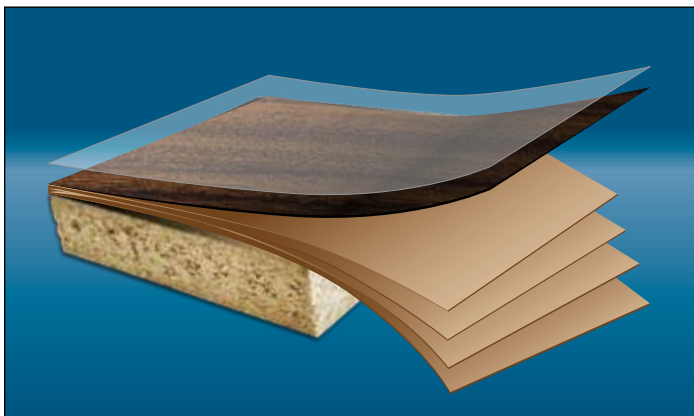


HPL + TFL: Beneath the Surface

The term “High Pressure Laminate” may not be familiar, but say the word Formica or Wilsonart, and every designer can immediately picture the material that has been used for decades. Less well known is a low-pressure laminate called **Thermally Fused Laminate (TFL)**.

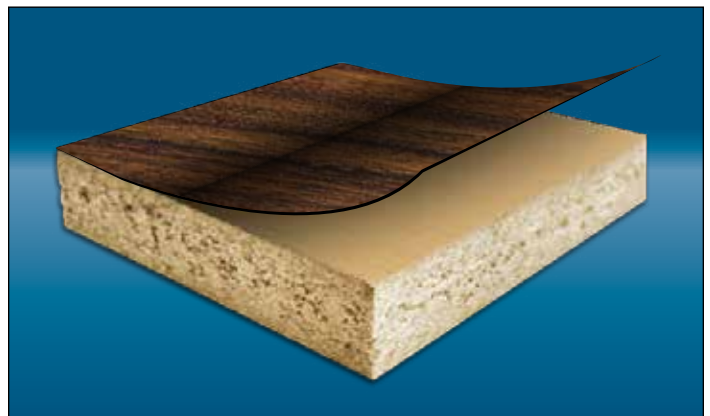
High Pressure Laminate

HPL starts with multiple layers of resin-saturated kraft paper adhered to one another to create a “core”. A decorative paper is then affixed and topped with a protective sheet. The laminate “sandwich” is then compressed at both a high pressure and temperature to bond the layers together.



Thermally Fused Laminate

TFL bonds a resin-saturated decorative paper directly to the substrate panel. Under high heat and low pressure, the decorative layer binds to the board without the need for adhesive. The chemical reaction during the thermal process makes the finish impossible to peel away from the substrate.



In short, TFL's simpler manufacturing process creates a permanently bonded surface that reduces material costs and production time, resulting in 30-60% lower costs.



Applications

Manufacturers of store fixtures, office furniture and closet systems—looking to improve their bottom lines—were among the first to use Thermally Fused Laminate in their designs. As more architects and designers are learning about the features and benefits of TFL, it is becoming a more popular and cost effective choice.

TFL and HPL have many common applications, including:

- **Furniture:** closet systems, all vertical applications
- **Cabinets:** RTF door manufacturers, shelving
- **Store fixtures:** commercial casework, hospital case goods
- **Architectural wall paneling:** institutional interiors

Thermally Fused Laminate is an excellent choice for all vertical applications, and is durable enough for low-impact horizontal applications such as desktops. High-impact horizontal applications, particularly kitchen counter tops, generally call for High Pressure Laminate.

	Multiple designs/textures	Stain and moisture resistance	Edge banding	Peel resistance	High impact resistance	Lower cost
Thermally Fused Laminate (TFM)	x	x	x	x		x
High Pressure Laminate (HPL)	x	x	x		x	

Color Choices

Because TFL and HPL use the same type of decorative papers from many of the same manufacturers, the choices in design are quite large for both materials. Today's Thermally Fused Laminate panels offer a far more sophisticated range of design choices, with up to 800 designs and 8 different finishes.

Edge Banding

Getting a good match with your edge banding is important for both TFL and HPL applications. Choosing the right vendor makes a big difference. Before you spec, ask about the company's ability to match designs and finishes with edge banding, to ensure you end up with a great-looking finished product.



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