



DO I NEED A 65 INCH LAMINATOR?

Find out if a 65 inch laminator is something you should have in your shop.
What laminators are there to choose from? Should it be a hot or cold
laminator? What applications can be handled using a 65 inch laminator?
How much will it cost?

*A Neschen Americas
Value Report*

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Do I Need a 65 Inch Laminator?



In this report, we will attempt to provide you an answer to that very question. Looking at the laminator market, you will no doubt find there are a number of laminator manufacturers as well as types of laminators. Laminators can vary in size from 24 inches to 80 inches and are available in both the hot and cold variety. Choosing the right one for your workflow can be a stressful task. However, with this report in hand, we hope this stress will be eliminated.

Why a 65 Inch Laminator May be Needed

In terms of choosing a laminator greater than 60 inches, we have to ask ourselves, why? Is there really a need for one that wide?

Wide Format Printers

The answer lies in the printer you own. Printers have moved from 36 and 54 inches to today's 60 and 65 inches. The obvious comment is, printers are getting wider. Your laminator has to keep up.



Medias are Getting Wider

Naturally, as printers get wider, so does the media used in them. A quick survey of the internet will result in many media products that are reaching the 60+ inch mark.



Substrates & Laminates are Getting Wider

In addition to print media, rigid substrates are also getting wider as are the laminates to SEAL them. Search Google and you will find more and more rigid substrates that are 60 inches in width. Some sign shops are now producing signs mounted or printed on rigid substrates that are 5' X 10' adding to the need for a 60" plus laminator.

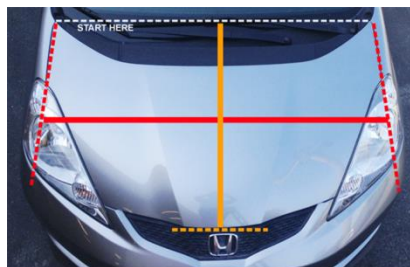
The days of just the once typical 4'x8' sign are being replaced by larger and wider signs using substrates of 5' x 10' or more. Once again, it is my opinion that this is due to the printer getting wider.

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Applications are Getting Wider

Think about the applications you may do in your shop. For instance, in a vehicle wrap, it's best to eliminate as many seams or overlaps as you can, and that calls for wider prints. As you can see here, a seamless hood wrap may require a wider print laminated with a wider laminate. Windows, signs and many more applications are just getting longer and wider.



WIDTH: 55" HEIGHT: 35"

Clearly, if you are considering a laminator purchase, taking a look at a wider laminator may be the right choice. But how do you choose the right one?

The Laminator Market

If you type the word "laminator" in Google you will get about 6,820,000 results. If you type the phrase "help me choose the right laminator" you will get about 142,000 results. In addition, most of those articles deal with smaller laminators, such as those used in an office for laminating badges or other small items. You want to know about a wide format laminator. Searching for answers on Google could take hours or days. It's a good thing you found this report because we've done a lot of searching for you, focused on the wide format market and summarized our findings.

Cold Laminator Market				
Mfg Model	SEAL® 65 EL	LEDCO Econocraft 60	GBC Artic 1064 Wfc	Royal Sovereign RSC-1650C
<i>Specifications:</i>				
Origin	USA	USA	Asia	Asia
Working Width	65"	60"	61"	65"
Max Speed Ft / min	14 fpm	25 fpm	18 fpm	16.4
Nip	1"	1"	1/2"	0.6"
Nip Adjustment	Manual / Variable	Manual Variable	Manual Pre-Sets	Manual Pre-Sets
Construction	Uniframe	Stand	Stand	Stand
Heat/temp	Cold	Cold	Cold	Cold
In-feed table	Flip up	Stationary	Removable	Removable
Film Loading	Auto-grip Shafts		Manual Locks	Manual Locks
Unwind shafts	2	1	2	2
Rewind shafts	1	1	1	1
Roll trough	Option	yes	no	no
Roll to roll	no	no	Basket	Option S440
Foot pedal	yes	yes	yes	yes
Safety Certifications	CE/UL	CE/UL	CE/UL	CE/UL
Warranty Parts / Labor	1yr / 6 mo	1yr / 3 mo	1yr / 90 days	1yr / 6 mo
Additional roll storage	yes	no	yes	no
Lower shelf storage	yes	no	yes	no
Sitting	no	Option	no	Side sitting
Electrical	115V 50-60 Hz	110V 50-60Hz	120V 60Hz	110V 50-60Hz
MSRP	\$7,699.00	\$9,975.00	\$8,395.00	\$7,865.00

Wide Format Laminator Considerations

There are many manufacturers of wide format laminators, but we recommend caution in choosing the right one. Not all manufacturers use ISO Certified manufacturing procedures or high quality parts. Many laminators are not even made in the USA which could lead to spare parts availability and service issues! This table of laminator manufacturers who make a cold laminator near the 65 inch width is presented for your use.

In addition to the above chart, you may find our demo video helpful in understanding the value of the new SEAL 65 EL laminator. Just use this link: [Watch a video demo of the SEAL 65 EL.](#)

Laminator Frame vs. Stand

The SEAL 65 EL uses a uniframe construction while the others use a stand. Unless the stand is built with high quality materials, laminating twisting and instability can occur. This can make it difficult to push heavier substrates through the laminator.

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Nip Height

Nip height is the width between rollers and therefore is the width of the substrate that can pass between the rollers. For a laminator of this size a minimum of 1" is typically required to handle those media that will be mounted. Only the SEAL 65 EL and Leadco laminator meet this specification.

Cold or Hot?

Sure heat can assist you by softening the adhesive and therefore limiting the effect called silvering. But do you have to have this? Not really. Adding heat to a laminator can add hundreds of dollars of expense. For 80-90% of applications a cold laminator would be fine. All of the laminators mentioned above are cold or pressure application only. Hey, I'm not going to hesitate to say, if your budget allows it, go for the heat assist, but most of the time, if you are looking to save a few dollars, width rather than heat may be a better choice.

Film Loading

Loading laminating film can take from a few minutes to several minutes for each change. So loading the media and the film should be simple and fast. SEAL uses a unique "AutoGrip" shaft, which has rubber tubing running the length of the shaft allowing the loading to be easy and fast. Many other laminating manufacturers use a locking mechanism and that means unlocking and changing films can take more time.

Price

Okay, after looking at the features of each laminator you consider, to make sure it meets your application needs, and then look at the price.

"Your laminator of choice should last for years, but when the time comes to move on, what will the resale value be?"

Based on the chart above,

I think you will see that the SEAL 65 EL has both the features and the price and of course they are considered the top of the line in manufacturing quality.

Maintenance Costs & Warranty

Every manmade device may need maintenance. The goal of buying should be to minimize this need and if needed make sure it will be serviced properly. With that in mind, make sure you get a good manufacturer's warranty. Check with other laminator owners about maintenance as well. I am certain you will find that the SEAL laminator lasts for years and the service offered is superior to other makers. In fact, if a laminator is made in Asia, can you expect parts to be readily available in the USA?

Interestingly, SEAL just began offering an additional extended warranty to cover your machine that extends their normal 1 year to 3 years and they will even let you pay monthly if you'd like to keep the cost down. No one else offers such a practice.

Resale Value

Your laminator of choice should last for years, but when the time comes to move on, what will the resale value be? You will find that the SEAL 65 EL will retain a higher value than any other comparable laminator.

Other Useful Links

There are, of course, other articles written about choosing the right laminator. We include some of those links here for your use. No matter your choice of laminator manufacturer, make sure you get the right width. If possible choose a wider width if for no other reason, to accommodate what media you may be using in the future.

[Market Intelligence: Latex Wide Format Graphics Printers Drive Growth](#)

[Wide-Format Aqueous Inkjet Getting Fresh Ink](#)

[Knowledge is Power—and Brings Profits](#)

[Finishing Touches](#)

Final Comments

Okay, you got this report from SEAL and you may be saying, hey they want to just sell me a SEAL laminator. But let me assure you, the information in this report is based not just on the reliability of the SEAL product, but also comments made from dozens of laminator owners who found out the hard way that they should have owned a SEAL from the start! Just ask around and you'll get this sense yourself!



About the Author

Mark Rugen is Manager of Training & Education at Neschen Americas. He has over 25 years of experience in the sign and graphics market. [Neschen Americas](#) is the manufacturer of the SEAL brand of laminators as well as print media and laminates for the wide format graphics market.