be cleaned immediately as standing water can leave staining and lime scale that is very difficult to remove.

Polish and wax should not be confused as the same thing. Polish will leave a thin liquid layer on the surface where wax will leave a thin solid layer. Polish will eventually evaporate where wax will not.

Avoid hard knocks or sharp objects as veneer can be chipped, dented or scratched through misuse.

Solid Surface

When cleaning any solid surface worktop, start with the gentlest method first. If the stain starts to disappear, then repeat that step until the stain has been fully removed.

General Cleaning

Clean the panel surface using warm soapy water and a damp cloth. Soap can be replaced with a mild detergent or general purpose cleaner if the stain isn't fully removed.

Persistent Contamination

For more persistent staining use a mild abrasive cleaner and rub in a circular motion with a Scotchbrite™ pad or similar. If the solid surface has been marked due to hot objects i.e. Pans being placed onto it, then contact a solid surface professional, who in most cases should be able to rectify the marks using specialist equipment.

Cleaning Advice & Tips

Although liquids will not usually penetrate solid surface materials, we recommend wiping up spills straight away, then rinse and dry the surface, as standing water can cause dulling of the worktop making it look blotchy and uneven.

For spills involving acids, such as those found in drain cleaners, flush with water immediately and dry. If left, they can cause discolouration.

Cutting/ slicing should NOT be done directly onto the solid surface, always use a cutting board.

Sinks

To keep your solid surface sink looking its best, clean regularly by filling the sink 1/4 full with water and bleach, (5 tbsp to 1 gallon of water). Leave the solution for around 15 minutes and then drain away. As the solution drains wash the sink sides and overspill.

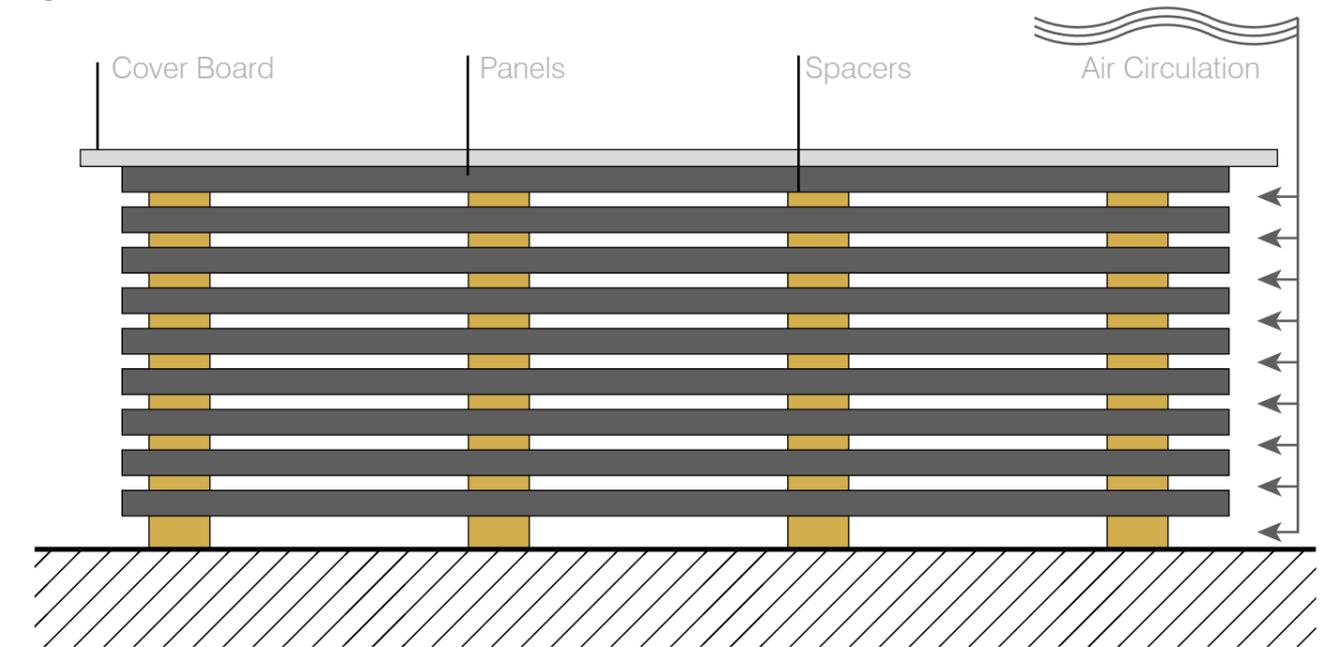
Storage & Conditioning

To ensure that the panels and components remain in a stable condition once received we recommend:

- That panels are not stored outside, or exposed to water or high humidity.
- That panels are stored horizontally with supports between the first panel and the floor and spacers between each panel thereafter, to allow air to circulate evenly (fig. 1)
- Panels must be allowed to equalise in their new surroundings prior to final installation.
- Avoid both extremes of temperature and humidity when storing panels.

EN438-4 recommends the following ranges of temperature and humidity are used when storing panels:
Temperature: 18-25°C
Humidity: 50-60%

Fig 1.



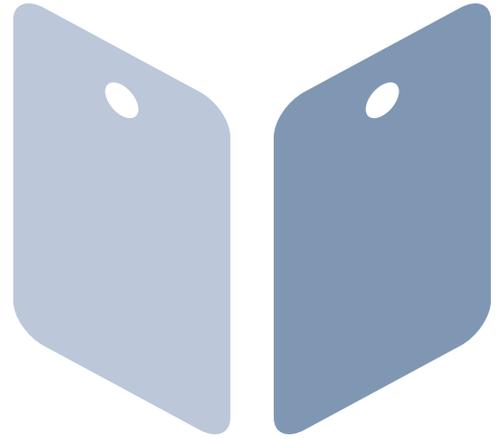
Material Legend

- MFC - Self supporting Melamine Faced Chipboard panels (approx 18/19mm thickness)
- HPL - Thin 0.8mm High Pressure Laminate, bonded to a suitable substrate (approx 20mm thickness)
- CDF - Resin reinforced Compact Density Fibreboard (approx 13mm thickness)
- SGL - Self supporting Solid Grade Laminate (normally 10 and 12/13mm thicknesses)

12 Month Warranty Period

Please refer to Section 7 & 8 of Starbank Panel Product's terms and conditions of sale for full details of our 12 month component warranty.

This document makes no claim of completion in respect of the listing of the full details of standards referred to in the text. All information is based on the current state of technical knowledge, but it does not constitute any form of liability. It is the personal responsibility of the user of the products described in this information chart to comply with the appropriate laws and regulations as well as consulting the cleaning agent's and panel manufacturers data and technical sheets prior to cleaning.



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