



# All thermofoil components are not created equal.

# 6 Things to Consider When Choosing a Thermofoil Components Supplier

3D Lamination (thermofoil) has always been a popular method of laminating surfaces for healthcare, residential, commercial, store outfitters, property developers, custom millworkers, as well as kitchen, bath and closet specialists. When they are looking for a healthcare quality finish for their panels and components, they should look for the best. Since the 1980s, when thermofoil products were in their infancy and still prone to heat damage and discolouration, great strides have been made to improve the durability of the finish. Yet, all thermofoil products are still not created equal.



# Here are 6 factors to take into account when selecting a thermofoil component supplier:

## **Quality** of the Substrate

Thermofoil panels and components are made by laminating a semi-rigid membrane made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC) to a medium-density fiberboard (MDF) core. The thickness and quality of the MDF core are important to maximize bonding, prevent twisting and warping of the finished panel or component. A good thermofoil supplier should be able to deliver cores that meet these criteria and have panels that do not have any joints or miters that might separate or split after the bonding process.

### 2 Variety in Core Designs

One of the biggest advantages of working with quality thermofoil products is the variety of designs, patterns and profiles available that can be laminated. They should have an extensive selection of door/panel profiles and designs and a wide range of molded and manufactured components suitable for thermofoiling.

### 3 Strength in The Bonding Process

The heat and pressure process that is used to bond the laminate to the MDF core is also very important. To ensure a durable and sturdy finish, the vacuum/pressure process used to bond the laminate to the MDF core should be carefully applied and controlled by experts. The length of pressing time and the amount of heat used to create the bond between the laminate and substrate are critical to ensure the result is a strong three- or two-dimensional finish that will not delaminate, chip or peel.



## Diversity in Colours

A first-rate thermofoil components manufacturer should have an extensive colour swatch, from a spectrum of traditional whites to neutral calming colours to the boldest of bright reds. Choices should include metallics and imitation wood grains to match your decor. Finishes offered should come in a range of textures, from ultra-high gloss to silky smooth to muted matte finishes and a wide selection of textures, patterns and designs, all made with the highest quality material.

## 5 **Durability** of the Thermofoil Finish

The durability of a quality thermofoil door, panel or component can be broken down into several categories:

#### **Resistance to Abrasion**

A good thermofoil should be low-maintenance and be able to withstand regular cleaning with suitable soaps and cloths, without affecting the colour or lustre of the thermofoil finish.

#### **Resistance to Humidity**

Care should be taken when using thermofoil components near sinks and dishwashers, as they are not waterproof. But a high-quality product will be resistant to moisture, cracking, discolouration and fading, even in humid conditions.

#### **Resistance to Heat**

As the name implies, thermofoil products are susceptible to heat. Although a good foil will fare better under hot conditions, care should always be taken when installing thermofoil components near stoves or other high heat sources. However, very high quality thermofoil components are bonded to achieve higher heat resistance.

#### Resistance to Staining

Quality thermofoil surfaces are more resistant to staining. But even the best products will discolour after extended exposure to tobacco smoke, or other acrid gases and liquids. High-end foiled products will maintain their lustre longer.



### Price

As illustrated above, there are many factors that dictate the price of a quality thermofoil product, and with so many variations in shapes, sizes, styles and colours it is virtually impossible to create a cookie-cutter price list. A reputable, honest and expert supplier/manufacturer should work with you to develop a solution and supply you with a detailed and fair quotation to meet your needs.

DAGIGA is a 10-year-old company, proudly Canadian, with a team that has over 30 years of experience in designing and manufacturing #1 healthcare grade thermofoil components for residential, commercial and medical markets. We deliver premium quality thermofoil products, without premium pricing, with fast delivery turnarounds and exceptional customer service.

# DAGIGA can help with all your thermofoil product needs.

Contact us now!



**Want to know more about DAGIGA?** Contact our team today at 416-288-8100 x204, or email us at marco.acchione@dagiga.ca.