

The logo consists of the lowercase letters "mip." in a bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid tan-colored circle.

mip.

Formica **vs** Forbo

What's the difference?

Formica Characteristics

- Longevity- Formica Laminates are resistant to chemicals, water, scratches, and heat. Meaning this material can withstand a considerable amount of wear and tear while maintaining its condition.
- The laminates have a matte finish. Due to the resin material, these surfaces have a slight shine / reflection in comparison to Forbo linoleum.
- Does not colour fade.
- Does not scuff / mark.
- Hard surface to the touch.
- Available in a wide variety of colours, patterns, and wood effects.
- Light weight with good strength.
- Heat resistance – 130°C

Formica Sustainability

- As of 2020, Formica have switched to 100% renewable energy.
- The panels are a combination of renewable materials (wood fibre) and resin- the renewable materials constitute.
- The primary material used to make Formica laminates is naturally occurring, responsibly sourced paper. – which is then treated with resin.
- The company has set carbon reduction targets to cut emissions by 25- 50% by 2026.

Forbo Characteristics

- Soft to the touch
- Malleable
- Anti-static
- Matte Finish
- Available in 21 colours
- Hard-wearing and robust. (More prone to marks and scuffs than Formica due to its malleable nature).
- Tactile
- Resistant to diluted acids, oils, fats, and conventional solvents. (Not resistant to prolonged exposure to alkalis)
- Allergy approved
- Phthalate free
- Antibacterial
- Heat resistance - 70°C
- Bacteriostatic properties. Forbo has conducted independent tests of their marmoleum products to prove that it inhibits bacteria such as MRSA and norovirus

Forbo Sustainability

- All-natural composition
- Forbo's furniture linoleum is manufactured using 100% renewable electricity.
- Forbo contains 28% recycled material by weight.
- It is biodegradable in a controlled environment.
- Net 0 carbon emissions from the extraction of raw materials.
- 2.5mm of every square meter produced relieves the environment of 446 grams of carbon dioxide.
- After marmoleum's long life it can be incarcerated or landfill – this process reclaims more energy than is used in its production.
- Marmoleum contains 72% rapidly renewable materials. I.e., they can be harvested within 10 years of planting.

The Conclusion

When comparing Formica laminates with Forbo Linoleum, there is not a great deal of difference in material performance. Both materials are extremely robust and can withstand the test of time. Neither material is prone to colour staining, scratching, or marking so are equally sensible choices for your furniture covering. This being said, the all-natural properties of Forbo linoleum create a more malleable material, this has the benefits of being softer to the touch and more tactile but is more likely to mark / indent. Formica is harder and slightly more reflective, though they both have a matte finish.

Forbo is a heavier material than Formica, so this is something to consider if your design has a weight restriction. Forbo is also thicker (Forbo linoleum will add a 2.5mm thickness to your piece, Formica laminate adds 1.5mm).

Generally, Forbo linoleum is used only for desktops due to its softer matte finish, and Formica is used in everything else such as bookshelves and wardrobes. However, Formica laminates are also a proven solution for desktops due to their low maintenance, longevity, and wider options of colours.

For kitchen use, we advise the use of Formica because it has a high heat resistance and is easy to maintain within a kitchen setting.

One more thing

[Click here to view the Formica colours we offer](#)

(Formica themselves offer more than you'll see on our website, so you're welcome to check out their UK site for more options)

[Click here to view the Forbo colours we offer](#)

If you'd like to touch the options, you're welcome to order free samples [here](#).

We hope this guide was useful. Please do not hesitate to [get in touch](#) should have any questions or require a quote and we'll be happy to help.