



# Solid Surfacing worktops: Installation and maintenance instructions

## IMPORTANT NOTE

**Please leave these instructions with the householder for important advice on maintenance and cleaning. Before any work is carried out on the solid surfacing worktop, ensure you are completely satisfied with the construction of the worktop on all visible areas such as edging. Minor marks or surface imperfections created during handling/transit will be removed during the final sanding and polishing process.**

**In the case where construction defects can be documented, Formica Limited will not be liable for the removal of the worktop or the installation of a replacement. Any complaints regarding the quality of the worktop must be made to the dealer immediately and always before installation, as cut and installed Axiom Solid Surfacing worktops will be deemed as having been accepted.**

**Formica Limited offers a lifetime guarantee to replace any worktop with a manufacturing defect.**

## GENERAL

Axiom Solid Surfacing worktops are supplied with a factory finish, which must be sanded and polished as described.

To allow the householder to gain the perfect finish to their Solid Surfacing worktop, please find below recommended instructions to create various surface finishes.

| FINISH | SATIN                     | GLOSS                     |
|--------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Step 1 | 120-grit                  | 120-grit                  |
| Step 2 | 240-grit                  | 240-grit                  |
| Step 3 | 320-grit                  | 320-grit                  |
| Step 4 | Apply "Counter Top Magic" | 400-grit                  |
| Step 5 | -                         | Apply "Counter Top Magic" |

## PRODUCT INFORMATION

The 40mm (nominal) thick Axiom Solid Surfacing worktop has a 6mm thick composite top layer, with front and short edges of the same material. This is bonded to high density moisture resistant particle board core which provides structural strength, and a backing layer of impregnated laminate E Kraft to ensure dimensional stability. Two strips are supplied with every top for end capping and joint stability.

## HANDLING AND STORAGE

Care should be taken when handling Axiom Solid Surfacing worktops as these are heavy and the correct manual handling techniques should be observed to prevent injury and/or damage to the worktop. Axiom Solid Surfacing worktops MUST be stored in warm, dry conditions, 18-20°C and 50-60%RH, on flat horizontal racking, having adequate support throughout.

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Axiom Solid Surfacing worktops offer excellent damage resistant properties, however as with all worktops there are precautions which should be taken to maintain optimum performance of your worktop.

## PRECAUTIONS

### Heat

Do not place high-temperature objects directly on Axiom Solid Surfacing tops. Hot cookware can damage your work surface. The use of a trivet or insulating pad is recommended.

### Cutting

Avoid cutting directly on your worktop, the use of a chopping board is highly recommended.

### Stains

Whilst Axiom Solid Surfacing worktops are resistant to most common household chemicals, it is possible that extended exposure to strong acidic or alkaline cleansers may permanently damage the colour of your worktop. It is therefore recommended that such cleaners be used only for extreme stains and should be immediately flushed with warm water. The large majority of food and liquid stains should be removable with warm, soapy water. (See cleaning instructions below). Accidental spills of harsh materials should be treated in the same way immediately.

## CLEANING AND RESTORATION

Axiom Solid Surfacing worktops will provide years of service and enjoyment with a few basic cleaning precautions.

### General cleaning and simple stains

Use a damp cloth and a household detergent to keep your worktop clean and bright. If further cleaning is required to remove simple stains, use the grey Scotch-Brite pad provided. Apply a covering of "Counter Top Magic" to maintain the rich finish of your worktop and provide a protective coating that helps resist everyday marks and stains.

### Stubborn stains / minor scratches (Matt/Satin finish)

Use an abrasive cleaner or the red Scotch-Brite pad provided to rub out the stain or scratch then finish cleaning as above.

### Deep stains / scratches (Matt/Satin finish)

Remove all excess dirt or dust using a damp cloth then dry off in preparation.

Using from 240 to 400-grit sandpaper (depending on the depth of the damage) sand out the stain or scratch in a random circular fashion. This will ensure you do not leave a grain in the surface. Once the scratch or stain has been sanded out clean off excess dust and dirt with a damp cloth and polish surface back to the level of sheen on the rest of the surface using "Counter Top Magic" and a polishing cloth.

### Special note

For damage to highly polished tops or severe chips, scratches or stains to any surface please contact your kitchen fitter for guidance or assistance as there are specialist tools and skills for repairing the top in these circumstances.

## INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE KITS

An installation, care and maintenance kit is included as part of your worktop purchase. If you have not received this kit, please contact the retailer where you made the purchase. Contents of the installation kit and additional material supplied with the worktop are:

- 1 x 1.5m Edging strip
- 1 x 1.5m Jointing strip
- 355ml bottle of "Counter Top Magic"
- 1 x red Scotch-Brite pad (removes fine to medium scratches)
- 1 x grey Scotch-Brite pad (for final polishing and "day to day" cleaning and maintenance)
- 1 x soft cloth
- Colour matched adhesive cartridge or adhesive sachet for edging/jointing (NB: A 50ml adhesive applicator is required for use with adhesive cartridges)

## INSTALLATION

### Prior to installation

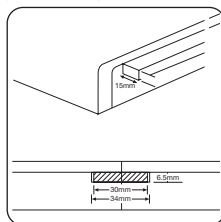
Axiom Solid Surfacing worktops must be installed in a stress-free state. Before installation always make sure the worktop has been conditioned to the end environment, by storing it for 24 hours in the area where it is to be fitted.

Prepare the site by ensuring that all supporting elements are secure, level and straight. Support should be provided at maximum intervals of 600mm and also along the back wall. Ensure that any internal aperture has rounded corners and is smooth to touch. Apply silicone, varnish or water resistant paint to all exposed substrate edges.

### During installation

In order to accommodate the small amount of thermal movement that may take place, a 3mm gap should be left all around the top, filled with silicone. Do not jam the worktop between walls or up against any hot appliance. Any wedging used to close joints should be removed immediately after the adhesive has cured in order to maintain the thermal expansion gap. Fixings should allow for dimensional movement.

Machine mitre joints using a conventional worktop mitre jig. Machine a 6-6.5mm groove directly beneath the solid surface layer to take the jointing strip and adhesive. Once cut to size, ensure all joints are perfect for fit and that all overhang dimensions are accurate. Clean all joints with alcohol prior



to applying adhesive. Apply adhesive to one of the grooves and firmly push home the jointing strip into the groove (this should then sit proud by 5mm).

Apply adhesive bead into the other groove and gently bring the tops to within 3mm of each other. Apply a continuous bead of adhesive down the length of the joint and the front edge of the joint then draw the tops together using panel butting connectors. Allow the excess adhesive to form above the joint, do not attempt to remove any adhesive until completely cured. Leave the adhesive for 30-45 minutes dependant on ambient conditions then remove the bulk of the excess adhesive using a block plane. Finish with a

random/eccentric orbital sander, starting with 120-grit paper until all trace of adhesive around the joint has disappeared, then proceed to sand the whole surface area of the top using the same grade of paper, working in all directions and ensuring the sander is kept FLAT at all times. When this process is complete wash down with water and repeat the sanding of the whole surface with 240-grit paper, then again with 320-grit paper. Remove all dust and dirt with a damp cloth and follow the cleaning instructions as given above.

### Installing hobs

Using a straight edge and a 30mm guide ring, cut out the opening with a twin flute 12mm cutter. The gap between hob edge and the aperture must be at least 3mm all around. The minimum inside corner radius must be at least 6mm and larger if possible. Round over the sharp edges to a 2mm radius and sand smooth.

Apply two layers of heat conductive aluminium tape (e.g. Scotch Aluminium foil tape #425 or #427) to the surface of the worktop. The tape is bent back and separated on the underside to provide better heat dissipation. (Heat conductive aluminium tape is available from good DIY stores and hardware suppliers).

Insert the hob appliance into the worktop and fix into position. Do not over tighten and ensure that no screws are placed directly into the Solid Surfacing material. Install all appliances in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Make sure all seams are at least 80mm from the hob aperture.

### Installing sinks – Stainless steel or composite

#### Sink cut-outs

Place the template supplied by the sink manufacturer in the correct position on the worktop (face side up). Carefully measure and mark the area to be cut-out. Drill through all of the corners using the largest diameter drill at your disposal, as some cut-outs may have larger radii corners to match the dimensions of the sink (re-check on the template). Turn the worktop face down, protect the surface and connect these pre-drilled holes by using a power jig saw, portable router and straight edge, ensuring that the cut-outs do not over shoot in the corners. Failure to observe this practise may lead to stress cracking.

When the required fit has been achieved, machine a 2mm radius around the perimeter opening of the Solid Surfacing worktop, if this is not possible, use a file or sandpaper wrapped around a block.

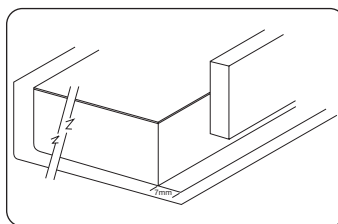
#### Sealing your cut-out edges

Axiom Solid Surfacing worktops are protected against the penetration of water and/or steam. Water and steam can only enter into the core material at unprotected edges and ends. Newly made cut-outs and apertures or holes for services MUST be sealed with specially profiled factory gaskets or sealant based on silicone, polyurethane or acrylic. Other effective seals can be produced from special lacquer systems e.g. 2pt polyurethane varnishes and closed pore foam material.

#### Important notes:

- Fitting a sink into an Axiom Solid Surfacing worktop should be carried out in accordance with the sink manufacturer's recommendations.
- It is vital that all sealing operations are carried out by those carrying out the final installation of the worktops and appliances.
- Fitting a solid surfacing sink (flush and recess) requires specialist tools and techniques. Please contact our Fabrication Support Unit on 0191 259 3411/3483.

### Edging your worktop



Mark off the width of your edging strip against the chipboard core (approx. 6mm) and then rebate back by this distance. Slightly mill the underside of the Solid Surfacing layer you expose using a spiral cutter in order that it accepts the edging strip.

The edges of the strip should be milled to a true 90° and the entire surface of this strip sanded to provide an adhesive key, then cleaned with alcohol or de-natured methylated spirits (available from any good chemist). Apply a bead of adhesive

along the edge of the machined chipboard and the underside of the Solid Surfacing layer, bond the edging strip into place and clamp into place with surface protectors to avoid bruising the top. Leave to cure for 30-45 minutes subject to ambient conditions. Intersecting edging strips can be mitred or butt-jointed. Finish all joints as described in previous instruction.

## TABLE OF SIZES AND WEIGHTS

| WIDTH (mm) | LENGTH (mm) | WEIGHT (kg) |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 650        | 3040        | 75          |

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Solid Surfacing worktops: Installation and maintenance instructions on reverse of this sheet.

**It is important you keep  
these instructions**



**CAUTION  
HEAVY**

**Please use the appropriate lifting equipment.**