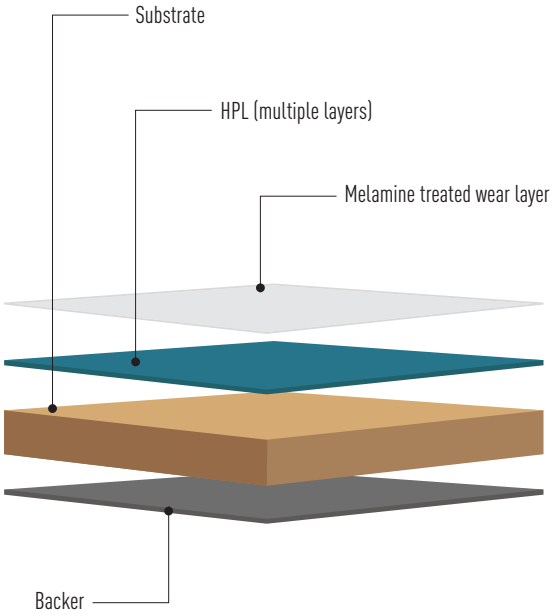
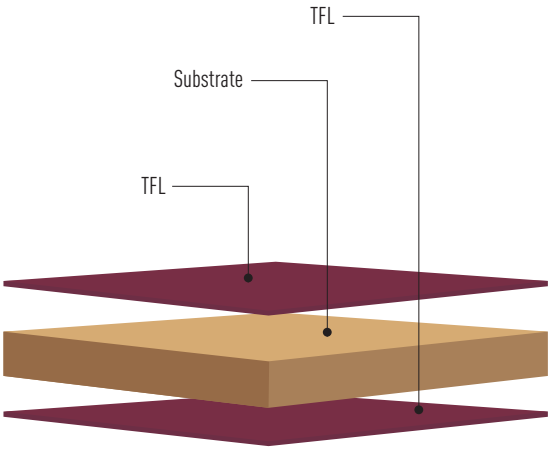
Understanding the differences between TFL and HPL surfaces

HIGH PRESSURE LAMINATE (HPL)

- Printed, decorative paper is fused to multiple sheets of melamine resin saturated kraft paper to create the HPL paper. Then, all sheets are bonded together with heat in a thermosetting process.
- During this bonding process, usually a neutral-colored backer sheet (usually brown or black) is bonded to the other side of the board substrate to create a balanced construction.
- HPL comes in multiple grades. Common grades include vertical- and horizontal-grade material.
- The result is a a flexible, durable piece of plastic-like material, which is adhered to a core substrate material (i.e. particleboard) using a variety of adhesives. HPL can bend around curved surfaces.
- HPL is durable, low maintenance solution that is heat, moisture, stain and abrasion resistant.
- HPL is available in a wide variety of finishes and textures.
- If desiring a custom aesthetic, HPL is available in a broader range of colors and textures than TFL.





THERMAL FUSED LAMINATE (TFL)

- Printed, decorative paper is fused directly to the core substrate material (particle board). If a texture is desired (i.e. wood graining), this is pressed into the TFL during the fusing process.
- The TFL material is applied on both sides of the core material to create a balanced construction and color consistency.
- Like HPL, TFL is durable and low maintenance. It is also heat, moisture, stain and abrasion resistant, but it performs slightly below HPL when tested in a high impact setting. Because it is fused directly to the core board, it is actually more peel resistant than HPL.
- TFL is available in a variety of finishes and textures. Because the decorative papers are the same for HPL and TFL, color matches between the two materials can be obtained.