



# Choosing Your Laboratory Work Surface

Selecting the correct laboratory work surface for your specific application is vital to your workspace's long-term functionality, safety, and efficiency. Laboratory furniture and educational environments demand materials that are durable and resistant to scratches, chemicals, and wear while being easy to clean and maintain.

At APMG, we prioritise quality and performance by offering only the toughest, most reliable materials for our worktops. These include Trespa® TopLab®BASE and TopLab®PLUS ALIGN phenolic resin, Velstone, epoxy resin, hardwood, and stainless steel - each tailored to meet the unique demands of your lab environment.

## Trespa® Phenolic Resin Work Surfaces

Phenolic resin worktops are made by compressing resin-impregnated layers under high pressure and heat, creating a dense, durable, non-porous surface.

Trespa® phenolic resin work surfaces are ideal for demanding laboratory environments. They exhibit excellent resistance to acids, bases, and solvents commonly used in laboratories.



## Trespa® TopLab®PLUS ALIGN

For laboratory applications requiring higher chemical resistance APMG recommends Trespa® PLUS ALIGN. Specifically, this material is suited to university, industrial, and A-Level and GCSE Chemistry labs. It offers superior performance, inherent antibacterial properties, high resistance to a wide range of aggressive chemicals, and high impact and scratch resistance.

Trespa® TopLab® PLUS ALIGN is a more sustainable option that doesn't compromise performance or durability. Its core incorporates up to 83% bio-based carbon content, and the carbon stored surpasses the emissions related to its production.



### Trespa® TopLab® BASE

This heavy-duty surface delivers good chemical resistance and excellent resistance to wear and tear. It is ideal where severe use and frequent cleaning is anticipated. These features make it particularly suitable for schools (except A-level chemistry laboratories) and commercial laboratories which do not use harsh chemicals.

### Cast Epoxy

Cast epoxy worktops are ideal where chemical resistance is the highest priority. Epoxy resin is durable, extremely chemical and stain resistant, and mechanically strong. It is highly resistant to many acids, solvents, and other inert chemicals.

In addition, because it is manufactured to have a seamless surface, it is easily cleaned and decontaminated. Typically, our clients choose epoxy lab worktops with a banded edge to contain spills.



### Velstone

Velstone is a high-end, solid material manufactured using a blend of natural minerals, pigments and polyester resin. It is non-porous, chemically resistant and fire retardant – therefore ideal for lab worktops, particularly where fire-related performance is imperative.

On Velstone surfaces, scratches can be polished out, stains can be removed, and accidental damage is repairable. It has been certified for use in environments where public health & hygiene is paramount.



### Hardwood

Iroko and beech worktops are available. Iroko is a tough, durable wood resistant to acids, solvents, and heat, making it ideal for chemistry and physics labs. Its high oil content gives it natural antibiotic properties, and though more porous than some man-made materials, it harbours fewer microbes even when dirty. Hardwood worktops like iroko can be refurbished easily by sanding and re-treating. APMG recommends Texwood iroko, an eco-friendly, cost-effective option made from smaller wood strips to reduce waste, though traditional panels are also available at a premium price.

### Stainless Steel

Stainless steel worktops are ideal for labs requiring hygienic, durable, and corrosion-resistant surfaces. Their non-porous nature makes them easy to clean and disinfect, perfect for sterile environments like microbiology, pharmaceutical, and healthcare labs. They can also withstand harsh chemicals, heavy equipment, and frequent use, making them suitable for chemical, food testing, and industrial research applications.

For added safety, stainless steel worktops can include bunded surfaces to contain spills and protect the workspace. With an in-house steel fabrication facility, APMG specialises in crafting bespoke worktops, typically from 304 or 316 stainless steel, although other grades are available.



If you need assistance selecting the best material for your project, our expert lab design engineers are on hand to advise.