Timber worktops

Installation and aftercare guide

INTRODUCTION

Wood is a natural product that can be affected by heat and humidity. It can gain and lose moisture before, during and after installation. For example, wood expands when it is warm or the humidity level is high and contracts during colder periods or when the humidity level drops. When this occurs, it is possible for it to cause bowing or warping.

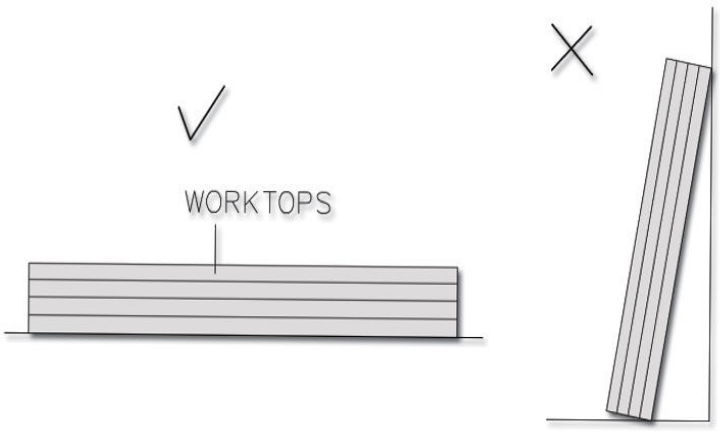
This leaflet is designed to give you all the information you require to install and care for your solid timber worktop, and in order for you to keep it in pristine condition. We suggest you spend a short time reading through this leaflet before you start, as some recommendations are required throughout the installation process.

- **Do not discard any of the packaging until you have checked all the parts.**
- **Please retain these instructions for future reference.**

STORAGE

Installation should be carried out as soon as possible after delivery.
However if storage is necessary, the worktops must be laid flat and fully supported in their original packaging .

Make sure the storage area is indoors, has a stable humidity, and will not be subject to extremes of temperature.



DO NOT UNPACK WORKTOPS UNLESS :

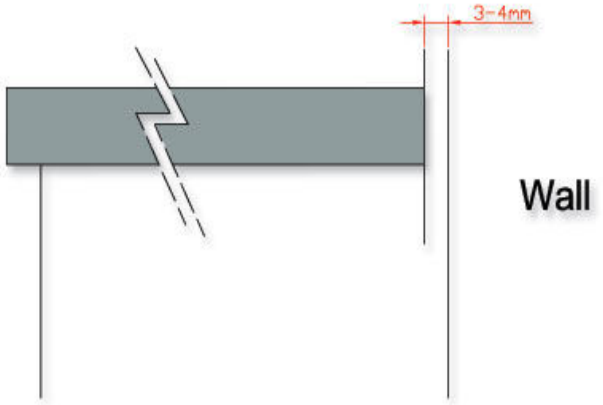
- **The room humidity is stable**
- **All carcases and cabinets are built and fully fitted/complete**
- **All building dust and debris has been cleaned and cleared off site.**
- **All wet trades are finished and a sufficient period of time allowed for natural drying.**
- **Fresh plasterwork has been allowed to dry for a minimum of 6 weeks or until the plaster is dry throughout.**

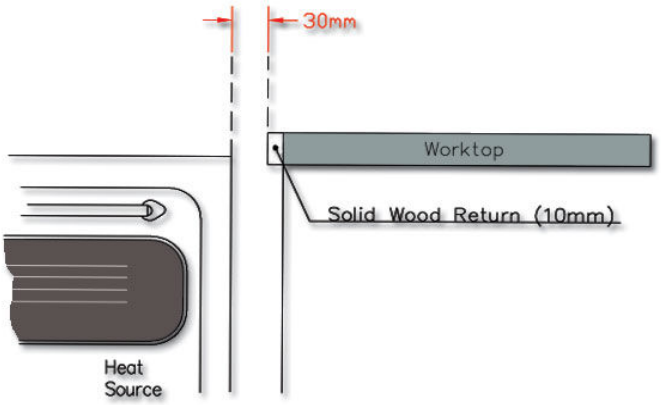
PREPARATION

Prior to installation it is important you oil **ALL** the edges and faces at least twice with Danish Oil. Wipe away any surplus oil 30 minutes after application, and allow between 6 and 8 hours between coats.
NOTE: Cut edges and areas of end grain will soak up more oil and will consequently require extra coats.

INSTALLATION PRECAUTIONS

When positioning the worktop you must allow a 3-4mm gap between the back edge of the worktop and the wall. This will allow the worktop to expand and contract with the humidity of the kitchen without causing damage



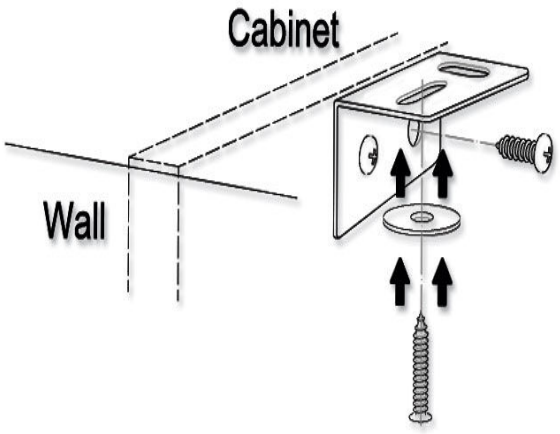


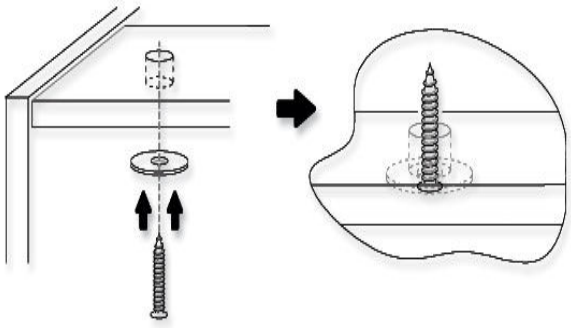
When a worktop is to be fitted near to a constant heat source such as an Aga or Rayburn stove, allow a minimum gap of 40mm, and fit a solid wood return along the worktop edge. This will protect the end grain and help to prevent splitting.

Special care must be taken when fitting a worktop over appliances or exposed brickwork. Appliances such as dishwashers, washing machines and microwaves can produce extremes of heat and humidity. If an appliance is to be installed under the worktop, make sure a moisture barrier is used to protect the underside from any possible heat or moisture. Use the same procedure for installations when you are fixing directly onto exposed brickwork.

FIXING

When fixing worktops to the cabinets you must only use slotted angle brackets. A round head screw must be used to fix the bracket. It is important that the you use the slot that runs at perpendicular to the width (across and not parallel with the grain).
Note: Some cabinets are supplied with brackets that are not slotted and these must not be used.

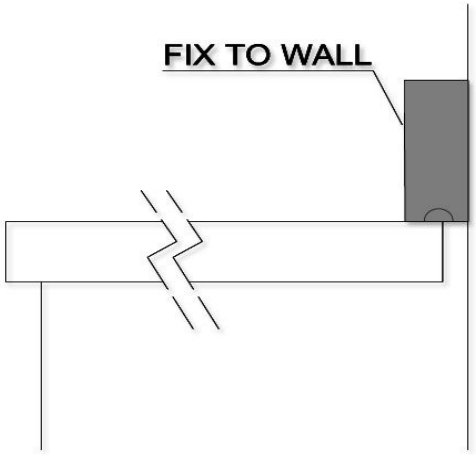




If your cabinets have a solid top or you can only secure through the cross rail you will not be able to fit slotted brackets. In these circumstances you must drill an oversized hole (8-10mm) through the top of the carcass and secure the worktop using a larger washer and screw.
This will allow the work surface to slide over the washer in case of any possible expansion or shrinkage.

IMPORTANT: Do not screw through the carcass directly into the worktop. Do not use fixing blocks to secure . Do not use any worktop fixing methods other than those recommended here

We recommend that worktops are fitted with an upstand where necessary to cover the 4-5mm expansion gap. The upstand must be fixed to the wall and NOT the worktop. The upstand will cover the gap and hide any possible shrinkage that may occur .
NOTE: An upstand is not required where tiling or silicone will cover the expansion gap.



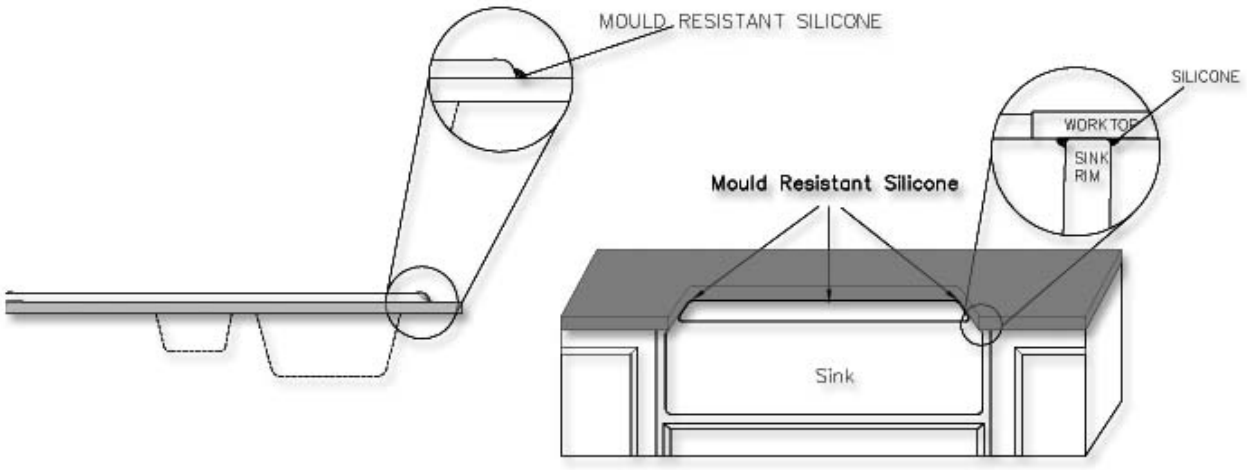
CUTTING & ROUTING WORKTOPS

Where appropriate, use templates supplied with the sink/hob etc. as a guide for cutting your worktop.

IMPORTANT: Before making any cuts into your worktop ensure it is marked correctly.

If **Drainer grooves** are required it is essential that they are machined by an experienced installer/fitter. It is important the grooves are correctly angled towards the sink to allow any water to drain. If water does sit in the grooves, it can cause the worktop to split

We advise that drip grooves are machines into the underside of the worktop where **Belfast sinks** are fitted. When you have fitted a sink to the worktop ,seal the area with an appropriate mould resistant silicone paying special attention to the under-

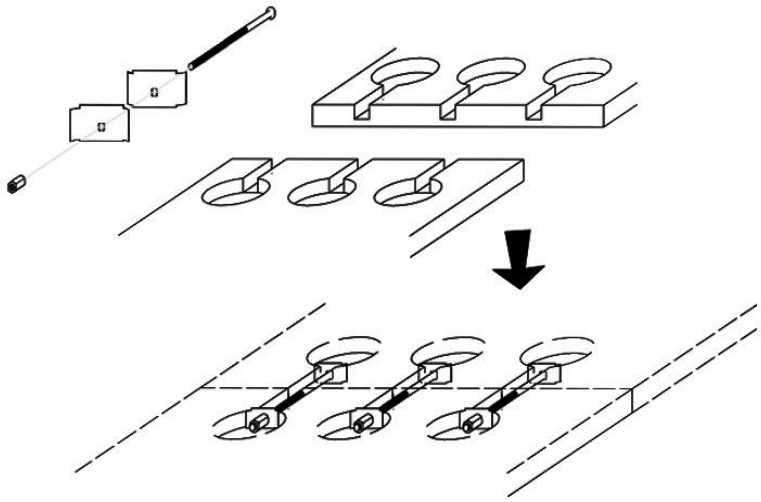


NOTE:For accuracy ,quality and safety, all cut outs should be bench-cut using a jig and suitable router ,never a jig saw. Our staff can advise on a comprehensive range of professional quality worktop jigs.

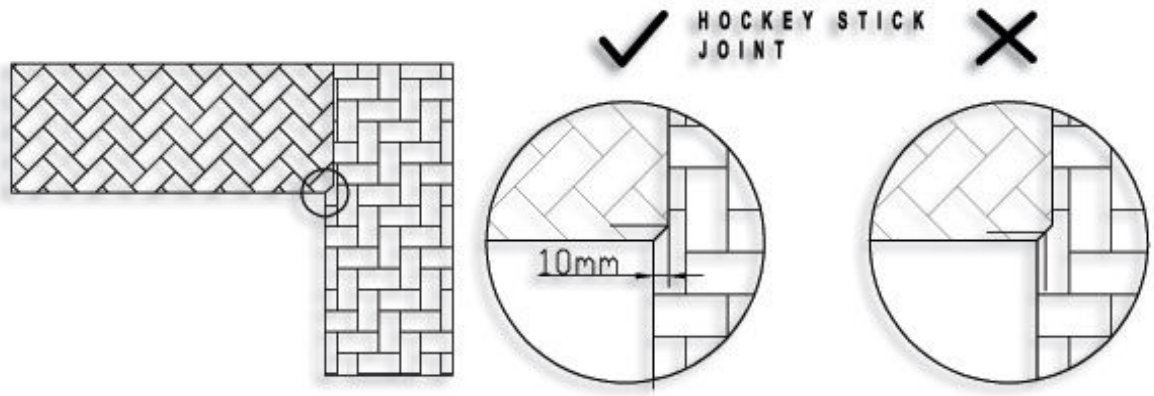
Having made all the cut-outs i.e. for the sink, hob etc., make sure that all cut edges are treated sufficiently and immediately with oil as previously instructed in this leaflet.

Jointing

When joining two worktops together, you should use three standard worktop bolts on each joint. Seal the end grain at both sides of the joint with an appropriate sealer such as MitreSeal before making the joint. Seal the joint with sealer when the parts are finally tightened.



As a rule only Butt joints should be used on wooden worktops. However, if your worktop has a radius and you do have to use a mitre joint, ensure that the "hockey stick" does not over extend the 10mm bull-nose radius.



Finishing

Make sure the wood surface is dry and clean.
The face of the worktop requires 4-5 coats of oil to be applied to build up a barrier against water . Allow up to 6-8 hours between coats.
NOTE: Drying times will vary subject to room temperature.

After fitting and prior to oiling the face, give the worktop a light sand with fine sandpaper , remove all dust then apply the coat of oil to the surface. Spread over the entire area and allow the oil to soak in for 30minutes, always keeping the surface covered with oil. If some areas dry out move the oil about or add more. After 30 minutes wipe of all excess to leave an even touch dry finish . Allow to dry overnight before repeating.

After Care Information

Remember that wood is a natural material and a proper course of oil treatment is essential to ensure a long and trouble free life.

In the first few weeks of use, special care must be taken to prevent the worktops becoming stained before they have built up sufficient oil protection. In particular water must not be allowed to lie on the surface. Any water on the surface should be wiped off immediately with a clean dry cloth.

When the surface has a sheen, and water “beads” or forms into droplets, you can tell that the worktop is in good condition. When the surface is dull and droplets don’t form, you need to re-oil the worktop. Ideally, you should re-oil the surface before it quite gets to that stage.

New worktops will require treating frequently to build up their protection. However, as the protective layer builds up they will gradually require oiling less often. The environment in which it is fitted and the amount of wear and tear a surface receives will effect how often a worktop need oiling. However, we would recommend regular re-oiling at least every three months.