
Before Installation

- Check that the base unit carcasses are firmly fixed and level. The maximum span for Silica without base unit support should be 600mm. Overhangs greater than 300mm must have sufficient supports at centres of no more than 600mm.
- Where you are manufacturing your own cut outs (sink cut outs, tap holes, hob cuts etc.) please ensure that they have rounded corners and are smooth to the touch. Also, ensure that all exposed edges of the substrate inside these cut outs is sealed. To do this, use silicone, water resistant paint or varnish for sink and tap hole cut outs and Aluminium Hob Tape for hob cut outs.
- Consider the condition of walls and whether the back edge of the tops requires scribing.
- Check the quality of the worktops prior to cutting. Any defects should be reported immediately.
- Silica should be stored flat where possible, in similar conditions to the kitchen into which they will be fitted. If stored on their back edge the top should be supported fully along the length. Under no circumstances should Silica be stored in a shed, garage or conservatory.
- Fix the worktops to the carcasses in such a way as to allow for expansion or contraction of the worktops.
- Take care when handling Silica, give careful consideration to weak points arising from sink cut-out, shape and size of top and hob cut-outs. Always carry the worktops vertically, especially those with sinks fitted, as excessive flexing can lead to stress cracking of the worktop or bond failure around the sink.

During Installation

1. Check site dimensions and allow approximately 1mm per metre for expansion or contraction of the worktops
2. Check all end caps to ensure that square finished ends do not require profiling. This can be done by machining a 6mm radius using a round over cutter with nylon roller guide set into a portable hand router.
3. Machine mitre joints using conventional worktop mitre jig. Machine a 6 – 6.5mm groove, directly beneath the solid surface sheet to each side of the joint to take the Acrylic loose tongue. See Fig 1.
4. Machine the worktop bolt cut-outs with the worktop face down using a worktop mitre jig, a standard 600mm worktop should have 3 bolts fitted.
5. Once cut-to-size ensure that all joints are perfect for fit and all overhang dimensions are accurate.

6. ***IMPORTANT NOTE*** – It is imperative that all the joints are cleaned thoroughly with alcohol wipes, taking care to remove any pen or pencil marks. Any stubborn pen or pencil mark can be removed with light hand sand using 240 grit sandpaper. Please note: if these marks are not removed completely it WILL result in contamination of the glue joint.
7. Apply acrylic adhesive to one of the grooves and firmly push the loose tongue home. Apply another bead into the adjoining groove, apply a third bead of adhesive along the MDF substrate approximately 3mm from the base and then gently bring the tops to within 3mm of one another. Apply a continuous bead down the entire length of the joint and down the front edge. See Fig 2. Draw the tops together with panel butting connectors and allow excess adhesive to form over the joint. See Fig 3.
8. Do not attempt to remove any adhesive whilst still wet. Only remove cured adhesive when completely hard, usually after 30 - 45 minutes depending upon ambient conditions.
9. Remove most of the adhesive with a sharp block plane and finish with a random / eccentric orbital sander, do not use a chisel. Start by using 120 grit paper until all trace of adhesive around the joint has disappeared, then proceed to sand ALL the worktop surfaces, not just the joints, using the same grade paper and work in both North to South and East to West directions. It is vital that the sander is kept flat at all times.
10. Repeat the sanding instruction using 240 grit remembering to clean the worktops down after each grit level. Finish the worktops using Red and Grey Scotchbrite pads.

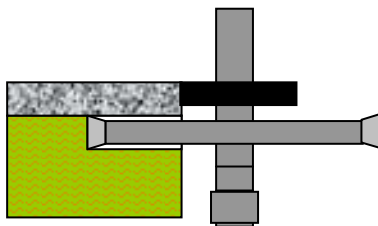


Fig 1

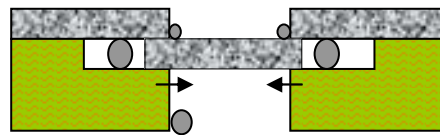


Fig 2

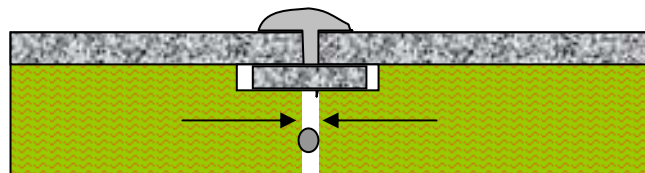


Fig 3

After Installation

- Hand over the Care and Maintenance Leaflet to the customer and explain the normal cleaning and maintenance routine for Silica.

Please be aware, failure to comply with the information contained within these fitting instructions may result in the failure of a warranty claim. Please consult your Silica dealer should you have any further questions.