



Preparation for a EarthElements™ Installation
Technical Bulletin P-003

Thank you for purchasing EarthElements™ material for your project. We have prepared a pre-project checklist that covers some key points that you and your supplier should review to be sure there is complete understanding of expectations so that the project goes smoothly.

Preparation for Countertop Installation

Your fabricator and installer know how to install tops to minimize hassles and maximize the countertop life expectancy and customer satisfaction. If you are interested, you can review the “Minimum Fabrication Requirements” on our website. Your installation is optimized when the walls, cabinets and substructure are properly prepared. It is the responsibility of your installer to determine if the project is ready for installation.

Pre-installation Topics

1. Color and slab selection
 - i. Consumer is responsible for deciding on color selection. Final selection should not be made from website, pictures, magazines, literature or small samples. If necessary, the consumer should work with their supplier to see full size slabs or current samples.
 - ii. Fabricator is responsible for inspecting slabs for defects and slab to slab color matching prior to fabrication.
2. Installing a composite countertop may also require adding structural support to underlying cabinets since the slabs are extremely heavy. Review any needs with a designer or installer.
3. Agreement should be made to determine location in slab for sink & cooktop cutouts, other appliances, faucets and seam location(s).
4. Edge detail must be decided before fabrication can begin.
5. Detail for all corners (inside corners and outside radiuses) should be reviewed.
 - i. Inside corners should have a minimum 1/4” radius.
 - ii. Outside corners should have a minimum 1/8” radius to eliminate sharp outside corners that could be a safety hazard.
6. Seam expectations
 - i. Seams will be visible; about 1/16 +/- 1/32 of an inch
 - ii. Will show pattern changes
 - iii. May not be perfectly smooth
 - iv. The consumer and installer should agree on the seam location(s)
7. Backsplash expectations
 - i. Backsplashes of 2 or 3cm will reduce the total available countertop space.
 - ii. Do not let the backsplash rest directly on deck (includes tile and other solid materials). Installer should use spacers to keep backsplash off countertop.
 - iii. Silicone is the best material to caulk the gap between the countertop and the backsplash.
8. Overhangs may need additional support. Review with installer what, if any, additional support will be needed for your overhang (underlayment, corbels, legs).
9. Confirm that the installer will not do any dry cutting or grinding on site or inside the home. When natural stone, composite or quartz slabs are “dry” machined with saws and grinders, the machining can generate crystalline silica dust. Refer to our “Safety Data Sheet” on our website for additional information.



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Prior to “Installation Day”

10. Consumer must ensure that subcontractor items are completed, i.e: plumbing & electrical roughed in, flooring set, cabinetry permanently installed, etc.
11. Field measurements are to be taken once all cabinets have been installed in their permanent positions. In many cases, the fabricator will make a template of the installation area.
12. The sink(s) should be available as well as all appliances that require a cut out in the countertop so the proper cut out sizes are made.

Installation Day Tips

13. Confirm with installers that they will not be using hand tools to cut or grind the countertop material. See previous comments regarding dust.
14. Remove any breakables from the room and from any wall that has work being done against it.
15. Construction Dust Control Measures:
 - i. Be sure the installer takes dust control measures that might be necessary, like covering doorways, air duct returns, furniture, etc. before starting. A fan blowing out from the work area is an excellent idea to control dust and fumes. Dust generation at a construction site is normal and requires containment and control.
 - ii. The Construction Dust Control Measures do not apply to Respirable Silica Dust created from dry cutting or grinding natural stone or quartz materials referenced previously.
16. Consumer and installer must agree who is responsible for protecting the floors.
17. EarthElements™ are heavy materials. Be sure the path from delivery vehicles to the installation area is free from obstructions.
18. Clean out cabinets as dust particles may fall into any exposed areas.
19. Cabinets must be level (side to side and front to back). Installers must ensure the area is flat and true to 1/8” over a 10 ft. section.
20. Additional wood support strips may need to be installed on top of cabinets and against back walls, especially in corners. When completed, the countertop should not have any “give” when pressure is applied in a down force.
21. Tops should have a gap of 1/8” abutting any walls or cabinet side walls.
22. Silicone should be used to adhere the countertops. It will take 24 hours to “set”.

Post Installation Tips

23. Installer should clean up after their work is completed. At a minimum, the area should be broom swept and all debris removed.
24. Allow adhesives to set (24 hours) before using countertops. Failure to do so may impact the positioning of the material.
25. Obtain the following from your supplier or download them from our website:
 - i. Care & Maintenance Instructions
 - ii. Warranty Information