



solid surface worktops
installation guidelines

tuscan

Please read the following guide before installing Tuscan solid surface worktops. We recommend that you are fully conversant with the tooling and accessories required before starting work.

Do's & Don'ts

Do:

- Store the worktop flat to prevent bowing.
- Acclimatise the worktops 24 hours prior to installation.
- Use the recommended tools specified.
- Inspect each worktop for manufacturing/material surface defects prior to fabrication. Should you find a fault, please refer it to your worktop supplier immediately who will assess the problem.
- Check batch numbers are the same to avoid colour shade variation. Again, report it your supplier if there is a discrepancy.
- Use de-natured alcohol to clean and prepare joints. They are dye-free and so will not contaminate the worktop.
- Ensure under-mounted sinks are fully supported to avoid cracking the worktop.
- Wipe the surface down between sanding disc changes.

Don't:

- Store the worktop outside or in damp / wet conditions.
- Use jigsaws to cut Tuscan worktops as this may damage or stress the solid surface.
- Cut from the back edge of the worktop/ breakfast bar as this may cause damage to the front edging strip.
- Use methylated spirits as the dye may contaminate the worktop joints.
- Use coloured cloths to clean the joints as the dye may transfer and become visible in the joint.
- Sand in a counter-clockwise circular motion as this will leave swirls or pigtails in the surface.

Health and Safety

When cutting, always use a dust mask and good extraction.

Methyl methacrylate can be present at the cutting tool face. However, it dissipates with good ventilation.

During machine operation, protect your eyes with tightly fitting safety goggles or face-shield. Protect your hands with leather or thick fabric gloves. Wear earplugs and safety shoes.

Handling & Storage

Tuscan worktops and breakfast bars should always be carried individually to eliminate the possibility of damage. Always wear heavy-duty protective gloves and proper safety shoes.

Carry the product vertically (on its edge), with one hand underneath to support it and one hand over for control.

Always store worktops and breakfast bars indoors and horizontally on a pallet which exceeds the length of the products. Store in a well ventilated area to avoid distortion.

Before installation, the worktops, breakfast bars and adhesives will benefit from being stored in the room where they are to be installed for a minimum of 24 hours.

Adhesives should be stored at a temperature of between 10-21°C.

Product Data

	Nominal thickness	Length	Width
Worktop	45mm	3600mm	640mm
Breakfast Bar	45mm	2400mm	900mm
Upstands	6mm	3600mm	100mm
Splashbacks	6mm	3600mm	760mm
Edging	6mm	1000mm	50mm

Cutting

We recommend cutting should be carried out on a sliding table saw using a triple chip high quality tungsten carbide saw blade with a 5" negative hook. Cut the product face up and front edge first.

An allowance of 5mm per 3600mm top should be allowed for expansion.

If you have to use a jigsaw, you should always cut from the front edge first with the top face down on a protective surface. Alternatively, protect the area where the base plate of the jigsaw will come into contact with the worktop's surface with masking tape or similar.

Jigsaws should never be used to form the finished cut. Jigsaws can be used to rough cut oversize but the final cut should be done with a router.

Equipment

In addition to standard woodworking tools, you will need the following:

1. Random orbital sander minimum speed 10,000 rpm and preferably with extraction. Random orbital sander sanding discs with 180, 240, 320, 400 & 600 grit finishes.
2. Multi speed router with a 600 – 2100 watt motor and a minimum rotational speed of 18,000 rpm. Router cutters should be of high quality tungsten carbide, with a double flute and a 12mm (1/2") shank to reduce chatter and vibration.
3. Hand held circular saw, with minimum 1600 watts power rating and at least a 65mm deep cut capacity for rough sizing. Final sizing of exposed edges must always be carried out using a hand router.
4. Biscuit Joiner with a minimum 100mm diameter blade capable of forming at least 20mm deep pockets.
5. Connecting bolts 150mm long and jointing biscuits. Use no 20 – 62mm x 23mm x 4mm biscuits. Use one biscuit per connector bolt.
6. Heat reflective tape 50mm x 5m roll. This minimises heat transfer between the hob and cut-out.
7. High modulus silicone to seal all exposed raw core material against moisture.
8. Clamps: Spring clamps Types A & G
9. Worktop mitre jig to form 45, 90 & 135 degree mitre joints.
10. Adhesive applicator gun, plus Tuscan colour-matched adhesive available in 50ml & 250ml cartridges.
11. Standard installation kit.

Edging

Load the glue applicator gun with the correct colour-matched adhesive and have Super Plus spring A clamps ready. You will need 7 for a 640mm worksurface and 9 for a 900mm breakfast bar.

Measure and cut the required length of edging strip required.

Clean the jointing face of the worktop and the reverse of the edging strip with a white, undyed cloth and de-natured alcohol. Avoid alcohol getting on to the chipboard. Leave it to evaporate dry.

Apply 3 beads of adhesive, equally spaced, along the length of the edging strip.

Apply the edging strip making sure it is aligned to the bottom. This will leave approximately 1mm of edging standing proud of the top surface. Make sure that the joint has an unbroken seal of adhesive on all edges.

Secure the edging in place using the A clamps. Fix one at each end and then at intervals of 100mm.

Leave to cure for at least 40 mins.

Using a hand trimmer, trim off the excess edge and match the radiused profile on the front edge.

Jointing

We recommend that you pre-form the joints in your workshop rather than on site.

Joints must never extend across the hob, sink or any other cut-outs.

Allow an offset of minimum 200mm away from all cut-outs.

Joints must never be formed over any appliances.

Allow an offset of minimum 100mm away from any appliance.

Corner joints are formed using a standard worktop jig the same as is used for laminated worktops.

The joint should be secured using three worktop bolts and plywood biscuits.

Joints in the length should be secured using three worktop bolts and plywood biscuits.

All joints should be dry fitted and secured before being taken apart and bonded.

Forming Joints

Corner joints should be formed using a standard worktop jig.

Joints in the length should be cut approximately 3mm over length and finished to size with a router.

Both types of joints should be connected using plywood biscuits and worktop connector bolts. This ensures correct alignment and joint strength.

Always form joints working with the product face down. This ensures that the faces are level on the finished joint. Any manufacturing tolerances for the Tuscan solid surface or the chipboard core will then only appear on the reverse side.

Do not try to form the joint in one pass. It is strongly advised that plenty of time is taken and the joint cut in two or even three passes. Taking care and time over this process directly affects the quality of the finished joint.

All joints should be put together dry. The tighter the dry-fit, the better the final joint will be.

Make sure that any pencil or other such marks are removed from the joint area using de-natured alcohol. If not removed, they can show shadows through the finished joint especially in light colours.

Prepare the joint faces by cleaning with de-natured alcohol using a clean white cloth to remove all contaminants and grease. Never use coloured cloths as the solvent can release dye onto the joint surface.

Do not touch the edges once cleaned.

Adhesive cartridges, which are not in use, should always be stored in a cool area. Refer to the cartridge for proper storage information.

Apply the adhesive to both faces of the joint (at the top edge and along the biscuit line) ensuring there is enough adhesive in the joint to squeeze out onto the top surface.

Having applied the adhesive, you will generally have less than 10 minutes to close and secure the joint before the adhesive starts to set. This will vary according to temperature and humidity. If there is any doubt the adhesive set time should be tested before putting any adhesive into the joint.

Once the joint is secured there should be a small bead of adhesive left on the top and front edge. This bead should not be touched until totally dry, normally 30 – 40 minutes.

When the adhesive is totally set, follow the steps to sand and blend the joint.

Finishing

Excess adhesive should be removed by using a 180 grit disc on a random orbital sander.

Once the glue line disappears, sand the surface to the required finish using 240, 320, 400 or 600 grit discs or Scotch brite pads. Start with a 180 disc and move progressively through to a 600 depending on the final finish required. Overlap the diameter of the pad on the sander eg 6" Pad = 3" overlap for each grit.

Always wipe the surface free of dust after each change of disc grit. Failure to do so will leave scratches behind, the size of the previous grit.

When sanding, make sure to sand in the same direction every time you change the disc.

Always sand front to back, side to side, in a circular motion (clockwise).

Never let the sander remain stationary when in contact with the solid surface and always use a circular motion when sanding or polishing.

Wipe off the surface dust. For additional protection to the worksurface, we recommend the application of Worktop Guard products. They protect the surface from stains for up to two years, while also enhancing the colour. First, clean the worktop down with the preparation cleaner, then follow with

an application of Worktop Guard protector using the applicator pad provided. Leave for approx 30 minutes, take off the excess with a dry cloth. Leave the worksurface for 24 hours to cure and then buff with a dry cloth. These products are available from your worktop supplier or installer.

Tuscan solid surface worktops and breakfast bars are manufactured individually to a factory finish. After fabrication it may be necessary to sand the whole worktop / breakfast bar further to obtain the customer's required finish.

The following chart provides a guideline on how to achieve different surface finishes.

Finish	Standard Grit
Matt Finish (light colour)	180, 240 Red Beartex plus Eagle Spray finish
Matt Finish (dark colour)	180, 240, 320, Red Beartex plus Eagle Spray finish
Semi Gloss	180, 240, 320, 400, Grey Scotchbrite plus Eagle Spray finish
High Gloss	180, 240, 320, 400, 600 (Wet)

Cut-outs

It is important that all cut-outs in solid surface material have radius corners. Square corners will result in damage after installation.

Drill through the Tuscan solid surface, then cut away from this hole using a router cutter to a depth of 30mm. The final 8mm can be cut using a jigsaw.

Do not form cut-outs in one pass. Two passes should be the minimum. It is good practice to use a 3mm radius cutter to form the top and bottom edge of any cut-out.

The edges of cut-outs for sinks or any other appliance where damp or steam may be present after installation should be sealed with a good quality waterproof PVA adhesive or silicone.

Tuscan worktops are ideal for fitting inset sinks. Undermounted sinks should be fully supported to avoid cracking the surface of the worktop.

Do not fasten a cooker hob directly in to the Tuscan solid surface, please fasten into the moisture resistant chipboard substrate.

Round off edges of cut-outs for hobs or any other appliance where heat is involved.

For hob cut-outs measure the appliance decorative flange. Determine cut-out size including a minimum 6mm gap between cut-out and the hob box.

Cut hole and prepare as above and apply aluminum heat reflective tape on the entire cut-out rim.

It is important to ensure the tape remains in place as the hob is fitted.

Upstands

Upstands should be attached as follows;

Cut the upstand to the desired length (refer to CUTTING section)

Rout 1/8" on any open sides then sand the entire upstand to the required finish (Refer to table in FINISHING section).

Apply silicone to the perimeter of the Upstand and spot at 10" intervals along its full length.

Place a few spots of hot melt glue on the back of the Upstand. (This will hold the Upstand in place while the silicone cures.

Quickly push into place making sure to push along the full length so all the silicone is touching the wall.

Apply a bead of colour-matched adhesive to the joint between the upstand and the worktop. Clean off after it is cured.

Splashbacks

There are two methods of installation that can be followed. This depends on whether the customer wants the splashback to be glued permanently to the wall or whether a secure, but removable fixing method is preferred.

Method 1: For permanent installation (using adhesive)

Using masking tape, tape both the splashback and the worktop where the adhesive will squeeze out.

Apply matching Tuscan solid surface adhesive along the back edge of the worktop where the splashback will meet it.

Apply dabs of silicone on the reverse side of the splashback, approximately 12" apart. In between the dabs of silicone, then apply dabs of hot-melt glue. This will hold the splashback in place, while the silicone dries.

Set the splashback onto the worktop.

Hold the splashback tightly up against the wall and to the worktop and hold it in place until the hot-melt glue dries.

Excess adhesive will squeeze out from the joint.

Remove the excess adhesive and the tape.

Method 2: Non-permanent installation (using silicone)

This method uses silicone to adhere the splashback to the wall and coloured silicone to detail finish the joints where the splashback meets the worktop.

Clean the surface with de-natured alcohol.

Apply dabs of silicone on the reverse side of the splashback, approximately 12" apart. In between the dabs of silicone, then apply dabs of hot-melt glue. This will hold the splashback in place, while the silicone dries.

Set the splashback on the worktop and push it tight to the wall. Hold it in place until the hot-melt glue dries.

After the hot-melt glue sets, apply a bead of silicone in the joint between the splashback and the worktop to ensure a water-proof seal. Make sure the bead of silicone touches both the splashback and the worktop.

To achieve a clean finish to the silicone bead, spray it with de-natured alcohol. This ensures that the excess silicone will not stick to anything, making cleaning easy.

Using either a laminate off-cut or similar material, wipe off the excess silicone.

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