

Countertop Sink Installation Guide

A vessel sink, a sink that sits on top of a counter or vanity, can give a bathroom a uniquely polished look. Vessel sinks are convenient because they can be installed on any flat vanity top. The top of the vanity can be granite, tile, caesarstone, wood, or any other type of solid surface. Vessel or countertop sinks also give you the option of converting a dresser or other piece of furniture into a vanity for a customized look.

Drain holes and faucet holes will have to be drilled on any vanity or dresser top chosen for a vessel sink installation. Other considerations are the drain pipe location and countertop height. Setting a vessel sink on top of a standard height vanity would result in a sink that is much too tall. The height of the vanity needs to be low enough so that the installed sink height is somewhere between 30 to 36 inches.

Also, keep in mind that if you will be using a piece of furniture that is not specifically designed for a vessel sink, additional alterations may have to be made. These may include removing drawers and attaching only the faces to the cabinet to allow room for water and drain lines inside. The back of the dresser will most likely have to be opened for the water and drain lines as well.

If you are installing a vessel faucet as well as a vessel sink, you should install the faucet first. Since faucets are usually located behind the sink it is easier to install them first. Taking the time to install the faucet first can give you more room to work in an already limited space.

Here is how to mount a vessel sink for an above-counter installation:

- 1. Preparation:** Before you begin, make sure you have the correct vessel sink drain provided. The drain in most installations serves as a drain as well as the anchor that connects the sink to the countertop. If the sink you are installing has an overflow, then you will need to make sure you get a vessel sink drain with overflow slits on the drains side walls. A sink without an overflow will require a vessel sink drain without overflow slits. The drain is the only mounting hardware that should be used to attach and hold the vessel to the counter. Note that our sinks are not glass vessel sinks and will not require a mounting ring that sits on the counter to holds the vessel in position.

2. **Position the sink:** If the bottom of the sink you bought is flat then you can usually mount the vessel directly onto the counter. Align it with the drain opening in the counter. Having a helper to hold the vessel sink in position is recommended.
Note: Silicone can be used to secure the vessel to the counter when a gasket isn't included.
3. **Connect the drain:** Apply plumber's putty to the part of the drain that goes into the sink. Or if the drain comes with a foam, rubber, or silicone gasket for the top, that will work as well. Only use one or the other. Do not use both the gasket and the plumber's putty or this might cause a leak. Drop the top part of the drain into the sink making sure to center it.
4. **Tighten the Connection:** Under the sink use pipe joint compound or some other sort of lubricant on the part of the rubber seal that sits against the sink or the counter. Put the rubber seal onto the drain first and push it up as far as you can. After the rubber seal, put the friction ring in place followed by the mounting nut. Hand tighten the nut from under the counter until the sink is nice and snug. You can use pliers or a similar tool to finish tightening the mounting nut, but be very careful to not over tighten as this can damage the vessel sink or counter. Check the alignment of the drain top once again to make sure it is still straight.
5. **Install the drain trap:** Now that the vessel sink drain is installed, you can connect the trap onto the drain tail piece. The 1- $\frac{1}{4}$ " drain tail piece coming from the vessel sink should fit into a 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ " trap like any other standard sink drain trap installation. This is done using a reducing washer to go from 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1- $\frac{1}{4}$ " (included with the trap, in most cases).
6. **Test for leaks:** After all connections are made test the drain thoroughly for leaks. First run water into the sink and check for leaks underneath the sink. If there are no leaks under normal running conditions, fill the sink all the way up so you give it a good volume-over-time test.
7. **Complete the installation:** Once the nut is tightened, the drain is aligned, and the sink has no leaks, use silicone all around the base of the vessel or countertop sink to ensure a strong hold to the counter and protect from water entering crevices. The installation is now complete.