

ASSEMBLING & INSTALLING YOUR COUNTERTOP

1. Preparation is crucial to ensure your countertop installation goes smoothly. Remove the cabinet drawers and mark them as to what position they need to be returned. Remove the items on the top shelf of the cabinet as some work must be done from beneath the countertop.

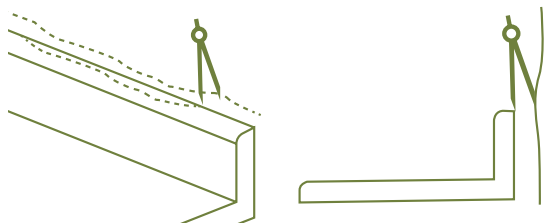
Protect your floors with a drop sheet or cardboard. Do not place any tools on the countertop to avoid any scratches. Tools that will be required are as follows:

- 5/8" screws - wood screws #8
- metal L brackets
- shim material
- level
- power screwdriver or drill
- jigsaw with a fine to medium blade
- hammer
- silicone
- caulking (translucent or paintable is preferred)
- pencil with compass
- belt sander or planer
- white waterproof woodworking glue (type II or type III)

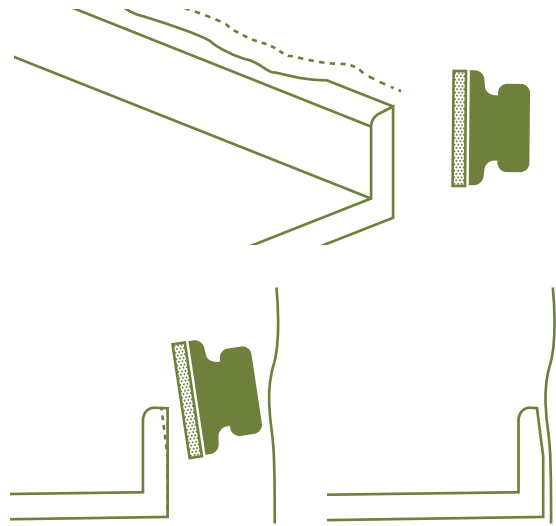
2. Without joining them, position the countertops on the cabinets and push them to the wall. Keep the countertop fronts parallel to the front of the cabinets having consistent overhang.

3. Make certain that the cabinet doors open smoothly and do not catch on the bottom of the countertop. If you have frameless cabinets (where the drawers are level with the top of the cabinet) you may have to raise the countertop to provide clearance for the doors or drawers. Position 11/16" shim strips to the front and back of the counter so that the bottom of the countertop sits flush with the top of the cabinet. Shims may be applied at FLOFORM if ordered.

4. If the wall is not straight open a compass to the biggest gap between the countertop and the wall. With the point touching the wall, trace a line along the top of the countertop:

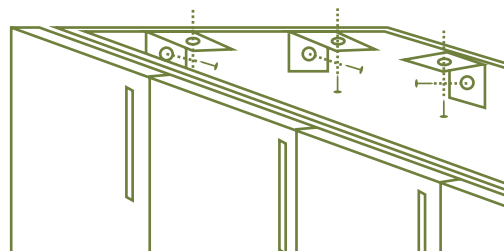


5. Every countertop has an 5/8" scribing material on the backsplash. With a plane or belt sander, remove the excess countertop material so that the back splash will sit flush against the wall.



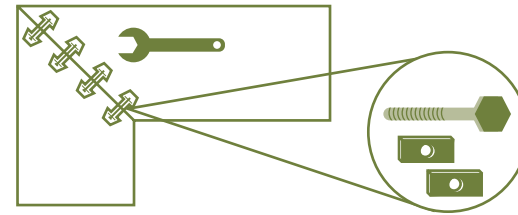
6. Before positioning the countertop on the cabinet, fasten L brackets to the cabinet as shown in the diagram. (Note: make sure to use proper length screws keeping in mind that the thickness of the countertop is 5/8").

You do not require brackets if your cabinet has lateral (horizontal) wood strips on the front and back where you can secure the countertops with screws.

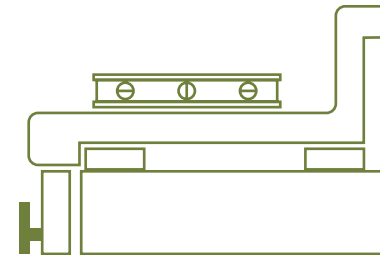


7. Carefully line up the countertop pieces and push them together to form as tight a joint as possible. Make sure that the front, back and surface edges are in perfect alignment. Where the joints meet, apply TYPE II water proof adhesive to each of the edges and press to seal.

Wipe off any excess adhesive. From the underside of the countertop, install the supplied mitre bolts in the order as illustrated, tighten slightly. To attain a smooth joint, tap lightly with a hammer on a piece old wood on the top of the countertop. Tighten mitre bolts. *Ensure that there is no separation in the joint and that the joint is level. Do not over tighten bolts as the countertop may bump up at the mitre bolt locations.*



8. When you are satisfied that the countertop is sitting flush against the wall with no gaps, that the mitre is smooth and the counter is fitting properly you may screw down the counter securely by using the L brackets. Use your level to ensure that the counter is sitting level lengthwise and sitting level widthwise.

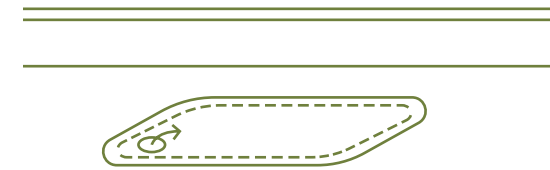


9. Trace the outline of the sink at the preferred location. The standard placement of the front edge of the sink would be 3" from the front edge of the countertop (this measurement may vary). Use the existing sink or the new sink template to draw the sink shape onto the countertop.

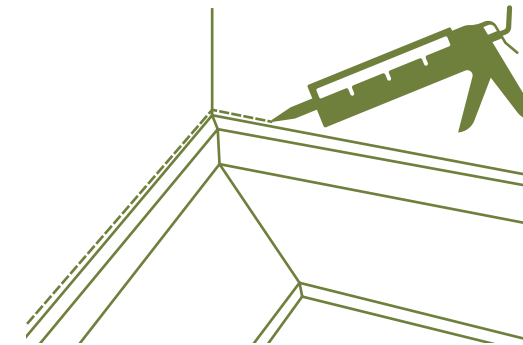
Make sure to read the cutting instructions before cutting the sink hole.

Drill a pilot hole inside the cutting line, big enough to insert your jigsaw blade. Cut up to and along the cutting line, ensuring that your corners are cut slightly rounded. File the top edge of the sink cut out to smooth the laminate.

Make sure to seal the raw particle board around the sink cut out and the tap holes with silicone. Make a "dam" of silicone on the top of the sink cut out before positioning the sink into the hole. Wipe the excess silicone from the countertop.

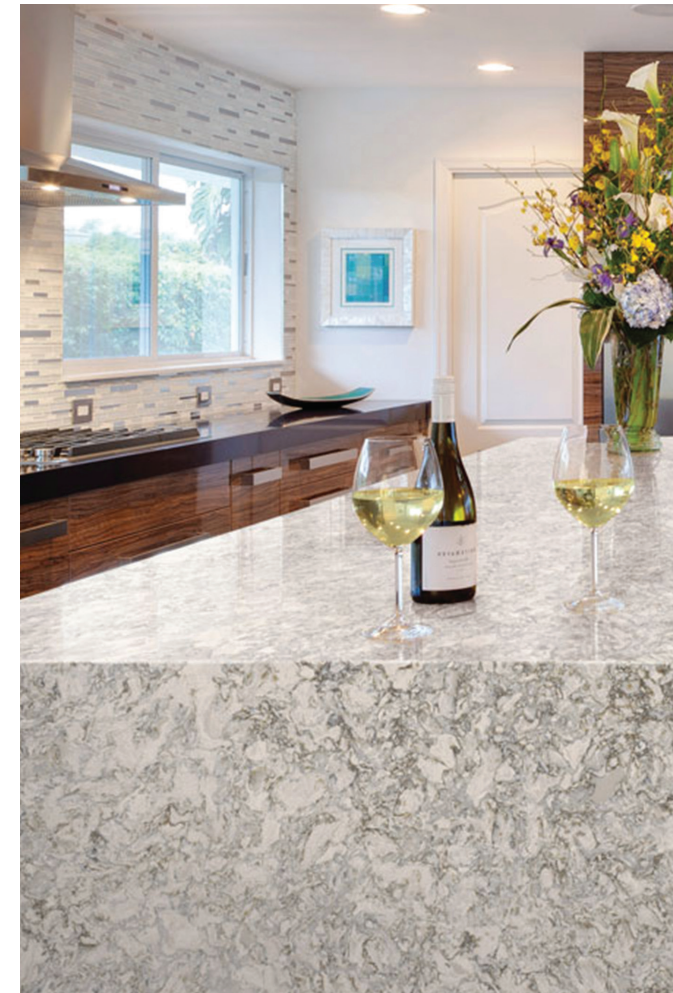


10. The final step to complete your countertop installation is to run a fine bead of caulking along the top edge of the countertop backsplash where it meets the wall. Ensure that you use paintable caulking if you will be painting the walls or use translucent or tinted caulking to provide a professional completed installation.



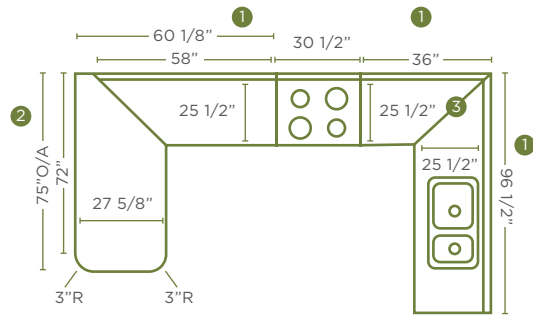
Please contact your local FLOFORM professional with any questions you may have.

Measuring & Assembling your Countertop

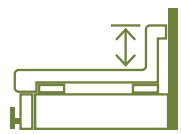


MEASURING EXISTING POST FORMED COUNTERTOPS

Measure each piece of countertop, ensuring that you measure to the nearest 1/16". Note: It is always best if possible to provide cabinet and countertop sizes to ensure that your countertop will be ordered correctly.



1. Along the back edge where the top meets the wall, measure the existing total length of each countertop piece. Note: if your countertop is an L shape or U shape you must measure into the corner for each section.
2. Measure the amount of overhang that has been allowed for each finished end. (From the end of the cabinet to the end of the finished edge.)
3. Measure your existing countertop depth from the back wall to the front edge of your countertop.
4. Measure the amount of overhang from the front of the cabinet doors to the outside front edge of your countertop.
5. Measure the height of the backsplash on your countertop from the deck of your existing countertop to the top of the existing backsplash. Indicate if there is a tile, paint, mirror or a wallpaper line that needs to be met.



Important reminder: The depth of kitchen tops and vanity tops will differ. Countertops can be made to specific sizes but the industry standard for kitchen countertops is 25 1/2" overall depth with a back splash height of 2 7/8". Vanity countertops are 22 1/2" overall depth with a backsplash height of 3 1/8".

MEASURING BAR OR PENINSULA TOPS

Bar or peninsula countertops are a standard size of 27 5/8". However, they can be custom made to fit a specific size requirement.

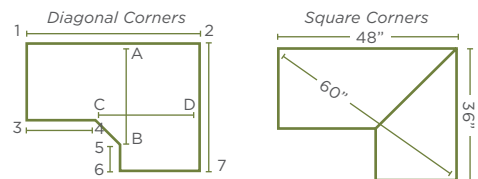
1. For bar tops, measure the width and the total length from the wall to the end of the bar top.
2. Measure the bar top length from the wall to where the arc, or curve begins. The difference will be the size of the arc ($75" - 72" = 3"$ arc).
3. Bar or peninsula tops must be ordered wider than a counter which butts up against a wall, as overhang will be required for the front and the back of the cabinet. Countertops that butt up to a wall at the back will only need to have overhang added for the front of the cabinet. The mitre will be cut to accommodate these different depths.
4. The rule of thumb is to calculate the difference in depths between the two tops and add that measurement to the narrower top for an overall size.
5. Be aware that the backsplash will stop shorter than the outside edge of the bar top (by the difference in the counter depths). The angled cut on the backsplash will automatically be finished.

MEASURING DIAGONAL CORNERS

Refer to the diagram below to help the measuring instructions. To measure for diagonal corner countertops, measure point A and point B and point C and point D. Remember to measure to the wall, including the depth of the backsplash. Also ensure that you've measured points 1 to 2, 3 to 4, 5 to 6 and 2 to 7.

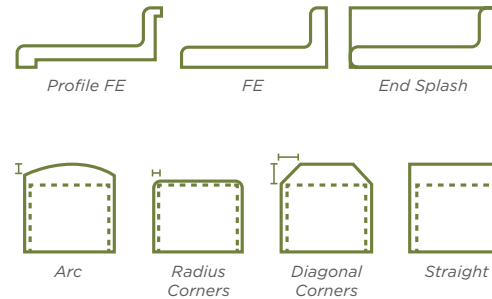
MEASURING SQUARE CORNERS

For countertops that meet in the corner, to help with the installation process measure the squareness of the walls. At the point where the two walls meet, measure out to 3 feet on one wall and make a mark. On the opposite wall measure out to 4 feet and make a mark. Then, measure the cross distance between the two wall points. A true 90° corner should measure 60" across. If your measurement is greater or less than 60" please indicate.



FINISHED ENDS

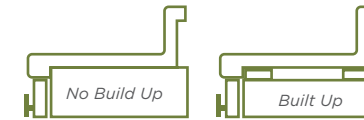
Indicate where finished ends are required. Finished ends are available in 2 styles- profile and regular, with various options to finish bar or peninsula tops. Refer to the following illustrations to choose the right finished end for your application. End splashes are used exclusively against walls.



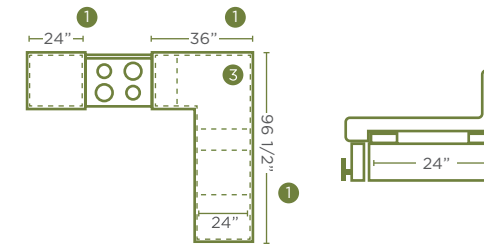
MEASURING COUNTERTOPS FOR NEW CABINETS

1. Along the back edge where the cabinet meets the wall, measure the length of the cabinet. Note: if your cabinet is an L shape or a U shape you must measure into the corner for each section.
2. Indicate where finished ends are required. When the end is open and there is no size restriction, add 3/4" for each finished end. When the counter butts up to an appliance or there is a size restraint, allow 1/4" for an overhang. When this is the case and the top is not shimmed you will need to order the finished end as a profile finished end (Refer to the diagram in Step 4.)
3. When measuring bar or peninsula tops, you will need to take the measurement from the wall to the end of the cabinet. The rule of thumb is when there is a straight finished end is to allow 3/4" past the cabinet. When there is an arc or radius finished end, add the length of the arc or radius to the length of the cabinet. For example, if you wish to include a 3" arc on the end of your bar you must add 3" to the end of your cabinet.
4. Measure the depth of the cabinet from the back where it meets the wall to the front of the cabinet including the doors. To ensure proper overhang for your counter you must take the depth of the cabinet including the doors and add 1".

5. Indicate whether the drawers of the cabinet sit flush with the top of the cabinet or drop down from the top of the cabinet. If the drawers sit flush with the top of the cabinet you will need to order the countertop with shims.



6. Measure the distance from the top of the cabinet to an existing tile or wallpaper line.
7. Continue measuring for your new countertop by following the instructions listed in steps 2-5 in the previous information.



MEASURING EXISTING FLAT LAY COUNTERTOPS

1. Countertop measurements for straight edged countertops are done in the same manner as previously instructed.
2. Because straight edged countertops are often manufactured to non standard dimensions it is best to supply cabinet and countertop sizes or to supply a template. Straight edge or flat lay countertops are best suited for countertop applications where there are non standard sizes, where there is a sink where a mitre would normally be located, and for countertops which are manufactured with no mitres (to maximum size of 60" x 144".)
3. Straight edged countertops do not come with a rounded nose profile or with a coved backsplash. Backsplashes can be incorporated into the countertop but will be attached.