

SOLID WOOD WORKTOPS

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Before DERAblok Solid Wood Worktops are installed, please read the following storage, fixing and aftercare advise carefully. Your customer has chosen DERAblok worktops for their warmth and beauty - please do not allow hasty or incorrect fitting procedures to ruin the final appearance and performance of this high quality product.

STORAGE PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

DERAblok Solid Wood Worktops should not be stored near heat source such as a radiator, a stove or an open fire. An unheated storage room would be suitable. Worktops should be stored flat and supported at equal distance along its length by battens. If tops are stacked, battens should be placed between each layer. This type of storage will allow air to flow evenly around the worktop and prevent movement. Never store worktops vertically!

Room Preparation

The relative humidity of the room where the worktop is to be fixed should be between 40 and 55%. All wet trades should have been completed and a sufficient period of time allowed for natural drying out.

Oiling

We recommend 'Liberon' oil for DERAblok worktops. Linseed and teak oil is also suitable. After the worktop has been cut to size and all cut outs made apply at least 6 coats of oil with a clean, lint free cloth. Apply each coat within 12 hours of each other and ensure the oil is applied generously but evenly to both sides and edges. Pay particular attention to exposed end grain. After completion of the worktop installation give the top a final light coat of 'Liberon' oil and pass to the client the Customer Care Sheet that will advise them how to continue the maintenance process.

Worktop Installation

There are usually 3 types of support for worktops.

1. *Brickwork* - ensure that the brickwork piers or walls are completely dry. If there is any doubt fix a heavy gauge polythene between the worktop and support as a moisture barrier.
2. *Open Top Cupboards* - fix slotted expansion brackets to the wall at the rear of the cupboard unit approx. 150mm from each end of the worktop. This permits movement of the worktop should there be a major change in moisture content / humidity. Do not over-tighten screws.

3. *Fixed Top Cupboards* - cut oblong holes (front to back)15mm long at the front and rear of the unit. When fixing a washer must be used with each screw. Do not over-tighten.

In all cases a 4 - 5mm gap must be left between the worktop and the wall.

No cut outs for sinks, hobs etc. should be nearer than 100mm from the edge of the worktop.

A minimum gap of 25mm should be allowed for ventilation above appliances.

When cross – cutting a Derablok worktop do not make any cut within 10mm either side of a finger joint.

Cookers

If the worktop is to be fitted next to a constant heat source such as an Aga or Rayburn a 40mm crossband must be fitted to prevent the end grain from splitting. A 5mm gap should be left between the crossband and the cooker. The worktop will shrink leaving the crossband standing proud of the worktop by 4 - 5mm after a few months. This is normal and the crossband should be trimmed back to match. This should be done after 6 months when the worktops have finished shrinking. This procedure is not required with modern range cookers as they do not generate heat continuously and the heat generated is significantly less.

Sink and wet areas

All timber worktops are suitable for use in sink areas but some are more suitable than others. Beech does require particular care and should be oiled monthly to prevent water seeping into the grain. If the sink cut out is made on site and so the 6 coat oiling process cannot be carried out, seal the cut out with a generous coat of Cascamite prior to sink installation.

In the case of a Belfast or undermounted sink ensure the following is strictly adhered to:

- a) all edges of the cut out are well oiled.
- b) the worktop overhang in relation to the sink is 15mm on either side and 30mm to the rear
- c) a drip break must be machined underneath the worktop and extend completely around the sink area
- d) any gap between the sink and the underside of the worktop is sealed completely with silicone.

Jointing / Edges

When joining worktops together, rout a groove in the edge of both worktops and join them using a false tongue. For extra strength install 2 worktop jointing bolts into holes recessed into the underside and draw them together. Do not overtighten. Apply a generous coat of oil to the edges before drawing them together.

Any edges that are machined on site (back edges, edges abutting tall housings, edges abutting boxwork for soil pipes etc. must be sealed. For speed and simplicity apply a plentiful coat of Cascamite to these edges.

Appliances - dishwashers, tumble dryers, washing machines etc.

Both these appliances generate heat and the underside of the worktop requires protection from it.

In the aperture where the appliance is to be sited fix sheets of fibrous cement board such as Supalux to the underside of the worktop, the sides of the carcasses and the rear wall. Seal all areas where the sheets butt together with self adhesive aluminium tape. The underside of the worktop will now be completely sealed against rising heat from the appliance.

Bowing

If your worktop has a slight bow , screw the back edge to support first and carefully clamp the front edge with a screw clamp before fixing to the front of the support. Small cracks in the wood may occur.