



General material & usage information

SSI proudly presents, Exact Matching Laminate (EML). This program is specifically designed for refacing and refurbishing cabinetry and casework. EML allows for exact matching end panels, face frames and toe kicks by using the same 3DL material that is on the doors & drawer fronts. EML provides the confidence to design with 3DL materials, no more offering “close matches,” now it is exact.

Description of EML products:

EML Phenolic back (PB);

(EML-PB) is comprised of a 3DL laminated to a phenolic sheet. Bonds to surfaces with contact adhesive with proper surface preparation, as with high pressure laminates.

Standard sheet size: 49” x 97” thickness range .030” - .040” (varies based on 3DL selected)

EML Peel & Stick (P&S);

(EML-P&S) is comprised of a 3DL with an adhesive transfer tape backer. Bonding to paint, varnish, and in most cases raw wood, with proper surface preparation.

Standard sheet size: 49” x 97” thickness range .022” - .032” (varies based on 3DL selected)

Surface Preparation:

A clean, smooth surface, free of dirt and peeling paint is required for both EML products. Surface dents (voids) should be filled with a wood putty and sanded smooth.

EML-PB:

Once surface is clean and ready to be laminated, the phenolic backer can be bonded to the cabinet by using common contact adhesives, same as high pressure laminate. Be sure to read and comply with instructions and recommendations provided by the contact adhesive being used.

EML-P&S:

For maximum bond strength the surface should be thoroughly cleaned and dried. Typical cleaning solvents are heptane (for oily surfaces) or isopropyl alcohol for plastic substrates. Use reagent grade solvents since common household materials like rubbing alcohol frequently contain oils to minimize the drying affect on skin. These oils can interfere with the performance of a EML P&S adhesive.

It is necessary to provide pressure during lamination (10-20 pli recommended) and during final part installation (10-15 psi) to allow the adhesive to come into direct contact with the substrate. Using a hard edged plastic tool, which is the full width of the laminated part, helps to provide the necessary pressure at the point of lamination.

Cutting & Trimming EML:

EML-PB:

- Trim Router - keep the router moving, if left running in one position the 3DL will melt
- Utility (razor) knife (may take multiple passes to completely cut through phenolic backer, use a sharp blade with reasonable pressure)

EML P&S:

- Utility (razor) knife

*Note, use of trimming shears or scissors are not suggested cutting tools. Also sharp bending or folding is not suggested, this type of action may result in stress whitening of the 3DL.

General cleaning guidelines:

A clean cotton or microfiber cloth saturated with a mixture of warm water (99%) and a mild, nonabrasive dish washing detergent (1%) can be used to clean 3D laminate (EML) by wiping in vertical movements with light pressure.

Solvent based chemicals will have an adverse affect on 3DL. If solvent based contact adhesive is used to laminate EML PB ensure it does not come in contact with the A-Side of the product. If it does, quickly remove with a clean cloth by dabbing area until removed. Then follow up with a clean, water damped cloth until no visible adhesive remanence remain.

For a detailed list of recommended cleaning agents and procedures please refer to SSI 3DL Care & Cleaning document.

