

GF NATURAL STONE COUNTERTOP INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide a detailed and systematic description of the specific methods and procedures to be followed during the countertop and sink installation process.

TOOLS & MATERIALS

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| 1. Laser level | 2. Plump bob |
| 3. Measurement tape | 4. L Square scale |
| 5. Spirit Level | 6. Epoxy adhesive |
| 7. Clear Silicone caulk | 8. Caulking gun |
| 9. Masking tape | 10. Undermount sink brackets |
| 11. Screw driver | 12. Hammer |
| 13. Grout | 14. Fastening tools |

PRE INSTALLATION CHECKS

1. Thoroughly examine the area where countertops are to be installed for any potential obstructions. Ensure cabinet surfaces are clean, and free of debris.
2. Take field measurements for cabinets once they are placed in permanent positions to verify dimensions with the supplied countertops.
3. Bring all countertops of the respective unit to the job site and cross-verification the dimensions and defects before installation, as per the installed cabinets.
4. Ensure cabinets that receive countertops are properly secured in position to walls and floors, and are level and plumb.
5. Cover the uppermost 3-4 inches of the cabinets' sides with painters tape to prevent adhesive from touching their face during installation.
6. Ensure wall surfaces for backsplashes are plumb and have a slightly rough surface for better bonding.
7. Verify electrical and plumbing point locations on the wall and mark their positions to check for obstructions during and after installation.
8. Clean mounting locations properly with denatured alcohol if sink clip screws will be installed on site. Mix epoxy in equal parts and apply to clip locations. Press clip base onto epoxy until it squeezes through holes. Do not disturb them for 24 hours.
9. Check the strength of clip nuts to ensure they are not loose.
10. Check the sink feasibility by placing and temporarily fixing the sink clip.
11. Ensure to bring all the equipment such as countertops, sinks, sink clips, and installation tools to the installation site.

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INSTALLATION

Method 1: Fixing the sink after installing the countertop:

1. Before beginning work, ensure that all installation crew members have undergone safety induction.
2. Prior to installation, thoroughly clean the surface where the countertop will be placed. Ensure the surface is free from foreign matter, clean, dry, and dust-free. Do not remove the plastic sheet on the countertop.
3. Upon receiving the pre-cut countertop, dry assemble the countertop units in place to verify a satisfactory fit. Ensure there are no large gaps between the countertop and its surroundings before applying adhesive.
4. If adjustments to size are needed, mark areas of the countertop that require removal or cutting for a proper fit. Use a straight edge and pencil for marking.
5. When marking the countertop for cutting, consider the placement of the sink cutout to ensure a proper fit within the sink base cabinet without interfering with sink clips or the cabinet itself.
6. Use a diamond blade power saw to cut along the marked lines, applying gentle downward pressure onto the countertop.
7. Brackets installation (If applicable): Mark the appropriate bracket mounting locations on the pony wall. 6 to 10 inches from the edges and 18 to 24 inches b/w the brackets (preferably, mark at the wall studs which will help in fixing the bracket screws).
8. Cut the wall top for the measured width and depth of bracket and smooth them. Place the bracket and check the alignment. Make sure the top level of the brackets matches with the cabinet/ pony wall level.
9. Fasten the Screw through the bracket and wall on top and flange on the studs. Follow the same for all other brackets. Make sure that all the brackets are on perfect level and plumb with the pony wall and with each other. Place the countertop on the brackets to check the level. If necessary use shims to make them level.
10. If the level is perfect, run a bead of silicone adhesive (as per client/ manufacturer instructions) on top of the brackets. Place the countertop and press using a small amount of pressure.
11. For countertops with minor level differences, rectify by employing shims. Place shims over the cabinet at a maximum spacing of 2 feet (600mm) for support.
12. Apply the approved adhesive to the cabinet surfaces in contact with the countertop as per manufacturer instructions for proper bonding. Place the countertops on cabinets.
13. Gently place the countertops over the adhesive-applied surface and finalize positioning either manually or using stone alignment tools. Maintain a minimum 2 to 3mm gap from the wall for thermal expansion.
14. During final alignment, ensure seam alignment between two units does not exceed +/- 3/64" (1.0mm).

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15. Fill the seam with epoxy grout prior to final positioning, allowing the grout to extrude out of the joint. Mask the countertop surface to prevent contact with the epoxy grout.
16. Install backsplashes by applying adhesive to the receiving end and placing it perpendicular to the countertop surface. Position according to drawings.
17. Seal the sides of the countertop and splashes with water-resistant caulk, leaving a uniform bead not exceeding 3.2mm (0.125”) in width along the joints. Allow the adhesive to dry per manufacturer instructions.
18. Once the adhesive is dry, begin installing sinks and other accessories.
19. To install sinks, fasten mounting brackets loosely into pre-drilled holes in the countertop. Apply silicone caulk around the top of the sink flanges.
20. Position the sink under the countertop opening, pressing the silicone and flange up onto the countertop. From the underside, lightly tighten the fasteners until snug.
21. Check alignment of the sink and countertop opening, then tighten the fasteners until the sink is tight against the countertop. Do not over tighten.

Method 2: Fixing the sink before installing the countertop:

1. Follow the steps 1 to 9 from method 1.
2. Begin by placing the countertop upside down on a flat surface, ensuring that the sink will be installed on the unfinished underside. Remember not to remove the plastic sheet before completing the installation.
3. Position the undermount sink on top of the sinkhole, making sure it is correctly aligned to provide an equal amount of overhang/ reveal on all sides of the sink. Use a pencil or fine tip marker to trace the outer side of the sink onto the underside of the countertop.
4. Use denatured alcohol to thoroughly clean the edge around the sink hole where the sink will be placed. This solvent helps remove any grime and ensures proper bonding with the glue. Allow this area to completely dry before proceeding.
5. Place the anchoring posts next to the traced line, ensuring they are positioned outside the area where the sink rim will occur on the countertop. These posts should be placed at the four corners and central locations along the length and width of the sink.
6. Mark the locations of the undermount sink anchoring posts by tracing around them with a pencil or fine tip marker. Avoid placing the anchoring posts in front of the sink, as this may interfere with the countertop installation.
7. Apply a quarter-inch bead of silicone caulk inside the traced sink rim area on the underside of the countertop. Make sure the caulk is applied uniformly all around the traced area.
8. Clean the rim of the sink with denatured alcohol before mounting it. Allow the rim to dry completely before proceeding with the installation.
9. Position the undermount sink within the traced area, making sure it aligns with the anchoring posts. Press the sink firmly to ensure the silicone spreads properly. If the sink is very light, consider using a weight to press it down against the countertop.

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10. After allowing the epoxy to dry for some time, the anchoring posts should be firm enough to touch. If so, install the wingnuts and brackets to secure the sink in place.
11. Allow one to two hours for the caulk to set before moving the countertop section for final placement.
12. Follow steps 10 to 17 from method 1 for the remaining installation process.

POST INSTALLATION

1. Painter tape installed for protection of cabinet top during installation shall be removed when the adhesive is still wet.
2. Clean the excessive adhesives, and grouts on the surfaces.
3. Apply the necessary sealant on the natural stone countertops as per the manufacturer instructions.
4. Please adhere to GlobalFair's care and maintenance instructions to ensure your countertops have a longer lifespan and maintain their quality over time.