

# Thermo-laminated Profile Doors and Panels

## Care and Maintenance Guide

To ensure the appearance of your SmartStyle thermo-laminated product is maintained to the highest standard, please follow these simple instructions.

**Important Note: This guide is to be reviewed in conjunction with the warranty and should be reviewed by both installer and the consumer. Failure to follow any of these instructions may void your warranty.**

General notes and considerations:

- All satin, matt, supermatt, and gloss doors are covered by protective film. Remove slowly and ensure protective film is removed within 2 months of door manufacture.
- Darker colours will show superficial wear and tear more readily than lighter coloured surfaces and require more care and maintenance.

All SmartStyle thermo- laminated products are manufactured from the highest quality materials and designed to provide years of trouble-free service.

Whilst products are made from a highly Moisture Resistant Medium Density Fibreboard (MRMDF), as with any wood-based panel product it cannot be made totally waterproof. Care should be taken to wipe up spills immediately, ensuring the doors are not exposed to high or continuous levels of moisture, steam, and humidity.

### Light Stains

Wipe down using a damp cloth containing warm soapy water. Dry using a soft cloth so as not to leave any moisture behind.

### Stubborn Stains

While most stains should be able to be removed with warm soapy water, more stubborn stains may require the use of a mild household cleaning spray. Always ensure you refer to the recommendations provided by the cleaning product manufacturer before use.

To ensure that your Warranty will not be void, DO NOT use any of the following on doors:

Abrasive Cleaners (e.g. Ajax, Jif, etc) scouring pads or abrasive papers, solvents, thinners, turpentine (turps), ammonia, bleach, acetone, Windex, and any other cleaning agents containing organic solvents or the above-mentioned products.

## **Pre-installation, Storage and Maintenance**

Care should be taken to avoid leaning or standing large doors or panels against anything, as this can cause bowing. Please ensure that panels and larger doors are stored flat. When stacking doors, they are to be stacked face to face with a protective layer between. If a protective film is present, then this will be enough. If there is no film on the door/panel, then a suitable non-abrasive alternative should be used. Care should be taken not to slide doors while hinging as this could scratch the face. The protective film supplied on some SmartStyle products should not be removed until installation is complete to reduce the chances of damage. Avoid contact with sharp items and objects.

## **Design**

All designs must comply with all current minimum standards for clearances and other regulatory requirements. This includes compliance with the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB), National Construction Code (NCC), all relevant Australian Standards (AS/NZ standards) and any other local, state or national authorities. Where there is a discrepancy between any relevant authority and an appliance manufacturer's warranty in relation to requirements, the stricter guideline should be followed. Areas where products will be used should be designed so that they are not exposed to steam, direct heat, or prolonged high humidity. When designing a kitchen, care should be taken so that items are not positioned close to appliances that give off heat and/or steam (ie; cooktops, kettles, toasters, and other benchtop appliances). Failure to design within the required statutory guidelines will result in the warranty being void, if the door or panel that is being claimed is within a non-compliant space/zone, or is impacted through misuse from any non-compliant design.

## **Installation**

Many ovens do not have a fitted 'baffle' surrounding the oven door. This can result in excessive heat being convected to the surrounding cabinetry and doors/panels. SmartStyle thermo-laminated products are manufactured to withstand a temperature of 70 degrees Celsius for 4 hours. When ovens convect heat greater than this, can reactivate the glue and cause the face material to shrink back or peel away from the MDF substrate. Failure to install heat deflectors when and where required will void the warranty.

Thermo-laminated doors and panels should not be cut, drilled, or routed through the vinyl face. If this does occur, the warranty will be void.

## Cooktops and Rangehoods

Products should not be installed in proximity less than 650mm above or within 350mm of any side of a cooktop heat source. A minimum 900mm ducted rangehood exhaust should also be installed for cooktops up to 900mm wide. For cooking surfaces larger than 900mm rangehoods must cover the full width and depth of cooktop surface/s when used. Rangehoods should be ducted (recirculating rangehoods are not recommended), and the use of front venting or undermount (concealed) rangehoods will void the warranty. Rangehood installation must comply with Australian Standards AS/NZ 43686.1.

Hot plates should not be used without the rangehood exhaust fan being switched on. Retractable rangehoods should also be pulled out to the full extension to avoid heat through the sides and directly onto products.

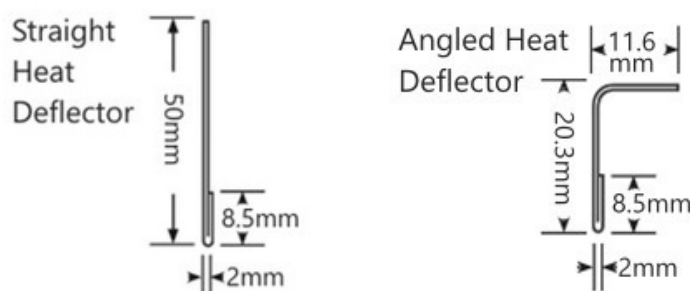
Appliances such as (but not limited to) toasters, electric frying pans and portable electric grills should only be used under an operating rangehood exhaust fan. A cool down period is recommended after use to prevent any heat build-up close to doors and panels. Failure to use the rangehood or follow any of the above guidelines will void the warranty.

## Heat Deflectors

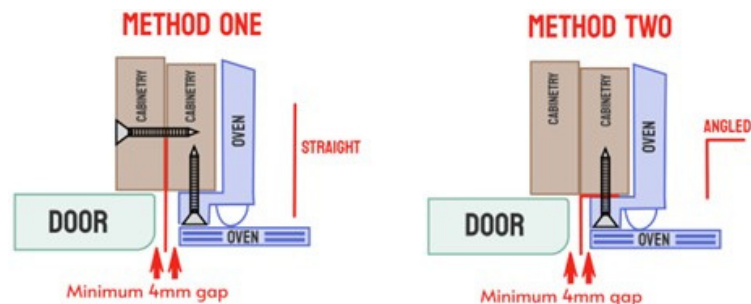
Many flush mounted ovens and dishwashers as well as integrated appliances don't deflect heat or moisture away from surrounding surfaces. Stainless Steel heat deflectors should be used where such appliances are alongside vinyl doors and panels. Failure to install heat deflectors when and where required will void the warranty.

### Approved Heat Deflector styles

The below images represent the 2 styles of heat deflectors approved for use with SmartStyle doors and panels regardless of where these are sourced from. These are the minimum requirements that each type of heat deflector must comply with to ensure warranty is not voided.



The below images show the installation options for both styles of heat deflectors. Heat deflectors must sit out further than the adjacent panel and the heat source.



### Tips - Overview

Please note that these tips do not override any warranty conditions outlined within this guide, or the warranty documents relating to SmartStyle products. These are merely suggested ideas to assist in maintaining the longevity of the product in situations where there may be the need to modify or adjust products or install them in a manner that is not within the warranty guidelines. Use of these tips does not automatically constitute compliance to the SmartStyle warranty and does not exempt the designer or installer from the need to work within the warranty and statutory guidelines.

### Tips – Cutting Vinyl Panels

Cutting and drilling of vinyl doors and panels is not covered under warranty. However, there are some instances where panels may need to be adjusted. These suggestions may help to reduce issues later.

- Use a fine/ultra finish specialty blade.
- 60 Teeth blade minimum for hand-held circular saws.
- 90 Teeth blade minimum for larger table/mitre saws (254-305mm).
- 'Mask up' cut area on both face and back surfaces.
- Cut panel with blade cutting into face surface first, so that any possible 'blow-outs' occur on rear of panel.
- Cut edge must be 'resealed' with a clear setting adhesive (PVA, contact adhesive etc).
- Adhesive should be allowed to cure or dry.
- Cut edge should be butted to a flat surface and silicone applied to cover/hide the cut edge.
- Cut along one edge only.
- Same/similar rules apply for cutting holes.
- Very sharp hole saw, single hole taped and cut from the front/face.
- But... you need to make sure the raw edge of the hole is thoroughly coated and 're-sealed'.

## Tips – Humidity and Steam

- General industry guidelines suggest that most kitchens sit around 45-55% humidity most of the time.
- It also suggests that any kitchen/space that consistently achieves extended periods of time at 80% humidity or above may not be suitable for vinyl doors and panels.
- Humidity attacks the edge not the surface, so the vulnerable part is the back edge of the door/panel.
- Steam is concentrated and super-heated humidity.
- Because of this it can create problems if doors/panels are exposed consistently at the same location.
- Kettles, pressure cookers, boiling pots and other countertop appliances can all potentially cause issues with the underside of overhead doors if doors are too close to the heat source.
- While the use of front venting rangehoods is not covered within the warranty, the use of a heat deflector between the vents and the underside of the rangehood cabinet doors may help to reduce damage the doors by deflecting heat from the vents away from the edge of the door.
- In theory, dishwashers have the potential to cause the same sorts of issues as kettles etc.
- While the use of heat deflectors is required for warranty compliance, running a full depth panel down each side of dishwasher (with the face of the panel facing the dishwasher) helps reduce the risk of damage.