

ACCLIMATING BUTCHER BLOCK COUNTERTOPS

Your butcher block should be placed in the room where it will be installed for a minimum of 72 hours prior to installation. Set the block on its edge to allow air to circulate. Do not lay the block flat on the floor as this may cause cupping. The heat or air conditioning (whichever applies) should be controlling the environment during the acclimation period. If more than one piece is being acclimated space 12" to 18" apart.



Your Butcher Block was kiln-dried to an initial moisture content of 7.6%. To maintain the beauty and integrity of your Butcher Block, it is recommended that special care be taken to keep the relative humidity and temperature within your home or warehouse. This will limit the amount of expansion and contraction in your natural wood product and minimize the risk of environmental damage. Environmental damage does not constitute a defective product. It is important to note that as winter temperatures drop, so does relative humidity in the air. The heaters come on, which further dries the air so keeping the area humidified to an acceptable level usually becomes necessary. Whereas in the spring/summer as humidity rises, dehumidifiers and air conditioners become the method of control. Humidity Recommendations range from 30% - 50% In a building. Temperature recommendations range from 60° to 80° in a building. If you stay within the recommendations range, the amount of expansion and contraction is limited.

INSTALLING YOUR BUTCHER BLOCK TOP

When installing Butcher Block, it is very important to remember that all natural hardwood products continue to move throughout their useful life. Changing temperatures and humidity levels will cause wood to expand and contract. Installation methods must allow the top to be able to move during changing conditions or seasons.

- First, do not attach directly to the top of a solid underlayment. Remove prior to installing Butcher Block.
- The appropriate length of #10 screws and washers should be carefully chosen so the screw does not go all the way through the top. Generally, the screw should only penetrate half the thickness of the countertop.
- Place the block in the location that it will be installed. Allow 1/8" of room for expansion at each end when the top is trapped between 2 walls. The gap can be concealed with backsplash material, trim, or caulking of your choice.
- Butcher Block should never be glued down with silicone caulk or construction adhesive as this will prevent natural movement and result in damage to the top. Cracking and warping when tops are installed using construction adhesive or silicone caulk will not be covered under warranty.
- Minimal affixing is required as the tops will be held down by self-weight. Use only enough fasteners to secure the block. Too many fasteners can keep the top from moving freely and result in damage. Fastener locations are usually in the corners.
- The first hole drilled should be the pilot hole using a 5/32" drill bit. The pilot hole should be deep enough to accommodate the full length of the screw. Screwing into the wood without a pilot hole will cause outward pressure and may crack the wood.
- Then, drill a 3/8" expansion hole in the sub-top or screw block of the cabinet in the same location as the pilot hole, being careful not to drill into the underside of the butcher block: repeat for each fastener. Tops that are screwed down without expansion holes will also be void of warranty. (See Diagram 1)
- On the underside of the sub-top, place the washer on the screw and drive the screw into the pilot hole in the butcher block.
- Be careful not to over tighten. Make sure the washer is large enough to cover the expansion hole.
- Counter top joints should not be glued. Use the draw bolt fasteners provided.
- If your layout includes any overhangs, note that overhangs of 8" and greater will require additional support corbels or brackets at least every 24". (See Diagram 3)

DIAGRAM 1

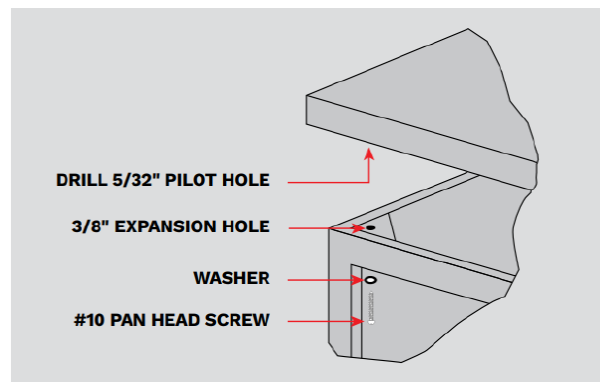


DIAGRAM 2

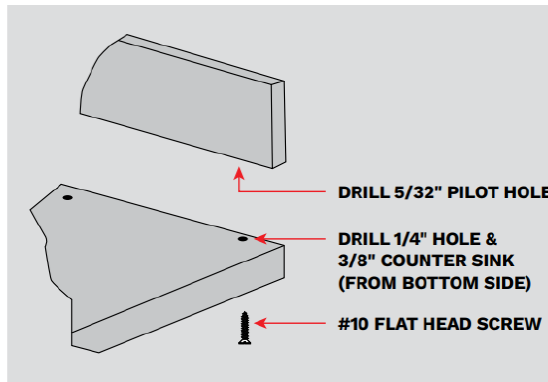
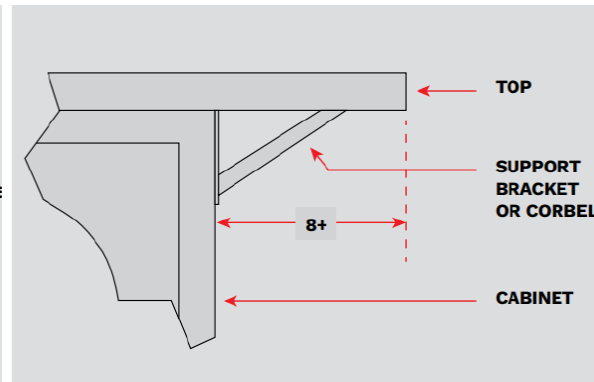


DIAGRAM 3



INSTALLING BACKSPASHES

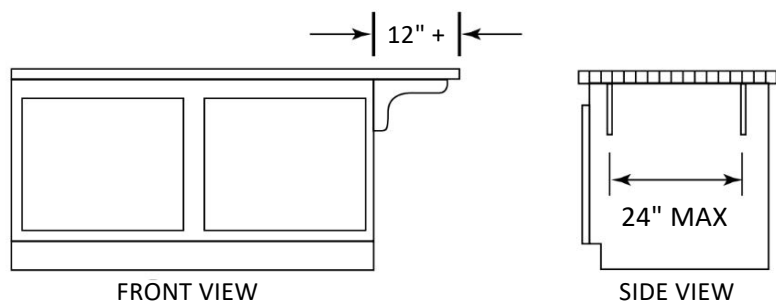
Wood backsplash material may be screwed to the butcher block prior to installation by drilling pilot holes and screwing from the bottom of the block into the backsplash material. For the application of backsplash materials only, silicone caulk may also be used in lieu of attaching with screws. (See Diagram 2)

INSTALLING AROUND APPLIANCES

Where appliances have heat interacting on the countertop, insulation tape should be installed to cut down heat transference. Provide adequate ventilation. Insulation should be installed around cooktops. Use rubberized joint sealant in sink applications.

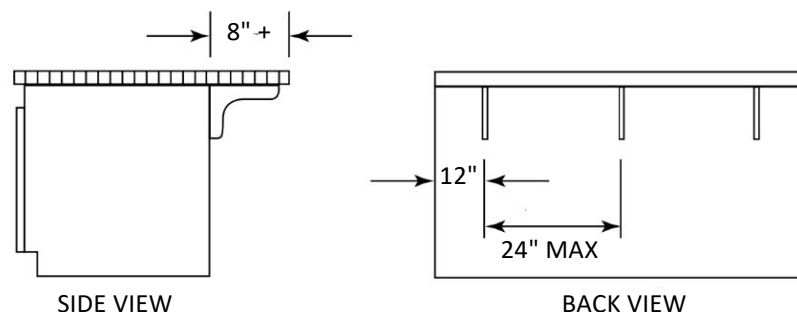
OVERHANG ON ENDS

In the case that a top is placed on a base that results in an overhang of 12" or more inches on the ENDS, the overhang portion must be stabilized by brackets. (See illustration Below.)



OVERHANG ON SIDES

In the case that a top is placed on a base that results in an overhang of 8" or more inches on the SIDES, the overhang portion must be stabilized by brackets. (See illustration Below.)



Care & Maintenance - We offer two types of wood top finishes: an oil finish and a urethane finish.

IMPORTANT: Before you apply any care and maintenance products to your wood surface, make sure you know the type of finish you will be maintaining. An oil finish is intended to be used as a cutting surface. The oil finish has a natural matte appearance that helps to protect the wood from moisture and humidity exchange. A urethane finish is a beautiful satin finish that is impervious to most household chemicals and is easily cleaned with mild soap and water. **It is not meant to be used as a cutting surface.** Once you've determined which finish is on your product, proceed to the proper care and maintenance steps listed below.

Oil Finished Wood Tops

- A minimum of once a month (depending upon the use and household conditions), apply an even coat of Boos Block Mystery Oil or other butcher block oil to all surfaces of your countertop using a clean cloth. The more often it is cleaned, the more often it should be oiled. A dry appearance is a sure sign it is time to oil your wood surface.
- Allow the oil to fully penetrate through the wood fibers overnight, then wipe off any excess oil. Apply additional oil to any visible dry spots that remain.
- For additional protection, it is recommended to use Boos Block® Board Cream to seal the wood surface in conjunction with the Mystery Oil. Apply an even coat of Board Cream using a clean cloth. Allow the Board Cream to penetrate the wood surface overnight, then wipe off any excess.
- Minor scratches can be repaired by sanding the affected area with a fine grit (#200) sandpaper. When sanding, always sand with the grain. If the area needing repair is located along the edges, lightly sand the edges into the surrounding area. Remove all dust before applying oil.

Oil Finished Wood Tops - CAUTION

- DO NOT allow fresh, wet meats or liquids of any type to stand on the countertop surface for long periods of time. Unattended liquids will soak into the wood, causing the countertop surface to expand, the wood to soften, and affects the strength of the glued joints.
- DO NOT cut fish or poultry on the countertop surface unless you have thoroughly followed the proper care instructions. The moisture barrier must be intact prior to cutting any type of fish, seafood, or poultry on the countertop surface. ALWAYS CLEAN THE COUNTERTOP SURFACE THOROUGHLY AFTER CUTTING FISH OR POULTRY.
- DO NOT use a razor-edged cleaver or serrated knife. These may chip or splinter the wood and produce soft spots.
- DO NOT wash your countertop with harsh detergents of any type. Harsh chemical cleaners may result in permanent damage and discoloration to the surface.
- DO NOT overoil your wood surface.

Waterlox Finished Wood Products

- After your surface has dried and cured for at least 7 days, regular cleaning may be performed. To properly care for your surfaces, avoid using cleaners/chemicals that can damage your finish.
- Minor scratches can be repaired by rubbing the affected area with fine steel wool or fine grit (#200) sandpaper. Remember, when rubbing or sanding, always sand with the grain. If the area needing repair is located along the edges, lightly sand the edges into the surrounding area. Remove all dust and apply a coat of Waterlox Urethane satin finish. The entire surface of the top will have to be refinished or the repair will be visible. Always follow the manufacturer's directions on the product label when refinishing.
- If there are major scratches and gouges where large portions of wood have been removed or damaged, the repair should be handled by an experienced professional.
- **DO NOT cut on or into a Waterlox finished countertop.**

CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS

- To clean spills or soiled areas, use a clean cloth dampened with a mild soap and water solution to wipe the surface. Wash out the cloth in clean warm water, wring out, and go over the surface again to remove any remaining soap. Then, thoroughly wipe all surfaces with a clean dry towel. Please note that any spills should be cleaned up immediately.
- Don't allow puddles of water to stay on the surface. The occasional drop or sweating glass will not cause problems for Waterlox® but try to avoid standing puddles and trapped water. Common problems are under house plants, soap dishes, pet bowls or other items that may be near the sink. If these find the edges of boards or cracks, they may seep into the wood and cause staining or warping.
- Use a soap dish – Soaps are designed to break down grease and oil to wash it away. Waterlox® products are oil-based finishes (all of them), therefore, prolonged exposure to even mild soaps and detergents can slowly break down the finish. This can lead to staining or damage to the film.

Recommended Regular Cleaning Products

- For light, everyday cleaning use a Vinegar and Water solution. Mix 1 ounce of white vinegar into a gallon of warm water.
- For deeper cleaning, Waterlox specific cleaners are located on their website along with instructions on use. <https://www.waterlox.com/cleaners>
- Warm water with a mild detergent – Avoid dish detergents (like Dawn®) as these are designed to break down oils. Recommended to rinse with clean water to remove any soap residues.
- Murphy Oil Soap¹ – Follow the directions on the label. This will leave a residue on the surface; therefore, it may reduce the gloss. See the footnotes for more information.
- Mineral Spirits or Paint Thinner – Non-polar solvents like VM&P Naphtha or Turpentine² can be used to clean up stubborn marks or scuffs. Not recommended for regular cleaning but are safe to use on stubborn messes.
- For very heavy duty cleaning, such as stripping off cleaner residues or preparing for a recoat, it is recommended to use TSP (trisodium phosphate) or a TSP substitute. Follow the dilution/mixing instructions for your brand and follow with a clear water rinse.

Absolute DO NOT USE Products

- Bleach/Ammonia – Be sure to check ingredients lists as some cleaners may contain bleach or ammonia.
- Other manufacture's floor care products – Some of these products contain special additives that may leave residues or cause damage to Waterlox®.
- Dish Detergents – Designed to break down stubborn grease/food stains. Chronic use will break down the coating and may cause the surface to become sticky.
- Acetone, MEK, Denatured Alcohol, Lacquer Thinner and Acetone – These solvents can damage Waterlox® finished surfaces.
- Oven Cleaners, Baking Soda Pastes, and other Caustic Cleaners – These (if left unattended) can eat through Waterlox® very quickly.
- Products containing wax – These typically will not damage the finish and tend to cause more issues going forward in terms of maintenance and recoat ability.
- Steam Cleaners/Steam Mops – Some customers use them regularly with good results, but we still recommend against it.
- Murphy Oil Soap and other similar products will usually leave behind a very slight oily residue. Frequent use may cause the finish to look dull and the residue needs to be removed.
- Turpentine is the most aggressive, so avoid it if possible. Do not over saturate or polish or allow to sit on surface for an extended length of time.