

SOLID WOOD WORKTOP RECEIPT, STORAGE & INSTALLATION GUIDE

IMPORTANT PLEASE READ !

Installer & Owner Responsibilities

All worktops are supplied unfinished. Upon unwrapping it is important to inspect the worktop carefully for any damage or defects of any kind. As wood is a natural material its colour and shade will vary so ensure your worktop/s are visually acceptable in respects before installation. Any defects found must be reported to your supplier immediately and resolved before proceeding. The quality of the oiling & fitting of the product has a major impact on the overall look and performance of your chosen worktop therefore it is important to ensure you or your chosen installer is suitably experienced with regard to hardwood worktop installation.

Before commencing the installation of your worktops you, and or, your installer should read and fully understand these instructions. If in doubt please contact your supplier for advice before you undertake any work on the worktop. **Failure to adhere to these instructions will invalidate the associated product warranty.** (A copy of your product warranty is available via your worktop supplier)

STORAGE.

Wood is a natural material and can be affected by unsuitable and varying temperature and humidity. Worktops MUST be stored flat and be fully supported along their length at all times and be kept in their original packaging and away from a direct heat source, i.e. a radiator. **Never store vertically or on edge**, as this will induce bowing.

The worktops must be stored in a dry environment with room atmospheric conditions being 35 – 55% Relative Humidity and temperature range of 16 – 24 deg C.

IMPORTANT: The worktop must be sufficiently oiled on both faces and all edges prior to fitting (see finishing information). This can be done before or after cutting, but in all cases should be done within one hour of un-wrapping the worktop. The importance of correct and sufficient oiling with high quality oil cannot be overstated.

INSTALLATION

To assist with a trouble free installation and ensure you have all the correct accessories required to do so a **Hardwood Worktop Installation Kit** is available from your worktop supplier.

- A.** IMPORTANT. Prior to installation you must oil the complete worktop and all edges with a minimum of five coats, paying particular attention to all cut edges and end grains. Upstands must also be oiled. Allow at least 8 –10 hours to dry between coats. We recommend high quality oil is used.
- B.** Allow a 4 mm gap between the back edge of the worktop and the wall as this will allow the worktop to expand and contract within the humidity of the kitchen. We advise that an upstand is used to cover the gap. Fix the upstand to the wall and not the worktop. A flexible silicone seal should be used between the upstand and the worktop.
- C.** No cut outs for sinks, hobs, etc., should be nearer than 100 mm from the end of the worktop or between cut outs, as this will seriously weaken the worktop.
- D.** When a worktop is to be fitted near to a constant heat source, i.e. an AGA or Rayburn, allow a minimum gap of 40 mm between the ends of the worktop and the heat source unit. A solid wood return piece should be fixed across the end grain section of the worktop end, whilst retaining the 40mm clear space, to help prevent any splits occurring. **It is not recommended to install the worktop above a boiler.**
- E.** If a kitchen appliance (dishwasher, washing machine, refrigerator, etc...) is to be installed under the worktop, cover the exposed underside of the worktop above the appliance with a sheet of moisture barrier building paper using PVA wood glue to adhere it to the underside of the worktop. This will help to protect the worktop from any intense heat or moisture that radiates from these types of appliances, particularly dishwashers. Use the same procedure for installations when you are fixing to brickwork. The foil faced paper is provided within the **Hardwood Worktop Installation Kit** is available from your worktop supplier.
- F.** If drainer grooves are to be cut into the worktop surface then extra care must be taken to ensure that the grooves are machined as central as possible within the individual stave blocks and not machined along the glued joints between the stave blocks. **Note:** As there is a potential for water to sit in the grooves, it is essential that the grooves and surrounding areas are oiled correctly following the guidelines within this installation guide to avoid splitting and discolouration. (We would recommend that a drip tray / rack is used when draining dishes). Should any issues arise due to incorrectly positioned, poorly machined or incorrectly sealed, drainer grooves being cut into the worktop then the associated product warranty is void.
- G.** Only use slotted angle brackets, with the slots running horizontally across the width of the worktop, to secure the worktop to the carcass, this will allow natural lateral movement. Always use flat washers with the screws to fix.
- H.** If a carcass has a solid top or you can only secure through the cross-rail it is important to drill an oversized hole (8-10mm) through the top of the carcass and secure to the worktop using a larger flat washer and screw. This will allow the work surface to slide over the washer in case of any possible expansion or contraction of the worktops in situ. **(Do not screw through the carcass directly into the worktop without oversize holes).**
- I.** It is important that 3 slotted angle brackets are used across the width at regular intervals along the length of the worktop, especially at the end of a worktop run.
- J.** When joining two worktops together three standard worktop bolts must be used on each joint. The additional use of biscuit joints is also recommended.
- K.** All joints **should be Butt jointed** and not mitred. A short Mason Mitre can be used for profiled edges.
- L.** It is **not recommended that a solid wood worktop be installed without supporting cabinets**, i.e. a peninsular breakfast bar with support leg. If this is to be used an adequate cross bracing framework must be used supporting the full underside of the worktop.
- M.** When installing a Butler/Belfast sink it is **essential to apply additional coats of oil** to the underside and edges before installation as this area will be subject to continual splashes and will be inaccessible once installed. **A continuous waterproof silicone seal must be installed between the top of the sink and the underside of the worktop to prevent water ingress.** A drip groove should also be installed on the underside around the edge over the sink.

FINISHING YOUR WORKTOP AND AFTERCARE TO MAINTAIN YOUR WORKTOPS

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CUSTOMER READS AND RETAINS THIS DOCUMENT

We recommend our own Wood Protector and Hardwax Oil finish be used to treat the complete worktop. The combination of these oils will penetrate into all types of wood, drying to form a hard, durable and water resistant finish to the worktop, however the finish is not ultimately waterproof long terms and therefore regular re oiling of your worktop as necessary is required (see the "Maintenance / Aftercare of your worktops " section as below).

FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS FOR WOOD PROTECTOR & HARDWAX OIL

DO NOT USE WITH WATER-BASED STAINS

Preparation – The wood surface must be dry and clean.

Wood Protector - Wood Protector is a unique wood wax primer based on natural oils and waxes produced entirely without organic biocides, and therefore entirely safe for indoor use. It is a preventive protective against blue stain and mildew and is extremely water repellent. The natural oils and waxes penetrate into the wood, keeping it flexible, healthy, and preventing it from getting dry and brittle. Shrinking and swelling are reduced. The wood is allowed to breathe.

Wood Protector is ready to use straight from the tin. Please do not thin. Stir well. Apply 2 coats generously to both faces and all edges (including sink/hob cut-outs etc.) using a cloth, wipe off any excess after 5 minutes. Please pay particular attention to the SINK AREAS. Ensuring good ventilation, allow 8-10 hours between coats and leave approx. 24 hours to dry before application of the Hardwax Oil.

Hardwax Oil - Hard wax oil is a professional, clear, satin-matt finish based on natural vegetable oils and waxes. It is micro porous and does not crack, flake, peel or blister. Again the natural oils and waxes penetrate into the wood, keeping it flexible and healthy, and preventing it from getting dry and brittle. Shrinking and swelling are reduced. The wood is allowed to breathe

Hard Wax Oil is ready to use straight from the tin. Please do not thin but stir thoroughly. Apply first coat thinly to both faces and all edges (including sink/hob cut-outs etc.) with a cloth wiping off any excess after 5 minutes. Leave to dry overnight (at least 8–10 hours) ensuring good ventilation. Apply second coat to both faces and all edges. Apply one more final coat to the face and edges (3 in total). (Normal climatic conditions apply 23°C/50% rel. humidity. Lower temperatures and higher humidity can increase drying time.)

Please pay particular attention to the SINK AREAS. Note: The sanding pad can be used between coats to remove any high spots or possible raised grain.

Note when using other oil finishes it is essential that the above instructions are followed and that before using the worktop the correct amount of oil coats have been applied, especially around the sink area. In the case of Finishing Oil or Danish Oil this would require a minimum of 5-6 coats to build up the barrier required.

MAINTENANCE / AFTERCARE OF YOUR WORKTOPS

Please remember that wood is a natural material and a proper course of oil treatment is essential to build up a surface protection to stains and humidity, which will ensure a long and trouble free life.

In the first few days of use some care must be taken to prevent the worktops becoming stained before they have built up sufficient oil protection. In particular water must not be allowed to lie on the surface, but wiped off immediately with a cloth.

The kitchen installer should already have applied at least 5 coats of oil to the surfaces and edges of the worktop. However you will need to oil the face again using Hardwax Oil after installation building it up to the required amount. Using a cloth, apply the oil to the whole surface, leave for a few minutes, and then using the same cloth wipe off any excess oil. Leave to dry for 8–10 hours. This is best done overnight to allow the maximum drying time. Each coat must be dry before you apply the next. The recommended oils to use are provided within the **Hardwood Worktop Installation Kit** available from your worktop supplier.

Once you have built up the recommended coats of oil, you will need to restore the sheen of the tops with a coat of oil when you feel they start to look a little dull, or for precaution every 3-6 months, this will return them to their natural beauty. The surfaces can be cleaned with damp cloth containing a small amount of dishwashing agent.

Oils - CAUTION

Keep all oils out of reach of Children

Wear appropriate personal protection equipment as recommended by the oil manufacturer within the product instructions.

Ensure good ventilation within the room when applying oils. - In case of contact with eyes rinse immediately with water

IMPORTANT – Do's & Don'ts and things to Avoid!

Do: **Do ensure your worktops are checked upon receipt of them:** Claims for damage or shortages etc. cannot be accepted if they are not notified of to your supplier within 72 hours of receiving the goods.

Do ensure your worktops are correctly stored flat and in a suitably dry environment: Claims for issues relating to inappropriate storage and the effects of unsuitable humidity of moisture affecting your worktops cannot be accepted by the manufacturer and will invalidate your product warranty.

Do ensure that your chosen installer is appropriately competent and experienced: With solid wood worktop installation, any issues or complaint relating to incorrect installation techniques or practices will invalidate your product warranty.

Do ensure you, and or, your installer reads these installation instructions: As then any queries can be raised and clarified prior to the installation taking place and installation errors avoided.

Do ensure that the worktops are correctly finished with the correct oil: Applying the correct oil and stated amount of coats is vital to the early protection of the worktops and ongoing longer term protection.

Don't: **Don't store your worktops vertically or on edge:** They must be laid flat and be fully supported along their length.

Don't leave your worktops unwrapped with out them being immediately oiled: Your worktops must be oiled once unpacked as per the instructions stated above.

Don't place any objects on the surface of your worktops whilst in storage: Damage and scratching of the worktops can occur.

Don't install your worktops if you have doubts as to the competence of your, or your installers, skills and abilities: It is always prudent to have an experienced installer to install your worktops.

Don't place hot pans on the surface of your worktop: As the surface of it can be damaged and discoloured.

Avoid: **Avoid scratching your solid worktop:** By using an appropriate chopping block for cutting and preparing foods etc.

Avoid staining your worktop: Ensure that the initial recommended coats of oil are applied prior to, and following, installation of your worktops and appropriate coats of oil are applied as necessary ongoing from a maintenance perspective.

Disclaimer Wood is a natural product and so the colour and grain may vary. The work surfaces are manufactured from selected materials and are subject to quality control procedures. These work surfaces may contain knots, natural colour variations and drying shakes as normal features of the product. All work surfaces and upstands are supplied unfinished unless stated otherwise.