



Guide to Pearlescence® and Oyster Shield High- Wear Protection™

For years, cosmetic companies have incorporated eye-catching, subtle sparkles in their products to capture attention. Taking cues from the cosmetics industry, Lamin-Art® first employed pearlized inks to create decorative laminates in 1984. Unlike standard solid color or patterned decorative laminates, Pearlescence® products are fluid, full of movement and pulsing with rhythmic vitality. Pearlized products refract light, making surfaces appear more expressive while adding visual depth. With their eye-catching luster, Pearlescence products are perfect for a broad range of commercial applications including retail, exhibit displays, hotels, casinos, restaurants and institutional designs such as schools and libraries.

■ CREATING PEARLESCENCE®

Pearlescence® is achieved in two steps: First, special inks that incorporate pearlized particles are used on the printed decorative paper. Second, a reduced amount of melamine is used in the manufacturing process to allow the inks to reflect and refract light for maximum visual impact. However, since it is the melamine resin that gives high-pressure laminate its wear resistance, Pearlescence products will not meet NEMA standards for abrasion/scratch resistance (the NEMA standard is 400 revolutions on a Taber Abrader; Pearlescence products achieve 100-300 cycles). Therefore, we **DO NOT** recommend specifying Pearlescence laminates for high-wear horizontal applications.

■ WHAT IS OYSTER SHIELD HIGH-WEAR PROTECTION™?

Oyster Shield High-Wear Protection™ is a manufacturing process exclusive to Lamin-Art® that increases the surface wear resistance of our Pearlescence® laminates when specified in either Textured or Velva-Tex finish. **Oyster Shield High-Wear Protection™** increases the amount of melamine resin, without sacrificing the luster and beauty of Pearlescence®. The added impact and scratch resistance provided by Oyster Shield High-Wear Protection makes Pearlescence products suitable for both horizontal and vertical surfaces, regardless of the amount of anticipated wear.

■ SPECIFYING PEARLESCENCE® WITH OYSTER SHIELD HIGH-WEAR PROTECTION™

When planning to specify a Pearlescence® product for a high-wear horizontal surface (i.e. a restaurant workstation, retail check-out, office furniture, etc.), we recommend specifying Textured or Velva-Tex finish with **Oyster Shield High-Wear Protection™**. Look for the **O** on our Stock List or online at www.laminart.com to identify items where the Oyster Shield option is available. On specification documents, please indicate the Oyster Shield High-Wear Protection option by adding “-OS” after the pattern number and finish code (ex: 2101-T-OS Silver Leaf). There is no additional upcharge or minimum order requirements for Oyster Shield High-Wear Protection.

■ DESIGN TIPS

Oyster Shield High-Wear Protection™ is designed to add versatility to Lamin-Art® Pearlescence® products. For HPL applications that call for both a vertical and horizontal surface, we recommend specifying standard Pearlescence for the vertical construction and either a matching or a coordinating Pearlescence pattern in Textured or Velva-Tex finish with Oyster Shield High-Wear Protection for the horizontal working surface. This allows you to maximize the visual impact of your design while providing the durability that will be required for the real world application. For designs with even more visual interest, we offer a wide range of finish options in our Pearlescence Solid Colors collection. For example, if your design calls for a metallic look, specify your favorite Pearlescence color in our exclusive Chrysalis® finish for the vertical surface and in Textured finish with Oyster Shield High-Wear Protection for the horizontal. See all of these unique Pearlescence finish options at www.laminart.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OYSTER SHIELD HIGH-WEAR PROTECTION™, PEARLESCENCE®, OR ANY OF OUR PREMIUM HIGH-PRESSURE DECORATIVE LAMINATES, PLEASE CONTACT OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPARTMENT AT 1.800.323.7624 OR VISIT WWW.LAMINART.COM