

Product Ref ID:

Please ensure that batch/product reference details are noted here on this instruction leaflet (and retained).

The product reference can be found on the side of the product or on the side of the box that it is supplied in.

This information will need to be referenced in the event of any product related issue occurring.

Installation and Care Instructions for Solid Timber Worktops

Solid 'Dark' Beech worktops - supplied with Dark Beech Nick and Cut colour treatment stain. Solid 'Dark' Oak worktops - supplied with Dark Oak Nick and Cut colour treatment stain.

The stain is supplied from your distributor and is for coating any raw / cut edges only. This is 'NOT' for coating / staining the surface of your worktop.

SOLID TIMBER WORKTOPS

You have purchased an exceptionally attractive kitchen worktop made from solid finger jointed timber. In order to maintain the beauty of this natural timber in what is generally a moist environment please read this installation and care leaflet carefully and follow the advice given. You will need to keep these instructions in a safe place and refer to them should the need arise.

Your new worktop will, if looked after, give many years of service and will retain its good looks. Natural timber is remarkably resilient. Failure to treat it as advised in this leaflet, will lead to a breakdown in the surface protection and defects caused by moisture penetration could lead to your one-year guarantee being invalidated.

PRE - CARE

Your new worktop has been pre-treated with worktop oil before packaging. During storage your worktop should be kept flat and covered if stored for long periods.

BEST PRACTICE: Leave the worktop in a warm, dry room for at least 24 hours before un-packing. On removal or before fitting, coat unit with worktop oil on both surfaces and all edges (follow recommended manufacturers guidelines 'instructions on tin' for required application techniques).

CUTTING

When ready to cut and fit your new worktop mark out lengths very carefully and cut 5mm shorter than required to fit, to allow for subsequent expansion. It is always advised / best practice to use a router unit to ensure clean crisp joins and edges. However very fine tooth panel saws can be used to ensure that the cut is at 90 degrees to the surface. Circular saws and jigsaws can be used but may give a rougher finish and marking out and cutting should be done with the board upside down so that any resulting surface 'chips' end up on the underside of the board.

Cutting out for inset hobs or sinks, again router units are considered best practice but if other equipment is being used for cutting out inset sinks or hobs the board should be upside down and it is important that you double check the exact position of the cut-out. Once the board has been cut all cut edges must be liberally treated with at least four coats of worktop oil. These are the risk areas where water could subsequently penetrate the board. We recommend that such cut edges be further treated with a thin film of clear silicone sealant or polyurethane varnish once the worktop oil has fully dried.

FITTING

The worktop must be secured through the base unit carcasses with wood screws at maximum 250mm centres all around to help prevent movement. These screws should penetrate the worktop by at least 15mm. At walls the worktop should be fitted to finish 5mm from the wall and the subsequent gap seal in the normal way with a silicone sealant (See fig 1 and 2.)

- Appx 1mm radius edge on all 'thermo' products.

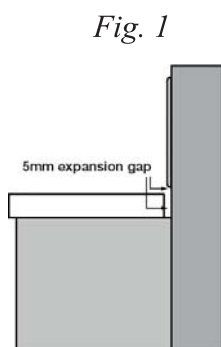


Fig. 1

- Butt & scribe corner join always considered best practice and potentially a necessity on thermo product joins.

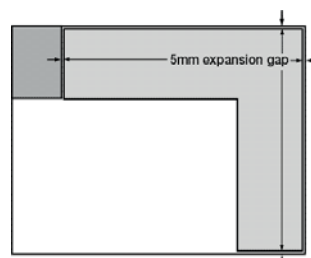


Fig. 2

- It is advised to apply a further 2 coats of worktop oil once installed (always apply additional oil in areas more likely at risk from water / condensation or steam i.e. sink area, above appliances etc).

BEST PRACTICE: Foil tape around inset hobs



Fig. 3

Failure to leave expansion gaps may result in the worktop warping (See fig. 3)

Boards that are butted together at 45 degrees or 90 degrees should be connected on the underside with flat plates spaced no more than 225mm apart. The joint should be glued since this will restrict movement but it should be sealed with silicone as one board is placed against the other and before the plates are fitted. Remove excess silicone squeezed out of the joint onto the board surface immediately. Bed hobs and inset sinks onto seals or silicone to prevent moisture getting under the edges where it would cause staining.

Alternatively if you have a routering machine, you may route out grooves to make recessed T-Bolt connections in the 2 worktops. If so, you should also machine out grooves for biscuits in the joining edges in order to keep the adjoining worktops levelled.

TAPS

If it is necessary to fit taps to the worktop rather than to the sink then holes will have to be drilled for them. Again this will result in exposed, untreated product which could absorb leaked water and result in staining. In such instances it is **ESSENTIAL** that the drilled holes are thoroughly soaked in worktop oil and when the taps are fitted the holes are very carefully plugged with silicone so that it is not possible for condensed water to penetrate the timber via the holes. If this is not done the timber will become stained and, in time, will turn black.

If a plug chain fitting has to be screwed to the edge of a cut-out, the hole for it should be plugged with silicone, but ideally, an alternative method of fixing the chain should be found.

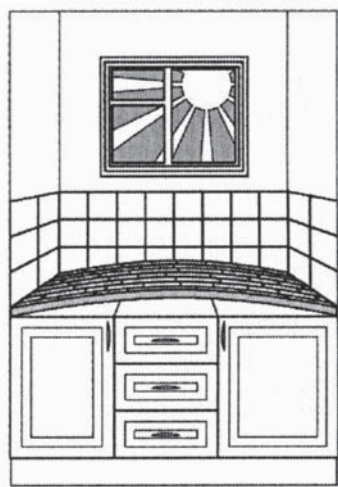
DISHWASHERS & WASHING MACHINES

Dishwashers particularly will emit considerable quantities of hot moist air if opened shortly after the washing cycle has finished. This will have a detrimental effect on the timber unless the adjacent underside of the board is, very regularly, given worktop oil treatments or a one off treatment of clear polyurethane varnish is applied. **BEST PRACTICE:** A foil barrier to be fitted above appliances to help prevent moisture reaching the worktop.

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 if not already treated with clear varnish. **Failure to do this may result in the worktop warping (See fig. 3)**

Fig. 3



After the first year you should be able to reduce the treatment to once every three months however you must apply oil whenever the timber begins to look dry. It is almost impossible to over oil the worktop. If the situation arises when an application does not soak in rapidly and leaves 'puddles' of oil remove the excess with a cloth.

When placing hot pots or pans on the worktop a heat protective mat or coaster should be used. If the surface becomes scratched you can sand it down with a fine grade glass paper then retreat with oil to restore to its former glory.

We do recommend that no cutting be done on the worktop. It is very likely that you will have an offcut of board and this could well be shaped into an extremely useful cutting board.

In general use the worktop should be kept clean by wiping over with a water dampened cloth. Don't use abrasive cleaners.

Please consider that: Placing a worktop directly over / overhanging a radiator could cause the worktop to crack and bow. I.E. Item at greater risk of deterioration - claims associated to this failure mode or cause **will not** be accepted.

WARNING:

Cloths and sponges used when treating your worktop with oil, may self ignite. Store and dispose of them properly.

Do's

- **Do** store your worktop flat
- **Do** leave the worktop in a warm dry room for 24 hours before opening
- **Do** treat cut edges with at least 4 coats of worktop oil
- **Do** treat worktop with worktop oil regularly
- **Do** read instructions before installation
- **Do** apply two coats of worktop oil before fitting the worktop
- **Do** ensure joins and cut-outs are fully sealed
- **Do** record batch / product reference details onto this leaflet for future reference

Don'ts

- **Do not** fit the worktop tight against walls or obstacles
- **Do not** store worktop in extreme conditions for long periods of time
- **Do not** store your worktop uncovered
- **Do not** fit your worktop without fully reading and understanding instructions
- **Do not** cut the worktop with the board upside down
- **Do not** fit directly above a radiator without additional consideration / protection