

Deconstructing the Activity Table.

Manufacturing processes have come a long way in the last 30 years in the school furniture industry. So, what's a school district to look for to make sure they're getting a student desktop that will last many years? Student desktops consist of four seemingly basic things. Each component has to live up to the very specific demands of the learning environment.

There are two main laminate products used in the school furniture industry; High Pressure Laminates (HPL) and Melamine.

High Pressure Laminates are created using significant heat and pressure to adhere core substrates together, creating a more durable and quality work surface.

Melamine is a product created at low temperature and pressure. It does not contain a kraft paper core and is thus less resistant to impact damage and wear. Melamine is typically used in a low traffic/wear application (partitions or shelving units).

We use only High Pressure Laminates in our products.

Next, all edges are not created equal. Smith System edge banding is inserted into a groove in the particle board around the edge of a student desk. This is where the term "T-mold" comes from. Our T-mold edges are stapled into place every

6-8 in. and we use 4mm and 3/8 in. bumper edges.

A non-adhered 1/8 in. edge will not hold up to today's demanding classrooms.

Last, **the substrate used to create the table is of utmost importance.**

We use 45 lb. density particle board from regions of the United States that meet strict California Air Resource Board specifications (CARB2). Our entire line is UL Greenguard Gold certified.

What environmental certifications does the furniture carry?

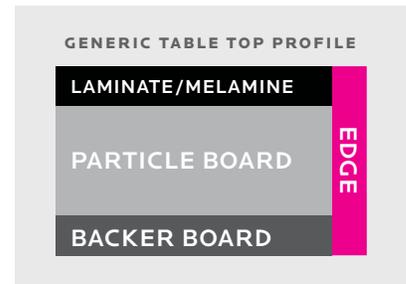
"Is this melamine or HPL?"

"Where was the substrate sourced?"

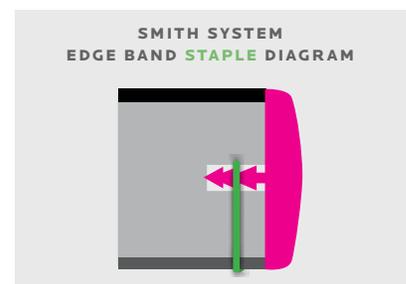
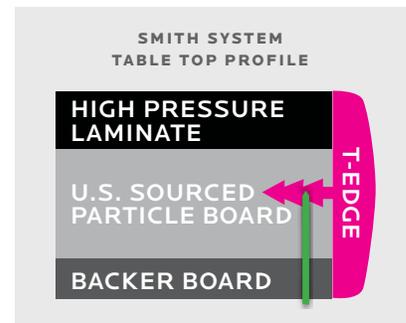
"How is the edge band affixed to the desktop?"

CONSIDER ITS WARRANTY.

When choosing new furnishings for your educational environment, check the warranty. Many manufacturers offer a one year limited warranty. Because we know our product will stand up to today's classroom, we offer a lifetime warranty on frame and legs and a 12 year warranty on tables and desk tops. A school district that invests in quality, should expect a warranty that reflects confidence in the product line from the manufacturer.



For the most part, activity tables are made the same way, it is the materials that create a lasting piece of furniture. Ask questions about how the top is constructed. A quality manufacturer of school furniture will know their stuff!



EDGE BAND STAPLED INTO PLACE?

Make sure the edge band on your activity table is stapled into place. Without staples, or some way of attaching the edge to the desktop, students can pull the edge band out very easily. Our desks and tables have edge band that is stapled every 6-8 inches.