
**SOLID WOOD
WORK TOP
INSTALLATION
INSTRUCTIONS**



GUARANTEE AND LIABILITY

CaféCountertops solid wood worktops leave the factory acclimatized and level. The worktops must not be installed until the humidity level in the room is regulated at normal levels. Humidity levels that are either very high or low may have an adverse effect on the condition of the worktop. Always cover and protect the worktop before and during installation.

Our guarantee is valid for 12 months from the delivery date. It covers all defects related to the production of the board. It does not cover poor treatment/maintenance or incorrect storage/installation of the worktop.

Correctly installing the worktop ensures that it will function correctly throughout its lifetime. The instructions included here detail the correct procedures for installing CaféCountertops solid wood worktops. Please read these instructions carefully and follow each step exactly.

If you have any complaints regarding your worktop, contact your dealer before beginning installation. **Installed worktops are considered to have been accepted by you;** therefore, damages to installed worktops will be assumed to have occurred during installation. **Our guarantee is not valid on damages to installed worktops.**

If visible product defects can be documented, CaféCountertops **cannot** be held liable for either removing the worktop or installing a replacement. Worktops can only be returned by special agreement. If they are to be returned, they must be correctly packaged to prevent their being damaged in transit.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

Temperature/Humidity: Solid wood worktops are a natural product, dried to 8–10 percent moisture content, which is suitable for humidity levels of 50–60 percent. Wood is a living material; it will expand and contract according to surrounding humidity levels. For example, an 85 percent humidity level can cause a worktop to expand up to 1/4" in width. Do not expose the worktops to major changes in temperature/humidity and be aware of the surrounding environment during building work/installation.

Storage: The worktops leave the manufacturer acclimatized and level. As with all solid timber products, the worktops should be stored in a dry place protected against moisture and extreme humidity levels. When storing the worktops, they should remain in their original packaging, stacked level and flat on bearers, so air can circulate between them. Beware of storing worktops on recently poured concrete floors as the moisture from drying concrete can be absorbed by the worktops.

Small Cracks: When solid wood is dried, small air pockets can occur and cause small cracks to appear on the surface. This can also happen as a result of changes in temperature or humidity. Small cracks are a natural part of solid wood and can be minimized with oiling or repaired with wood filler. These small cracks do not constitute grounds for complaint.

Bowing: Avoid exposing the worktop to different heat and moisture levels on the surface and underside. This will cause it to bow. If this happens, turn the worktop over, allow it to rest, and it should correct itself. If a slight bow is noticed during fitting, screw the back edge to the support then carefully clamp the front edge with a screw clamp before fixing to the front support.

Cleaning: For daily cleaning, use a mild soap and water solution on a moistened cloth. Do not use concentrated soap or products that contain ammonia, abrasives, or scouring powder. Never let water or cleaning agents puddle for any period of time on the worktop.

PREPARING FOR INSTALLATION

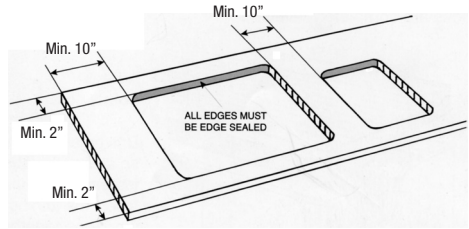
Oiling: Proper conditioning lays the foundation for the life of the solid wood worktop. Before installing, it is vital to oil all surfaces of the worktop, including cut surfaces and edges, with finishing oil. This step prevents the ingress of moisture and ensures that the board reacts to moisture equally.

Priming: Apply a thin, even layer of oil to the worktop's edges, cutouts, and underside. Then apply a thin, even layer of oil to the top side of the worktop. Allow the oil to soak in for 5-10 minutes. Then wipe away any excess oil with a dry, clean cloth.

Finishing: Twelve hours after the second oiling, sand the worktop lengthwise (in the direction of the staves) with the grey, abrasive pad provided. Wipe down all surfaces to remove dust. Oil all surfaces and edges again, allow oil to soak in for 15 minutes, and then wipe away any excess oil with a dry, clean cloth. The worktop will be ready for use 24 hours after this final oiling.

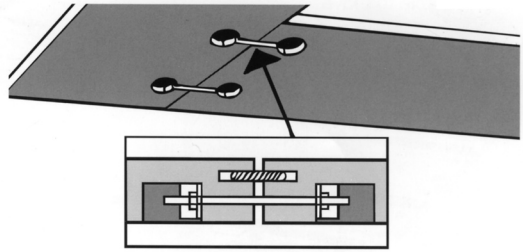
Cutouts: Any cutouts for sinks, ovens, etc. must be at least 1/4" larger than the units themselves. This allows the wood to move. The hole for taps must be at least 1/8" larger in diameter than the water pipe. Farmhouse sinks must have at least 3/8" overhang and the edges must be treated regularly to prevent the worktop from splitting. Make sure that a gap of at least 10" remains from any cut-out to the end of the worktop or between cutouts (see diagram). When using a jigsaw, always cut from the underside of the worktop to avoid splintering. All cutouts must be thoroughly sealed with oil to prevent moisture damage to the worktop.

WARNING:
Finishing oil may spontaneously combust. Carefully follow the instructions for proper use and storage of the oil and oily rags.



PREPARING FOR INSTALLATION *continued*

Joists: Joints have to be made with jointing bolts and a strip. Use at least two bolts for a 25 1/2" to 26" countertop.



INSTALLATION STEPS

1. Checking Levels

Before starting installation, make sure all upper surfaces of the cabinets are completely level and that they have been installed correctly in relation to each other. A spirit level should be used to install cabinets and should also be used when installing the worktop.

2. Checking Fit

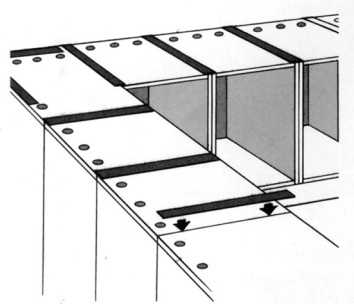
Ensure that the worktop fits by laying it on top of the installed cabinets and then removing it. By default, the worktop panels are designed to form right-angled joints unless a different angle was ordered. If the worktop does not fit, discontinue installation and contact your dealer immediately.

3. Pre-Drilling Joining Holes

Cupboards with top panels must have holes cut to permit the worktop panel joints being tightened from inside the cupboard. If the cupboards do not have pre-drilled screw holes, drill a 3/8" screw hole every 12 inches in the top panels of the cupboards. Carry out final tightening and adjustment as necessary. Failing to follow the instructions for joining the worktop panels can lead to sealing problems.

4. Installing Spacers

When installing worktops on cabinets with top panels, the worktop must rest on spacers. The spacers should be equal in length to the breadth of the worktop and 1/4" thick. Place spacers on top of the cabinet at all cabinet joints or every 24 inches and at the ends of the worktop. If the worktop will rest on a free-standing panel, install spacers under the rear edge of the worktop as well. To ensure durable, tight joints, all joints must be supported. After placing the spacers, drill three 1" holes close to the rear edge of the top panels of each cabinet to allow for ventilation.



5. Placing the Worktop

Lay the worktop panels on top of the cabinets before final fixing. Leave a gap 1/8" wide between the worktop and the wall to allow the worktop to move. This is especially important when installing an angled or U-shaped worktop. Sealant must be applied between the countertop and the wall. If the wall has damp brickwork, apply sealant or aluminum sheeting to the entire contact surface of the rear edging.

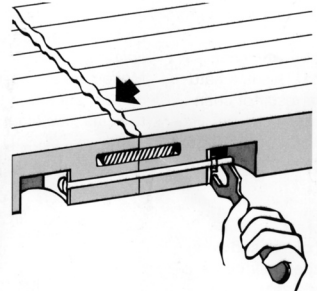
INSTALLATION STEPS *continued*

6. Test-Joining Panel Joints

Install the tension bolt from inside the cupboards. Without using sealant, test-join the panels to ensure they form a flush joint. If the joints in the worktop panels bow (due to uneven acclimatization) the panels must be flattened before installation can continue. To flatten, allow the worktop to lie on top of the cabinet for 1–2 days. Both surfaces of the worktop must be exposed to the same temperature/humidity levels to avoid bowing. Complaints related to uneven, sealed joints will be rejected.

7. Joining Panel Joints

When the panel joints match perfectly, loosen the tension bolts and pull the panels approximately 1/8" - 1/4" apart. Then apply sealant to the entire length of the joints, including the front edge and underside. Immediately tighten the tension bolts, using alternating turns on each bolt to avoid a film forming on the sealant. If the joints have been made correctly, the excess sealant will ooze out above surface level along the entire length of the joints as the bolts are tightened. Ensure that no pockets have been created where the sealant has not been pressed out. Carry out a final tightening and adjustment of the joints to complete the installation. Use a piece of cardboard to remove excess sealant by scraping forward from the rear edge of the panel.



8. Supporting Free-Standing Worktops

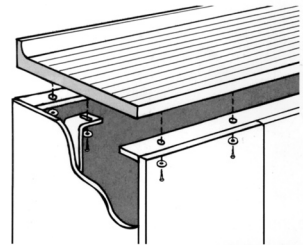
In corners where there is no supporting kitchen element, the rear edge of the worktop panel must be supported, otherwise, the joints may become crooked. Free-standing worktop sections measuring 10" or more must be supported by frames or T-bars to avoid bowing or damage. You should also support and/or join freestanding worktops on the underside with brackets or wooden blocks to prevent the joints from slipping.

9. Affixing the Worktop

Using a row of three screws placed 12" - 20" apart, affix the worktop to the front edge, rear edge, and middle of the cabinets. Screws are to be inserted no more than 12" apart along the length of the worktop.

Use right-angled brackets if the cabinets do not have top panels. Insert screws with washers up into the worktop through the middle of the 3/8" holes. Do not over-tighten the screws, as this will prevent the worktop from moving and functioning correctly.

You can determine the direction in which the worktop will move by selecting either the front or rear edge to fix the worktop into position (see diagram).



10. Installing and Sealing Rear-Edge Molding

If the worktop was delivered with the raised rear-edge molding sections unattached, these must be installed and sealed after the worktop panels have been secured to the cabinets. Apply sealant between the edging and the wall.

INSTALLATION STEPS *continued*

11. Protecting from Heat and Moisture

Always use aluminum foil/sheeting to protect the underside and sides of the worktop against heat and moisture from appliances installed underneath or nearby. This includes heaters, dishwashers, ovens, washing machines, radiators, and other appliances.

12. Small household appliances that give off heat should never be placed directly on the worktop surface as the wood may dry out and cracks may appear. This includes coffee makers, toasters, and other small appliances.

13. A protective layer of aluminum sheeting must always be applied to the undersides of solid wood worktops installed on a brickwork base. These worktops must also rest on spacers to ensure ventilation of their undersides; otherwise, the worktops will bow. Do not install the worktops until the brickwork is completely dry. Beware of other special applications where moisture or dampness could be absorbed by unprotected wood.

14. Ensure that there is sufficient ventilation space around and above dishwashers and protect the underside of the worktop with aluminum sheeting. The sheeting must extend over the edges of the adjacent cabinets and be affixed before securing the worktop. Protective aluminum (or similar) moldings are often supplied with dishwashers; install these in accordance with the supplier's instructions.

15. Protect the worktop from ovens, paying particular attention to the edges of the worktop around free-standing range ovens. Apply silicone sealant or aluminum sheeting to the edges of the worktops closest to the range (the end pieces). Small cracks may still form (treat with extra oil) but this is natural and does not constitute grounds for complaint.

16. Locating and Installing Ovens

Do not install integrated range ovens or "drop-ins" less than 8" from worktop joints or 10" from the end of a worktop. The leading and rear edges of integrated range units must be no less than 2" from the leading and rear edges of the worktops in which they are installed. Double hot-plate units must be installed at least 10" apart; otherwise, the wood between them will dry out too quickly, resulting in the formation of cracks in the wood. Also, remember to support the worktop between the holes cut to accommodate the "drop-ins". Effective supports are essential, especially if a number of holes are to be cut close to each other.

17. Seal the edges of holes with a thin layer of silicone and apply aluminum sheeting to reflect as much heat from the range as possible. Small cracks may still form (treat with extra oil) but this is natural and does not constitute grounds for complaint.

18. Locating and Installing Sinks

Avoid locating worktop joints close to sinks and/or water pipes. If installing a double sink, it is important to pay special attention to Step 16. Seal the edges of holes with a thin layer of silicone. Make sure the silicone completely covers the surface, as imperfect seals can lead to cracks or discolorations in the worktop.

Thank you for choosing CaféCountertops.

*Keep your solid wood worktop
in good condition for a lifetime
by following the guidelines
in your maintenance booklet.*

