



*Ultra-tough prefinished real wood veneer laminates*

## **HANDLING & CARE**

### **Storage and handling**

Care should be taken to avoid scratches and cracking of the surface and it is advisable for two people to carry full-sized sheets. Un-laminated Oberflex cannot withstand shock or impact, especially when rolled. Fabricators are cautioned to exercise care in handling Oberflex because the cell structure of the wood can make it brittle. However, after the sheets are bonded to a substrate, they can be handled like ordinary melamine high-pressure laminates.

Best storage temperature and humidity is 18°C to 24°C and 50% to 60% respectively. Avoid storage or use in prolonged temperatures above 40 degrees C. Oberflex should not be stored exposed to bright light, excessive heat or dryness, high-humidity, chemicals, water and other liquids. It should be stored indoors, horizontal, preferably face-to-face/back-to-back, flat and evenly supported (maximum distance between bearers of 600mm) in a dry place out of sunlight and wind. Bearers should be lined up and it should not be stored in contact with the floor or exterior walls. The top sheet of laminate or laminate on substrate should be turned face down and a cover sheet placed on top.

The surface of Oberflex should be kept free of water, dirt, sand, adhesives and oil. It is especially important that chips of wood or other material do not get between sheets of laminate when it is in a pack, as this can permanently indent the surface. Because it is made of components that include wood, changes in humidity may cause Oberflex to expand (increased humidity) or contract (decreased humidity), and it is more sensitive to warping than ordinary melamine laminates.

### **Transport**

When transporting Oberflex, care must be taken to keep it dry, protected from air/wind and clean from road dirt and dust. The bearers of crates on trucks should be lined up, as best possible. Oberflex can be rolled along the grain, to various radii depending on type and thickness. (Please refer to the Oberflex Fabrication download for information on bending radii). It can then be transported or stored in a sturdy cardboard cylinder for short periods of time, but not for any period beyond a week or so. Care must be taken when unrolling laminate because it is under pressure, and may spring open and injure someone, or may split.

### **Care**

Oberflex may change colour over time, especially with exposure to direct or indirect natural and artificial light and UV, just as timber and dyed products may change colour on such exposure. Use in areas exposed to prolonged direct sunlight will accelerate colour change and should be avoided. To minimise colour change, put UV-films and blinds/curtains on all windows, especially north facing and/or large windows and/or windows facing large areas of water.

Oberflex should be cleaned with a soft dry cloth or a damp cloth and mild detergent only. Alcohol and mild house-hold cleaners like Ajax "Spray and Wipe" can also be used but should be wiped off with a damp cloth. Do not clean using abrasive pads such as steel wool, plastic scourers or sand-paper. Abrasive or chemical cleaners, solvents, bleach, acid or alkali cleaning fluids should not be used. If such products are spilt on the surface, they should be cleaned off immediately. Wipe up all water and other spills off the surface as these may stain. It is especially important to wipe off spills or marks of coloured materials, such as lipstick, dark juices, red wine etc.

Do not slide hard materials such as crockery across Oberflex, nor drop objects onto it, nor use sharp blades or knives to cut directly onto Innato – these will scratch, dent or chip the surface. Do not place hot dishes from the oven or stove on Oberflex surfaces, this can cause discolouration and/or delamination. Deeply brushed or ridged Oberflex may be hard to clean.

*As it is not possible to cover all associated manufacturing materials, conditions and cleaning products/methods, the end-user is responsible for carrying out the necessary tests and trials to check that the laminate, fabrication methods, associated materials and cleaning products/methods are suitable.*