

Laminate

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A **laminate** is a material constructed by uniting two or more layers of material together. The process of creating a laminate is **lamination**, which usually refers to sandwiching something between layers of plastic and sealing them with heat and/or pressure.

The materials used in laminates can be the same or different. An example of the type of laminate using different materials would be the application of a layer of plastic film — the "laminate" — on either side of a sheet of glass — the *laminated* subject. On the other hand, plywood is a common example of a laminate using the same material.

Examples of laminate materials include Formica and plywood. Formica and similar plastic laminates (such as Pionite or Wilsonart) are often referred to as High Pressure Decorative Laminate (HPDL) as they are created with heat and pressure of more than 5 lbf/in² (34 kPa).

Laminating paper, such as photographs, can prevent them from becoming creased, sun damaged, wrinkled, stained, smudged, abraded and/or marked by grease, fingerprints and environmental concerns. Photo identification cards and credit cards are almost always laminated with plastic film. Lamination is also used in sculpture using wood or resin. An example of an artist who used lamination in his work is the American, Floyd Shaman.

Contents

- 1 Types of laminators
- 2 Film types

Types of laminators

Three types of laminators are used most often in digital imaging:

Film types

Laminate film is generally categorized into these five categories:

- Standard thermal laminating films
- Low-temperature thermal laminating films
- Heatset (or heat-assisted) laminating films
- Pressure-sensitive films
- Liquid laminates