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one home at a time.

Bamboo Countertop
Fabrication & Installation Instructions

The countertop will come to you in an unfinished slab form. It will need to be fine sanded and finished with a sealer as soon as possible to avoid damage due to excessive dryness. It is advisable to keep the plank tightly sealed in the plastic wrapping in which it is shipped until you are ready to begin work. Once work has begun, re-wrap each night until you have applied your sealer. If you have to cut the slab or make a sink hole, do this before sanding.

Sanding

We recommend that you sand the slab before you router the edge, that way the sanding will not deform the router's work. Keep the slabs well lit at all times, the use of bright shop light off to one side helps with this task. Start with 180 grit paper and slowly work up to 220 grit, and always sand out the scratches before changing grits. Bamboo is a very hard surface and scratches will show up later with finer sanding, so take your time. Sand as thoroughly as you can, as the material really comes to life with fine sanding. We recommend sanding as high as 400 grit, it highlights all the tiny pores and the culm node joint- you won't regret it. Before applying the finish, examine the entire surface closely for scratches. Always remember, it is much more difficult to remove any scratches after the finish has been applied.

Router

If you plan on putting a custom edge profile in the countertop, you will have to router the edge face. If it is to be used as an island, router all sides. This material will accept any profile- bull nose, full, round, etc. Note: Bamboo is a very hard fiber and will easily burn and tear out when using a router so go slowly and use several passes. Do not try and router your edge in one pass and make sure your bits are brand new or at least very sharp. After using the router, go back and cleanup the router marks with fine sandpaper.

Finishing

You are now ready to apply your choice of sealer. Select any of the great finishes currently available. The process is the same as on a wood surface. We do not recommend applying color stain directly to the raw bamboo, as it is difficult to get the stain even. If a stain is required, first seal the bamboo with one coat of finish and then mix the stain into your sealer. This will give it a uniform finish. Always test any finish on the underside. Note: We do not recommend any water based finishes, as they tend to dilute the natural colors and appearance of depth; nor do we recommend plain mineral oil or chopping block oil as they tend to dissipate quickly and require weekly re-oiling. For sanitary reasons, we do recommend that you use a cutting board.

Joining Slabs Together

For kitchen island installation, or if you want to make the counters over thirty six inches wide, you'll need to join multiple slabs together. All you need is a few pipe clamps and some high-grade two part epoxy, a router and a belt sander. The factory edge needs to be trued-up before gluing. This is accomplished by clamping a straight edge (angle iron or a very straight board) to the top as a guide for your router. Use a new or very sharp straight router bit for this procedure. Do not cut more than about 1/16" at a pass and work slowly so as not to burn the cut. Repeat this for the opposite edge. Test for straightness by dry clamping the planks together and make sure no gap is visible. We recommend that you use biscuits or dowels about every six inches in the adjoining faces to make the seam stronger. ALWAYS dry run (no glue) the clamping

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procedure to help anticipate potential problems. If possible, clamp on a flat concrete floor. Hint: On a concrete floor tape down a thin sheet of plastic. Use caution so that the plastic does not creep into the glue seam during clamping, the pipe clamps have a tendency to bow the planks up from either end. To prevent such problems, you can use a downward force, such as a simple 2'x 4' wedged from the ceiling properly placed on three or four strategic spots on the slabs. Let dry overnight, then simply belt sand the seam flat. Be careful to keep the sander moving in a figure eight motion and avoid bearing down so as not to create dips and valleys. When the two surfaces are even, switch to an orbital hand sander.