



## INSTALLING YOUR NEW SOLID WOOD SURFACE

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When installing a Sustainable Northwest Wood Butcher Block Countertop, it is very important to remember that all-natural hardwood products will expand and contract with changing temperatures and humidity levels throughout the life of the product. Installation methods must allow the top to be able to move during changing conditions and seasons.

- First, do not attach directly on top of a solid underlayment. Remove existing top. If a solid particle board or MDF top is the underlayment, have large holes cut into them to assist with even and adequate ventilation.
- The appropriate length #10 screws and washers should be carefully chosen so the screw does not go all the way through the top, but the depth of penetration is enough to secure the top in place. Generally, the screw should go  $\frac{1}{2}$  the thickness of the countertop. (Screw length is determined by the sub-top thickness + pilot hole penetration.)
- Place the solid wood top 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 or the trim of your choice.
- Butcher Block Surfaces 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 fixing 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. Use a 5/32" drill bit for the pilot holes. 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.
- 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.
- Countertop joints should not be glued. Use a draw bolt fastener provided when appropriate
- If your layout includes any overhangs, note that overhangs of 8" and greater or where the joints of the staves could be exposed to stress will require additional support corbels or brackets at least every 24 inches.