

AFTER INSTALLATION IS COMPLETE:

The pre-oiled work surface is sealed once at the factory with a worktop oil, prior to installation 2 coats of oil are applied top and bottom - 3 coats for sanded work surfaces. During installation all raw cut edges are oiled a minimum of 3 times (up to 5 with a Belfast Sink). On completion of the installation a final coat of oil needs to be applied making 3 in total if your top was pre-oiled and 4 if it was supplied sanded, finally lightly sand as detailed below.

POLISHING & OILING

If you have to repair the worksurface for any reason, you can sand back a section locally and repolish/re-oil with 400 grit sandpaper.

- When pouring the worktop oil onto the worktop, always pour into one position, do not pour the oil over various parts of the worktop as this could cause staining when the oil hits the bare timber.
- Using protective gloves and clean white cloths, spread the oil evenly over the relevant section.
- When you sand the surfaces for a repair / repolish etc, always apply a little worktop oil between the fine sandpaper and the surface. This re-oils and repolishes. If sandpaper is used on it's own without the oil it will sand the surface and leave a lighter mark where the older cured, hardened oiled surface once was.
- Wipe off excess oil and leave to dry before commencing next coat.

UPSTANDS

Where worktops are to be fitted with an upstand, the upstand should always be fixed to the wall and not the worktop. This will ensure that the upstand will cover any possible shrinkage of the worktop that may occur.

CORRECTING BOWING

If a worksurface has bowed, it should be fixed at the back edge and gradually pulled down towards the front using clamps and checked with a straight edge, before fixing in position with brackets and screws.

HOT PANS ETC.

All hot pots and pans should be placed on a heat resistant trivet/surface. Contact with the wooden work surface may result in permanent damage.

CAST IRON PANS

Wet cast iron pans can react with some timber and affect the tannings, leaving black marks. Avoid contact at all times.

CARE & MAINTENANCE

For the first year you should treat the top and accessible edges of the worktop with worktop oil on a monthly basis, not forgetting the underside of areas above a dishwasher door. Failure to do this may result in the worktop warping. When placing hot pots or pans on the worktop a heat protective mat or coaster should be used. In general use the worktop should be kept clean by wiping over with a water dampened cloth. Don't use abrasive cleaners.

USING WORKSURFACE FOR THE FIRST TIME

For daily cleaning we recommend a solution of warm water and a drop of washing up liquid, soak a cloth in the solution, wring out and wipe the worksurface down.

- Don't use concentrated soap/detergent.
- Don't allow surplus water from wet cloths, cups, plates, vases etc. to remain on the worksurface.
- Don't use rough steel wool or rough sandpaper on the surface. If polishing is necessary, please use fine sandpaper min 240 grit or finer.

HEAT

Rather than cause accidental heat damage, it is much better to prevent such damage in the first place:

- Always use a heat protection pad or trivet (with rubber feet) for hot cookware, or leave cookware to cool on the hob first.
- Don't put hot pans, particularly CAST IRON, directly onto your timber worksurface. Such heat can damage any surface!

HOB AND GRILL COOKING METHODS

Modern appliances reach higher temperatures more quickly, often holding heat for longer. To avoid worksurface damage, follow both the appliance manufacturers instructions and these rules:

- Always use the correct size of pan for the burner, placed centrally. An overhanging pan can scorch surrounding surfaces.
Don't use two burners as one (e.g. for a large griddle), it has the same effect.
- To reduce heat, turn the burner down instead of pulling the utensil partially off the heat source.

SCRATCHES

Don't cut or chop on a timber worksurface - it will score the surface! Always use a chopping board.

Handling, Health & Safety

HANDLING DO's & DON'Ts

- DO take note of the weight marked on each product before lifting.
- DO use two people to carry out an installation.
- DO ALWAYS CARRY ON EDGE, ALL WORKTOPS SHOULD BE LIFTED & HANDLED BY AT LEAST 2 PEOPLE.
- DO inspect the route you will carry worktops along and ensure the route you are taking is free from obstacles.
- DO ensure that the surface where the worktop is to be placed is flat and free of any dirt or debris.
- DO NOT CARRY THE MATERIAL FLAT, CARRY IT ON ITS EDGE! Wear heavyduty gloves, and if appropriate, use lifting straps.

SITE DO's & DON'Ts

- DO ensure that wood worktops are clean and free of dust, dirt etc.
- DO keep work area clean and tidy.
- DO work outside on worktops wherever possible, to limit amount of dust inside building.

- DO seal doorways of adjoining rooms when working indoors.
- DO screen off the cutting area with plastic sheeting.
- DO NOT breathe sawdust. Use dust extraction equipment and wear a dust respirator.

HEALTH & SAFETY DO's & DON'Ts

- DO ensure adequate ventilation to enable dust to escape when working indoors.
- DO wear a dust mask when sanding or cutting.
- DO wear ear defenders when working with tools and machinery.
- DO always work to the highest standards of safety.
- DO use the correct tool for the job.
- DO check tools are in good condition before use.
- DO secure work. Use clamps to hold down work piece when practical.
- DO wear safety spectacles when cutting or grinding.

- DO use recommended accessories.
- DO keep children and visitors away from the work area.
- DO NOT use standard tools, use specialist tools as described in the Tools Required section.
- DO NOT force tools.

Disposal of Oiling cloths

- There is a risk that oiling cloths can self ignite (when oxidising)! After use, immerse the cloths in water and then place the soaking wet cloths in a sealed plastic bag in the outside refuse bin. This will avoid the risk of possible self ignition.

REAL WOOD WORKTOP INSTALLATION AND AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS

These instructions cover the installation of wood worktops.

Installing wood worktops should only be undertaken by someone skilled in DIY. If for example you have previously installed a laminate worktop, be aware Installing real wood worktops are different and you should always read these specific real wood worktop instructions thoroughly. Please read these instructions thoroughly before commencing installation.

Ensure that you read, understand and follow the Health & Safety Guidelines carefully.

The customer should contact their branch of purchase initially in the case of any complaints.

Before you start

- Check the worktop and make sure you are completely happy with its finish and quality
- Make sure you have the correct tools to hand for the job before starting.
- Please remember worktops are very heavy and lifting them should not be attempted alone, worktops should always be handled by at least two people.
- Check that all pieces to be installed are correct.
- Inspect all edges for imperfections and other obvious defects.
- Any alteration work is best done outside, as cutting and sanding creates dust. One of the main onsite considerations is to reduce the amount of dust.

- Use polythene sheeting and dust covers to protect all areas where appropriate.
- Clearance should always be allowed between all worktop edges and walls (see cutting your worktop to length).
- Always ensure a sturdy work bench is available before commencing cutting.
- Please ensure the worktops are acclimatised 24 - 48 hours prior installation in the room that it is to be installed in. Please leave the worktops in the packaging while acclimatisation is happening.
- Do not open the worktops until you are ready to start installation.
- Apply 3 coats of oil to sanded worktops and 2 coats to pre-oiled worktops to the top and bottom of the top prior to installation.
- If you are not entirely happy with the finish or quality please contact your local branch to arrange for replacement.

Tools

GENERAL TOOLS

Worktop oil
Random orbital sander plus dust extraction equipment
Mitre jig
Router - 1850W fitted 30mm guide bush & TCT 12.7mm x 40mm cutter.
Drainer groove cutter
Electric saw
Power planer

Accurate straight edges
Set of clamps (quick action clamp)
Power drill and bits
Cordless screwdriver
Hammer
Mitre square
Bevel
Hand saw
Silicone gun
Level 1200mm

Jointing bolts (3 per joint)
PVA glue for joints
Sandpaper 120, 150, 220 & 400 grit
2 x 600mm self-adhesive foil sheets (Moisture & heat protection)

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Ear defenders
Safety glasses
Dust masks
Protective gloves

Wood Worktop Installation

We hope that your wood worktop provides you with many years of trouble free service.

Being a natural material, wood is subject to variation in colour, texture, graining, pattern and knots.

Wood also has characteristics which are not found in man-made worktops, such as shakes in the surface, these are accepted as being normal features and are generally not detrimental to the performance of the worktop.

Changes in humidity will cause natural expansion and contraction of the worktop, so a wood worktop must never be "trapped" between two walls without a gap to allow for the movement of the worktop.

Staves of kiln dried timber are finger jointed in the length, butt jointed and glued together along their width.

Wood is a natural, living product and just as no two sets of fingerprints are alike, the same can be said of variations in wood graining and colouring, no two lengths of wood worktop will ever look exactly alike.

It should be noted that the following can occur:

- VARIATIONS IN COLOUR & GRAINING
- POSSIBILITY OF KNOTS
- WOOD WILL DARKEN WITH AGE
- WOOD IS WATER RESISTANT - IT IS NOT WATER PROOF!
- WOOD GRAIN CAN LIFT IF SUBJECTED TO STANDING WATER FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME
- REMOVE ALL SPILLAGES IMMEDIATELY

Once wood worksurfaces have been oiled, a beautiful water repellent surface that will mellow with age is created.

Cutting & Installation

INSTALLATION

Begin planning with a pre-site survey, always ensure that planning starts at the sink. Plan worktops layout to **ensure joints don't fall on or within 100mm of appliances.** **Worktop overhang must not exceed 200mm.** Mitre joints are not permissible for corner joints (Fig. 1). Wherever possible joints in worktops should fall on a carcass end not in the middle, this gives added support to a joint. **Each worktop requires an expansion clearance of at least 3-5mm expansion gap.** Cut blank to size, squaring the ends (Fig. 2) using a router fitted with a sharp double-fluted tungsten carbide straight cutter. Clamp straight edge to both sides of the worktop.

Fig. 2



Standard Cut method with router

Measure the base plate of the router to the centre of the router bit and adjust to suit the cut accordingly. Working from left to right firmly press the base plate of the router against the straight edge and proceed to machine the material (Fig. 2). This method of preparing the edge will give a straight, square and parallel cut.

A second pass should be made to reduce chatter marks.

OILING DURING INSTALLATION.

In addition to the initial coats of oil top and bottom that you have done prior to installation (2 for pre-oiled tops & 3 for sanded tops), any new cut joints, sink cut outs, drainer grooves all need a minimum of 3 coats of oil as any pre-finish will have been removed.

FIXING

Allow a 3-5mm gap between the edge of the worksurface and the wall, which will allow it to expand and contract within the humidity of the kitchen.

SINK CUT-OUTS

Cut outs for sinks etc should be no closer than 100mm from the end of the worktop as this would seriously weaken the timber. A minimum 100mm between cut-outs should be supported underneath with a rail. Cut-outs for Belfast sinks should be a minimum 350mm from end of worktop.

When a sink cut-out is complete, exposed wood needs re-sealing, apply worktop oil by brush, or work into grain with a cloth, once dry apply a second coat of worktop oil. Sand using a 100 150, 220, then 400 grit is used to give a beautiful smooth finish (always go with the grain). A white, nonabrasive polishing pad may be needed to remove the excess, if any, after the third coat.

DRAINER GROOVES

If you are planning to router drainer grooves in the worktop, **please ensure that they are made to the centre of the timber staves to a depth of 3mm and not along the glue joint (Fig. 4).** The drainer groove jig (Fig. 3), has a built in gradient, this is used with your router and a 30mm guide bush, ensuring the grooves are the correct gradient.

Fig. 3



TAP INSTALLATION

Holes should be drilled through the centre of the wood stave. Ensure that the hole is a min 3mm larger than the pipe diameter. Always oil the cut edges of the internal hole. Finally seal the tap and hole with an elasticised sealant.

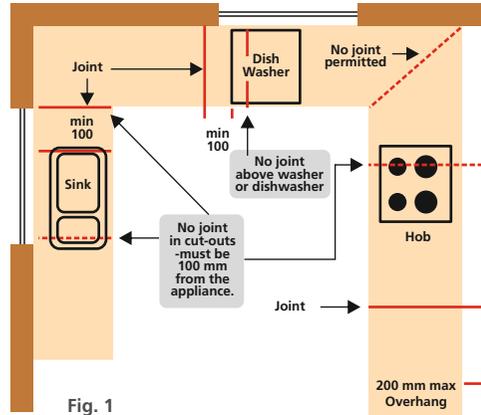


Fig. 1

Fig. 4



HOB CUT-OUTS

When a worktop is fitted near to a constant heat source i.e. an AGA, dropped hob or freestanding cooker, allow a minimum gap of 10mm or cut yourself a 20mm end cap to be glued to the end of the worktop adjacent to heat source, this will stop the end grain drying out and splitting.

COLOURED OILS (WHERE APPLICABLE)

Where a container of coloured oil has been supplied with the work surface this is to be used for the treatment of newly exposed cut edges to colour match the finished worktop or for the repair of scratches during installation and in the future. This coloured oil is to be applied as the first coat of any exposed cut edge, once the coloured oil has been applied and dried the final 2 coats are to be natural worktop oil in order to seal and protect the worktop. Coloured oils are not maintenance oils.

INSULATION

If a dishwasher, boiler, washing machine or cooker is to be installed under the worktop, adhere a piece of foil to the underside of the worktop (Fig. 6), with the foil face outward. This will protect the worktop from any intense heat or moisture. Use the same procedure when you are fixing onto exposed brickwork, pipework or fitting over a radiator or other heat sources. A grill will be needed when a radiator is fully concealed within a unit.

Fig. 6



FIXING BRACKETS

Work surfaces should be fixed using slotted angle brackets to the carcass side panels only.



Fig. 7

Front and rear edges should have the brackets applied so that the slot runs front front to back as per the image allowing the worktop to expand and contract across its width. Fix using washers and roundhead screws, position the screw in the centre of the slot then tighten the screws. Ensure you then turn back a quarter of a turn to allow the screw to move within the slot with the natural movement of the wood whilst still holding the work surface in place.



Use 2 brackets per end panel on a carcass. Do not over tighten screws which restrict the movement.

Fig. 8: Front & rear bracket configuration.

If a carcass has a solid top (fig 9), it is important to drill access holes of 16mm or more through the top to line up with the brackets. **Do not screw through the carcass directly into the work surface - Fig 10.** It is important where there is a solid top to cut out at least 50% of the top panel to allow the underside of the work surface to breathe and stay in balance with the upper surface.

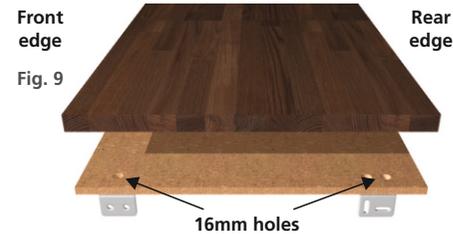


Fig. 9

APPLIANCES

Where 2 appliances are situated side by side, the span must be supported either by a mid panel or a solid timber front rail that is at least 40mm thick.

Fig. 10



JOINTS

When joining 2 worktops together, 3 standard worktop bolts must be used on each joint. Cut bolt cut-outs to a depth of 20mm using a worktop jig and router. Joint using PVA which should be applied to the top and bottom edge of the joint. All joints should be butt jointed. Tape each side of joint to avoid PVA spreading over the worktops. Ensure raw cut edges are oiled before installation.



Worktop Bolt in situ



Butt Joint



SANDING

When sanding / polishing always go with the grain, start with 120, 150, 220, finishing off with 400 grit while wet with worktop oil.