

Laminate – Another Way To Protect Your Label

In the last issue of *Sticky Notes* we discussed varnish as a way to protect a label. In this issue we are going to review the other common method of protecting a label – laminate.

Laminates are the best way to provide scuff or scratch resistance to the face of the label. The most commonly used laminate is a thin (less than 1mil) polypropylene film. This is very similar to the clear packing tape used on most shipping cartons.

Applying a laminate to a paper label will provide some moisture resistance (the paper around the edges of the label can still absorb some moisture). Laminates applied to film stocks provide the best in moisture and / or chemical resistance since film stocks don't absorb moisture.

Specialty laminates can be used on applications that require UL approval, thermal transfer printing on the laminate or extra thickness.

Unlike varnishes that are printed onto the face of the label like ink, laminates are applied to the label after it has been printed and before it is die cut. Due to this they must cover the entire face of the label.