

RICHLITE STATEMENT ON MICROPLASTICS

Overview

Richlite Company is committed to transparency and environmental responsibility in the materials we produce. Increasing public concern about microplastics, small synthetic polymer particles that persist in the environment; has prompted extensive scrutiny of consumer and industrial materials. This statement summarizes the findings of independent third-party testing by FILAB S.A.S. (France) and explains why Richlite products do not contribute to microplastic pollution.

Independent Laboratory Testing

In 2025, Richlite commissioned FILAB, an accredited analytical laboratory specializing in nanomaterials and polymer identification, to conduct qualitative and quantitative analyses of potential microplastic release from Richlite cutting board material. The tests followed advanced μ -FTIR (micro-infrared spectroscopy) methods for both unaltered and mechanically abraded samples.

“The number of microplastic particles found in the leachates remains in the same order of magnitude as the number of particles found in the analytical blanks, which already suggests low leaching... No particles from the phenolic resin constituting the cutting board were found after leaching.” FILAB S.A.S., September 2025

FILAB further noted that the few polymeric particles detected were not consistent with Richlite’s own material composition and were likely due to external environmental contamination during handling or analysis.

Material Composition and Behavior

Richlite is a cellulose-based composite, composed of 65% FSC®-certified paper fibers and a thermoset resin that is permanently crosslinked during manufacturing. This cured structure is inert chemically stable, non-thermoplastic, and non-soluble; meaning it does not soften, dissolve, or shed microscopic plastic fragments under heat, water exposure, or mechanical stress. When machined, Richlite generates a fine cellulose-based dust, comparable to that from wood products, rather than synthetic polymer particulates.

Environmental Implications

The FILAB results confirm that Richlite does not measurably release microplastics in use, even when abraded. The resin binder is fully polymerized, and no fragments or synthetic microplastic particles were detected in the leachate solutions. By contrast to thermoplastic plastics, which can fragment and persist, Richlite’s thermoset structure and natural fiber content make it a stable, durable, and low-impact alternative for surfaces and architectural applications.

Summary

Independent analysis verifies that Richlite products are not a source of microplastics. Richlite’s natural fiber composition, thermoset stability, and long service life ensure that its environmental footprint remains minimal across its lifecycle. Richlite remains dedicated to scientific verification, transparency, and sustainability in the design and performance of its products.