

## JOHN BOOS ULTRA – PREMIUM BUTCHER BLOCK COUNTER TOPS Installation Guide

Correct installation of JOHN BOOS BUTCHER BLOCK COUNTER TOPS is vital for optimum performance.

The moisture content of butcher block will vary due to the movement of moisture into and out of the wood. Natural humidity (dry and wet), air conditioning, machines that dispel heat or moisture (e.g. Dishwashers, cooking appliances, etc.) will affect the moisture content of the wood. As moisture in the air increases it is absorbed by the butcher block, and the wood will expand. The butcher block contracts as moisture in the air decreases.

BUTCHER BLOCK, being a natural wood product, will expand and contract across the grain with these changes in humidity. This movement is quite normal. It is usually only minimal and can be allowed in the installation.

### SEALING

Good sealing is essential to prevent an abrupt and excessive moisture movement to and from the wood BUTCHER BLOCK must be envelope sealed, i.e. top, bottom, edges and ends. Pay particular attention to the inside of cutouts, especially the grain end. **If you cut on site – reseal the cut area with at least four (4) coats of sealer.**

### FIXING POSITIONS

Minimum fixing only is required, as self-weight, plumbing, etc will hold down the piece. Ideally, fix into the same strip of wood. Slotting or oversized holes will also help.

### SERVICE CONDITIONS

John Boos tops are suitable for interior use only.

#### Dishwashers, floor mounted vents and hot water systems.

Where appliances have heat acting on the bench top, polystyrene or similar insulation should be installed to cut down heat transference. Provide adequate ventilation.

#### Sinks, cooktops, cutouts, for posts, etc.

The fitting of sinks, basins, cooktops, etc. must not restrict the bench top from expanding and contracting. Ensure that there is at least one-quarter inch (1/4") clearance all around the appliance. Insulation should be installed around cooktops. Rubberized joint sealant should be used in sink and basin applications.

#### Vegetable storage:

Where vegetables or other material that are likely to give off moisture are stored under the counter, insulation should be installed and adequate ventilation provided.

#### Ventilation.

Particle board or MDF tops fixed to cabinets should be removed or have large holes cut into them to assist with even and adequate ventilation. Do not attach directly in top of a solid underlayment. Butcher block needs adequate ventilation.

#### Brick walls.

A moisture barrier, such as plastic, should be utilized in situation where "BUTCHER BLOCK" is located adjacent to brickwork or rendered walls to prevent moisture transference. A slight gap should also be left.

#### Overhang.

If overhangs exceed eight inches (8"), then some form of bracketing should be used for support.

### SCREW HOLES

Fixing through framework into the underside of bench should be via a 7/16" clearance hole and a #10 gauge screw with washer, allowing movement between fixing points. Holes should be predrilled.



NOTE: Ensure screw is centralized within clearance hole.

### “BUTCHER BLOCK” TOPS SHOULD NEVER BE GLUED DOWN

To ensure optimum performance, BUTCHER BLOCK requires protection from the environment by means of seal coatings. Sunlight breaks down most coatings, exposing the timber and allowing moisture, humidity and heat to act.

## STORAGE and HANDLING BUYER PROTECTION

Before a natural product, your tops are subject to change in atmospheric conditions, and therefore require some care in the handling and storage.

JOHN BOOS BUTCHER BLOCK COUNTER TOPS are warranted free from manufacturing defects, and the performance of the product is guaranteed, providing the condition relating to handling and storage are adhered to and that fabrication and installation has been performed to John Boos recommendations.

Natural wood features and variations in color and texture of the wood and/or laminates are not considered defects.

### FABRICATION RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 1. CORNER JOINTS

All edges to be joined together must be true (exact). The recommended corner joints are MITER joints or fully BUTT joints. With miter joints on boards of unequal width, a true miter usually gives the best result as any movement is equalized, and the laminates will be close to matching at the joint.

**1.1: Biscuit or tongue the joint.** Joints should have “Lamella” biscuits or plywood slip tongues fitted

**1.2: Bolt clamp the joint.** Do not use towels. Fit bolt clamps (miter bolts) to the underside of all joints: 4” from the front, 6” from the back of miters and 1½” from both sides of butt joints. On wide joints fit an extra clamp midway between the others.

**1.3: Butt Joints** with opposing grain direction are never to be glued, instead use silicon.

**1.4: Miter joints** and butt joints with grain running in the same direction should be glued

#### 2. APRONS/DROP-FRONTS/FACIALS.

Fitted to the front edges of bench tops. **Must not** be glued across the grain. If an apron is to run across the end of the bench top, it should be screwed with a fixing baton, allowing for movement, or “build up” the end grain by slicing off sections of the bench top end and gluing underneath.

### ONSITE STORAGE

On receipt of your John Boos tops, it is essential that they are to be stored in a way that they are protected from the weather and areas that are subject to extreme changes in humidity. Store flat at least 8” off the floor to allow air to circulate. Do not leave boards leaning against brick or concrete walls as excess moisture pick up is available.

It is essential that BUTCHER BLOCK is fully envelope sealed as soon as possible with at least four coats.

### PROBLEM SOLVING

**End Splitting:** is common with unsealed boards. Repair by filling with Epoxy glue.

**Minor Wood Defects:** Natural to butcher block. Can be repaired with Wood Putty colored to suit

#### 3. GLUES

Use full strength Epoxy glues for like grain directions and Silicon sealant wherever there is opposing grains.

#### 4. HOLES/CUTOUTS.

Must have a 3/16” clearance on all sides and corners should have a slight radius. The distance between the end of the bench top and a cutout or between cutouts should be at least 4-5”. If this not possible, reinforce the narrow cross grain section by recessing and bluing a piece of similar John Boos butcher block into the underside with the grain running in the same direction and position it so that the glue lines are offset to the glue lines on the bench top

A rubberized joint sealant should be used in all sink and basin applications. Holes must be properly sealed with at least four coats of polyurethane. Particular attention should be paid to the end grain.

#### 5. PREPARATION

Any grain checking, tear-out and similar butcher-block blemishes should be filled and sanded (use a wood putty). Shakes, which have tendency to lift, should be repaired with “5 minute” Epoxy color to match the wood.

#### 6. SANDING

Sand the surface and seen edges through a suitable range of papers.