TEKNOMEK

Choose your laboratory cabinet and work surface materials

When choosing the correct furniture for your laboratory environment, it's important to ensure that the materials chosen can safely withstand the cleaning regimes required for your industry. Teknomek offer a range of materials for cabinetry and worktops as part of the lab furniture range including Melamine faced MDF, Sealwise & Trespa. We explore the benefits of these materials below to aid your next purchase.

Trespa

Using a water-resistant, high-pressure laminate, Trespa offers a durable range of hygienic furniture that is also suitable for heavy-duty applications with high resistance to impact, scratches and wear. We offer our Trespa furniture with the choice of TopLab Base or TopLab Plus depending on your need for chemical resistance.

TopLab Base

Providing a robust performance for general laboratory use, TopLab Base offers the same high resistance to impact, wear and moisture of the[ML1.1] other materials in the Trespa TopLab range but with less chemical resistance. In environments handling aggressive chemicals or which undergo frequent disinfection, TopLab Plus may be more suitable.

TopLab Plus

The Trespa TopLab Plus is used predominantly for work surfaces rather than for complete cabinetry due to the reverse being plain black. Its benefit over the TopLab Base is its antistatic properties and anti-microbial protection with proven reduction of 99.99% of bacteria after 24 hours. It has high chemical resistance to withstand corrosive substances and aggressive disinfectants as part of the clean down process.

This durable material can safely withstand temperatures of up to 180°C thanks to its fire-retardant nature, resisting ignition and retaining stability without melting or dripping.

MDF

For dry environments, melamine-faced MDF can provide a practical, cost-effective solution for low-risk lab areas. The decorative melamine surface is bonded to an MDF core for a clean & professional appearance.

It's important to note that MDF is not waterproof. Prolonged moisture exposure could cause swelling, however the risk of moisture is greatly reduced as all exposed edges are edge banded with a PVC or ABS 2mm edge banding. Care would also need to be taken when cleaning MDF furniture as it offers limited chemical resistance compared to Sealwise and Trespa alternatives.

Sealwise

The Sealwise range is ideal for labs due to its 100% waterproof composition and antibacterial Sealwise Protect Silver Ion coating on each sheet of Waterproof Construction Board (WCB). Sealwise remove hidden dirt traps for an easy clean down process by using a patented W14 joining system to chemically weld the WCB boards together for a long lasting and sturdy seal.

Putting a focus on sustainability, they use 100% recycled materials to create the core but opt for a non-porous, 100% virgin material on the outer surface so that the product not only uses recycled materials but is also recyclable itself.

HERE TO HELP...

Call our team of experts for advice.

Call us on +44 (0)1603 788 833

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A quick comparison

Criteria	Melamine-faced MDF	Sealwise WCB	Trespa TopLab Base	Trespa TopLab Plus
Closed surface (easy to wipe)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Waterproof	No (core sensitive)	Yes	No (highly water resistant)	No (highly water resistant)
Resists aggressive chemicals and disinfectants	Limited	Good	Good	Withstands intensive cleaning and aggressive chemicals
Impact and wear resistance	Limited	Yes	Yes	Yes
Suitable for frequent cleaning	Limited	Yes	Yes	Yes
Best-fit environments	Dry areas, light duty labs	Wet areas, hygiene-critical zones	Education, general labs	Harsh labs, high disinfection

Selection guide: choosing the right material

Use the questions below to select the lowest-risk option for each zone of your lab.

1) What chemicals and disinfectants are used, and how often?

• Light cleaning and low-risk chemicals: melamine-faced MDF can be appropriate in dry zones.
• Regular cleaning with stronger agents: consider Trespa TopLab Base.
• Aggressive chemicals / frequent disinfection: Trespa TopLab Plus is usually the safer choice.

2) Is the area routinely wet-cleaned or exposed to water?

• Around sinks, wash-down benches and wet rooms: prioritise waterproof construction and sealed joints (often Sealwise WCB).
• Trespa TopLab Base & TopLab Plus are also suitable as long as there is no continuous standing water on horizontal surfaces and that any water is wiped away after cleaning.

3) What is the consequence of surface damage or contamination?

• If cross-contamination risk is high, choose surfaces with robust hygiene performance and minimal dirt traps.
• In teaching or low-risk areas, durability and cost may be the main drivers.