

Solid Wood worktops: Installation and maintenance instructions

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please leave these instructions with the householder for important advice on maintenance and cleaning.

Before you do any work to your new Axiom Solid Wood worktop, please ensure you are completely satisfied with the product by checking for damage or defects.

GENERAL

On delivery of these worktops an inspection must be carried out to check for damage or defects. Any complaints about these worktops must be made to the supplier immediately and always before installation, as installed worktops will be seen as having been accepted. In cases where visible product defects can be documented, Formica Limited will not be liable for the removal of the worktop or the installation of a replacement. The guarantee is valid for 12 months from the delivery date and covers all defects related to the production of the worktop. However, it does not cover incorrect treatment, maintenance, storage or installation of the worktops.

PRODUCT INFORMATION AND STORAGE

Axiom by Formica® Solid Wood worktops are a natural product made of wood. Wood is a living material and will expand or contract according to surrounding humidity levels. The higher the surrounding humidity levels, the more it will expand. The wood used in Axiom Solid Wood worktops has been dried to 8-10% moisture content, which is ideal with humidity levels of 50-60% and 15-25°C. This is the normal humidity level for a kitchen. If the worktop is exposed to different moisture levels on the surface and underside, it will start to bow. If this happens, simply turn the worktop over and allow it to rest, the worktop will become flat again. When the wood is dried, small air pockets can occur appearing as small cracks on the surface. This is a natural occurrence and can also happen as a result of changes in temperature or humidity. Small cracks can be repaired with wood filler. Small cracks are a natural part of solid wood and do not constitute grounds for complaint.

Axiom Solid Wood worktops are despatched from the manufacturer acclimatised and flat. As with all solid timber products, the worktops should be stored in a dry place protected against moisture.

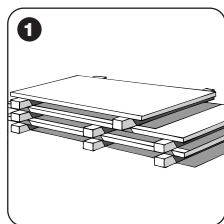


FIG. 1
When storing the worktops they should remain in their original packaging and should be stacked level and flat on bearers so that air can circulate between the worktops. Do not expose the worktops to major changes in temperature/humidity and be aware of the surrounding environment during building work. All wet trades should be completed and fully dried out before installation.

MAINTENANCE

Before installation, the worktop must be treated on all edges and on both surfaces. Use the Formica Limited recommended Danish Oil or similar. Oiling should be carried out at least twice, allowing the oil to dry and giving the worktop a light sanding in between coats, following closely the instructions from the oil manufacturer.

Make sure also that all visible end grain is sealed with oil, paying special attention to cut-outs for sinks and hobs.

After a period of use the finish will become worn; the sheen will diminish and the surface become dull. Water will not form into droplets as readily, but tend to spread out and wet the surface. This is a clear sign that the worktop needs re-oiling; in fact it is better to re-oil before the surfaces quite reach this condition. The time taken for wear to occur depends on the amount of use the surface has had. In any one kitchen there will be high wear and low wear zones; the former will need more attention than the latter.

The first six weeks after installation are the most important in the life of the worktop. A light oiling twice a week during this period will ensure long term maintenance of the worktop.

The entire kitchen surface should be re-oiled regularly, at the very least every 3 months.

Warning, oily rags can spontaneously combust.

CLEANING

For daily cleaning, use a mild soap and water on a moistened cloth (do not use concentrated soap/washing up liquid). Never use abrasive cleaners or products which contain ammonia. To clean the worktop more thoroughly, use a scouring pad (not steel wool) with mild washing-up liquid and re-oil the area. For permanent stains, sand the surface length ways with fine sandpaper and then re-oil the whole surface.

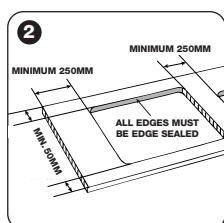
INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE KITS

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.

The installation kit contains:

- 230ml bottle of Formica recommended Danish Oil (enough oil for maintenance and re-touching purposes only)
- 10 x fixing bolts for front edge
- 10 x fixing bolts for back edge
- 10 x fixing brackets for middle fixing
- 1 x 3m foil strip for end grain protection against heat (use around cookers etc)
- 1 x 0.78m x 0.6m foil sheet for under worktop protection against heat (dishwashers and washing machines etc)
- 2 x disposable sandpaper sponges (for dual sanding and oil applications)
- 12 x spacers for airflow (positioned under the worktop)
- 1 piece of sandpaper
- 75ml silicone tube (sample of sealant for use around sinks etc)



CUT OUTS

Any cut outs for sinks, hobs etc. must be at least 5mm larger than the units themselves. This allows the wood to move. The hole for taps must be at least 3mm larger in diameter than the water pipe.

When using a jigsaw, always cut from the underside of the worktop. Important: All cut outs must be thoroughly sealed with 5 coats of oil to prevent moisture damage to the worktop. Belfast sinks must have at least 10mm overhang and edges must be treated regularly to prevent the worktop splitting.

FIG. 2

Make sure that a gap of at least 250mm from appliance cut-out to the end of the worktop, or between cut-outs remains. Cut-outs for hobs must have aluminium tape applied to the edge to reflect as much heat as possible.

INSTALLATION

FIG. 3

To allow the worktop to move it is very important to leave a 5mm gap between the worktop and the wall, especially when installing U-shaped or angled worktops.

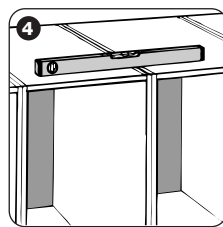
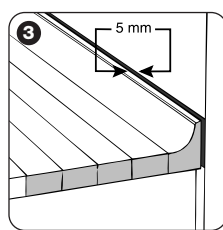


FIG. 4

For the worktops to function perfectly it is essential that all kitchen units have been installed correctly with a spirit level so the upper surfaces are completely level.

FIG. 5

The worktops should be installed with a row of 3 screws each 300-500mm apart. Where cabinets have open tops use support brackets in between. Drill 10mm holes in the cabinet and fasten with screws and washers.

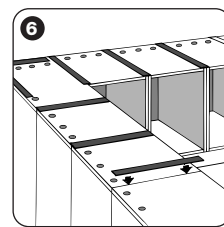
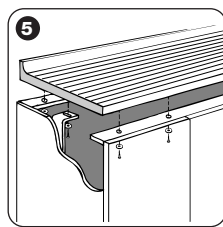


FIG. 6

Where cabinets have closed tops, drill 2-3, 25mm holes in the tops of the cabinets close to the rear, place the strips of hardboard provided in the installation kit on top of the cabinets to help the air circulate. The hardboard strips should be placed every 60cm apart and where cabinets meet together.

FIG. 7

You can decide yourself which way the worktop will move by selecting either the front or the rear edge to fix your worktop into position.

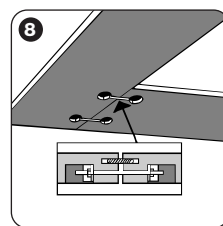
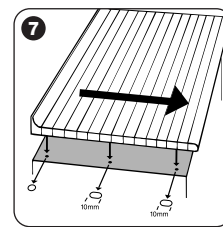


FIG. 8 & FIG. 9

Joins have to be made with jointing bolts. A strip must also be put in to keep the tops flush. Use 2 bolts for a 650mm worktop. Drill holes into the tops of the cabinets, as it is very important that the bolts are fastened from the inside of the cabinets. Use a butt and scribe joint rather than a mitre when installing worktops in corners.

Place the 2 tops together and check to make sure all joints are square and true. Make any necessary adjustments. On 90° corners, the worktops have been designed to always form right angled joints. Insert the joining strip and push the worktops together until they are 3-4mm apart and mount the jointing bolts. Apply sealant (provided) along the joint and tighten the jointing bolts so the joint is tight. Do not over-tighten the bolts.

Remember to always carry out a final tightening and adjustment of the joints to complete the installation.

FIG. 10

Always protect the worktop against heat (heaters/cookers) and moisture (dishwashers, washing machines etc.) with aluminium foil.

Household appliances such as coffee makers, toasters and microwave ovens should never be placed directly onto the worktop surface as the wood may dry out and cracks may appear.

FIG. 11

Particular attention should be given to free-standing cookers. Apply aluminium strips with silicone sealant to the edges of the worktop closest to the cooker. Small cracks may occur but they are not damaging to the worktop, simply treat with extra oil.

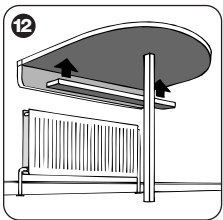


FIG. 12

Free standing worktops measuring more than 250mm must always be supported by frames or the insertion of T-bars to avoid bowing. If a worktop is to be fitted over a radiator, aluminium foil must be used to deflect heat.

UPSTANDS

Upstands must always be installed after the worktop panels have been secured to the kitchen units. They can be fastened by using silicone onto the worktop surface and wall. It is very important that the sealing against the worktop and wall is carried out correctly so that water cannot get underneath the upstand. This will prevent miscolouring of the wood over time.



Solid Wood 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.