

DRYLAM

SELECTION ♦ SOLUTIONS ♦ SIMPLICITY



School-Lam:

*The Perfect Blend
of Quality and Value*

www.drylam.com ♦ P: 888-633-1973 ♦ F: 866-473-0534
23220 W 84th Street ♦ Shawnee, KS 66227

School-Lam Laminating Film

Not All School Grade Laminating Films Are Created Equal



In the early days of making laminating film, gauge (or thickness) was the way laminating film was measured. A simple micrometer would tell you the thickness of the product. School grade films measured 1.5 mils in thickness (mils is a measurement in thousands of an inch, so 15/1000 of an inch).

School grade laminating films are a petroleum-based product. There is a base film made of Polyester and a thermally activated adhesive made of Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE). The combination of the two materials creates the total thickness of the film. As petroleum-based materials have become more expensive, manufacturers have come up with ways to reduce the cost of making these school grade laminating films.

LDPE Adhesive Layer
Base Polyester



Enlarged representation of a competitor's dimpled adhesive layer surface showing high points and voids.



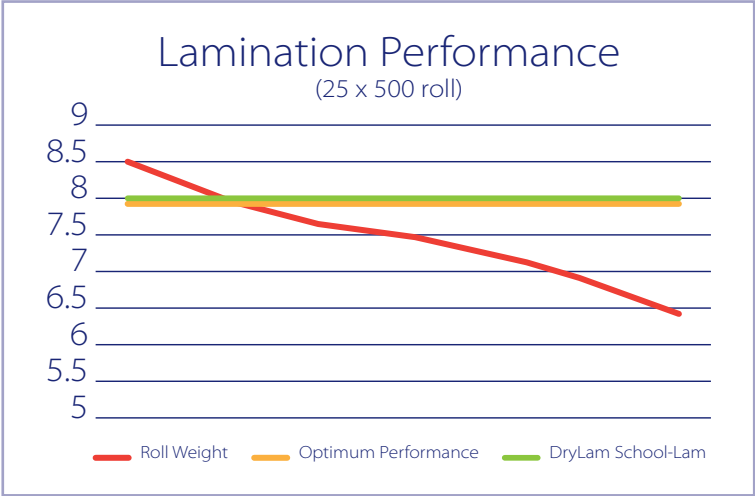
Enlarged Representation of DryLam's School-Lam film. While still matte in appearance so you can identify the adhesive side, the adhesive layer is a fine grain surface with no voids.

First, the spec range for total thickness is very broad: +/- 10%. So a 1.5 mil film actually could be anywhere from 1.35 mils – 1.65 mils. We bet it wouldn't surprise anyone to learn that the films are rarely on the plus side. The minus side has become commonplace. In fact, some manufacturers are making film below the spec range as thin as 1 mil in total thickness.

The other thing that manufacturers have done is learn how to manipulate the gauge thickness but in fact use less base material. They can provide you a film which will measure close to 1.5 mils when measured with a simple micrometer, be in reality there is actually less material used to make that thickness. Here is how they do it:

They manipulate the adhesive layer by using a coarse finish casting drum during the extrusion coating process. The casting drum is what cools the molten curtain of adhesive applied to the film, it also imparts a matte finish so you can tell which side of the film is the adhesive layer. It is this matte finish where they manipulate gauge. Using a coarse finish, they can create pockets, or voids, in the adhesive layer that are less thick than what it takes to create a true 1.5 mil. You can't see these pockets with the naked eye. But because the voids are spread apart, the simple micrometer you use to measure thickness will only hit the high points of the film structure – those points that measure 1.5 mils.

So how can you tell if you are getting a film that has been gauge manipulated? It's simple: weigh the roll. A 25" X 500' roll of school grade film should weigh near 8 lbs. Anything less than 8lbs., you will see performance degraded when you run it on your laminator. It could have less adhesion to your paper materials, or you may see larger air pockets after laminating items that consist of layers (i.e. photos on construction paper, layers of construction paper, etc.). The further under 8 lbs. you get, the worse the performance. We have seen rolls from various manufacturers weighing as little as 6.4 lbs. Many are less than 7.5 lbs. In any case, under 8 lbs. means less performance to a certain degree.



While everyone wants to pay less, there is a point where that bargain price isn't worth the degradation of performance. It will cost you more in lost materials due to poor performance than it would have if you had purchased a better film.

DryLam School-Lam rolls always weigh 8 lbs. or more; in fact that is our stated spec range – 8 lbs. or more. We have been contacted hundreds of times by end users that believe they need a new laminator because it doesn't seal like it used to. Even customers with new laminators are having adhesion problems. The fix in over 90% of these cases has been USING A BETTER FILM. DryLam School-Lam sent to these end users fixed the issue.

The best part is that DryLam School-Lam in some cases may be the same or even a lower price as a competitor's film. DryLam School-Lam is the perfect blend of quality and value.



www.drylam.com ♦ P: 888-633-1973 ♦ F: 866-473-0534
23220 W 84th Street ♦ Shawnee, KS 66227





School-Lam Laminating Film

- ♦ The perfect blend of Quality and Value!
- ♦ Unparalleled clarity and finish
- ♦ Performs beautifully on any desktop heat shoe or hot roller education laminator
- ♦ Melt temperature range of 275-310°F.
3 mil film melt temperature range of 250-275°F

Order Code	Description: SCHOOL-LAM Gloss Lamination Film
SL1251-1	12" x 500' 1" Core - Melt 280°
SL1851-1	18" x 500' 1" Core - Melt 280°
SL2551-1	25" x 500' 1" Core - Melt 280°
SL2751-1	27" x 500' 1" Core - Melt 280°
SL1851-2	18" x 500' 2-¼" Core - Melt 280°
SL2551-2	25" x 500' 2-¼" Core - Melt 280°
SL2751-2	27" x 500' 2-¼" Core - Melt 280°
LG18253-1	18" x 250' 1" Core - Melt 250° - 3.0 MIL
LG25253-1	25" x 250' 1" Core - Melt 250° - 3.0 MIL
LG27253-1	27" x 250' 1" Core - Melt 250° - 3.0 MIL

School-Lam laminating film comes packaged two rolls per box. Each roll is wrapped in a poly bag with end of the roll warning label. Each two roll box contains a threading card.



Distributed by:

www.drylam.com ♦ P: 888-633-1973 ♦ F: 866-473-0534
23220 W 84th Street ♦ Shawnee, KS 66227