

LAMINWOOD - Hardwood Worktop

Laminwood is produced in a purpose built factory covering 25000 square metres and includes full sawmilling facilities with drying capacity, pressing and finishing machines.

In concurrence with continuing forestry programmes to endangered timbers, no South American species are used and those African timbers in production, Iroko and Sapelli, come from countries where the forestry programme of management and replanting has been adopted.

UK stocked species are Oak, Maple, Iroko and Beech, Rustic Beech, European Walnut, Cherry and Ash.

The production method is carefully monitored from the time the raw material arrives. Timber is first kiln dried to 8% +/- 2% moisture content, then converted into narrow strips in appropriate thickness and lengths from 200mm to 400mm. This process eliminates inclusion of knots, marks or blemishes in the final panel. The lengths are fingerjointed at the short ends and glued using radio frequency method, then sanded to final thickness. The glue is in accordance with E1 DIN68602 D3 regulation and formaldehyde requirements. Finally the ends of each panel are wax sealed to prevent ingress of moisture to the end grain.

Storage

Laminwood should be laid flat, fully supported in its original packaging, undercover in a dry room. Laminwood can be unwrapped for inspection, but must be rewrapped if not being fitted straight away.

The relative humidity of the room where the worktop is to be fixed should be between 40% and 65%. All wet trades should be finished and a sufficient period of time allowed for natural drying out.

Do not store vertically, in/or near damp areas, or heat sources such as radiators, boilers, etc.

Maintenance

Each Laminwood worktop is sanded to 120 grit at the mill. This eliminates the need for heavy sanding. It is recommended the top is lightly sanded then oiled with Danish oil, wiping away and excess oil with a dry clean cloth, prior to fitting.

If the surface becomes dirty or lifeless, scour with a green nylon scouring pad dipped in Danish oil, wiping away excess oil with a dry, clean cloth.

Badly soiled or worn tops can be lightly sanded, remove dust then apply Danish oil which should be allowed to soak in for 30 minutes. Wipe away excess ensuring no puddles of oil dry on the surface.

The worktop should be treated with D L Geaves Danish oil monthly for the first six months after installation, and every six months thereafter.

If a worktop is fitted over a butler or Belfast type sink, Danish oil should continue to be applied monthly, or when beading of water no longer occurs on the worktop surface.

When making joints or hob cut outs, or when trimming to size on site ALWAYS use a liberal coat of waterproof glue such as Cascamite, brushed on all unseen cut edges to provide a seal. This also applies to holes drilled for taps. Cut outs for under fitted sinks should be made by the worktop fabricator so that the end grain can be properly sealed. This should not be done on site unless you have the time to apply six coats of Danish oil and allowing each coat to dry completely. This can take up to six hours per coat before applying the next.

Use a strip of 4mm/5mm plywood or similar when tiling directly down on to the tops, to provide a gap under the tiles. Leave the plywood there until grouting has been complete. After removal, fill the gap with silicon, finishing proud to prevent soiling of the grout and to provide a waterproof flexible seal between tiles and worktop. Once the worktop is fitted please remember to give the top a light coat of Danish oil with a clean lint free cloth as the last thing before you leave the job advising the client that you have done so.

WORKTOP INSTALATION

There are usually 3 types of supports for worktops.

BRICKWORK – Ensure the brickwork piers or walls are completely dry.

OPEN TOP CUPBOARDS – Fix slotted expansion bracket to the wall at the rear of the cupboard unit approximately 150mm from each end of the worktop. This permits movement of the worktop should there be a major change of humidity. When screw fixing through the slot of the bracket into the underside of the worktop, 4 – 5mm gap must be left between the wall and the rear of the worktop to allow for expansion.

FIXED TOP CUPBOARDS – Cut oblong holes 15mm long at the rear and front of the unit. When fixing, a washer must be used with each screw and a gap left at the rear of the worktop as described above.

AGA RETURNS – When the worktop is fitted next to a constant heat source, such as an Aga or Rayburn type of cooker, in addition to a 40mm gap a solid wood return edge should be inserted into the end grain of the worktop.

CUT OUTS – no cut outs for sinks or hobs etc. should be nearer than 100mm from the edge of a worktop.

JOINTINGS – When jointing worktops together rout a groove in the edge of both worktops and join them using a false tongue. For extra strength install 2 worktop jointing bolts into holes to be recessed into the underside of the worktops and draw them together using a 10mm spanner. Any edges that are machined on site (*back*

edges, edges abutting tall housings, edges abutting boxwork for soil pipes etc.) must be sealed, for speed and simplicity the edges may be sealed with a plentiful coat of Cascamite. Cascamite should also be used for sealing any joints on the worktop. Wood can, in some cases, expand in its length and this should be considered when fitting between other types of worksurfaces other than solid wood i.e. laminate and Granite.

INTEGRATED APPLIANCES – Do not fix integrated appliances directly to the underside of Solid Wood Worksurfaces. As air space of 25mm must be left between any appliance and the underside of the worktop to allow for hot air and moist air circulation.

Please take note of the following points when dealing with Solid Wood Worktops :

NEVER

1. Lean a worktop against a wall, even for a few minutes.
2. Put the top against a heat source such as a radiator.
3. Leave the top out in the sun or rain even if its well wrapped.
4. Butt the top against the wall, always leave about a 5mm gap if possible.
5. Fix both front and back edges – preferably fix to the front to allow any movement to happen under the tiles or upstand.
6. Leave any sawn, scribed or machined edge, including joints or tap holes unsealed.
7. Screw appliances directly to underside of wooden worktop, leave a 25mm air gap.

ALWAYS

1. Store the worktop flat and well supported.
2. Leaves packing on until last minute before fixing.
3. Use fixing brackets with oval holes across the grain direction and ensure the screw is in the centre of slot, tighten and then slightly turn back to allow timber to move.
4. Make pilot holes and use brass screws with Oak.
5. Use biscuits or a loose tongue when making a joint.

Notes

As a natural product splits and shakes can occur in all species. These can be exaggerated or caused when a worktop has been subject to excessive moisture (from sinks, over filled kettles or spillage's not wiped up promptly) or if not maintained correctly.

During the course of cutting, bowing or cupping may occur. Boards will naturally level off if left for 24-48 hours. This should be taken into account when planning installations.