

Seam Breaking For Polyester Adhesives**Z-2006-003**

Breaking seams in preparation for section replacement or reseaming can be accomplished using both Akemi® polyester and Corian® acrylic color matched adhesives. Akemi® polyester seams are not as tough as a Corian® acrylic seam adhesive so they are easier to break and there is less of a chance of damaging the seam edge. Adhesive selection should consider this prior to assembly.

STEPS TO COMPLETION

1. Loosen countertop section(s) to be removed by cutting perimeter silicone bead. If silicone has been placed under the countertop, slide a thin stiff putty knife under into the silicone to cut it and free the top from the cabinet.
2. Tape along each side of the seam as close to the edge of the seam as possible without covering the seam. Use at least two layers of tape to help protect surface
3. Score the seam with a razor knife or oscillating saw (such as the Multimaster® or Super Cut® by Fein Power Tools). You only need to score the seams no deeper than 1/16" and not cut all the way through. The concept is the same as cutting glass.
4. Insert a wedge next to the seam on the side still adhered to the cabinets and raise the free end of the countertop at least ½" off the cabinet.
5. Using the palms of your hands, apply a sharp downward pressure on the free end of the countertop. This should cause a clean break of the scored seam. If the seam doesn't break, rescore the seam and push the shim in to raise the top a bit more. Then repeat the push on the free end.
6. Once the seam is separated, raise the seam edges and position a hot air gun that reaches temperatures of 500 deg.F to 1,000 deg.F approximately 2 inches from the seam surface. Be sure to wear protective hot gloves since the temperature of the air will be hot enough to burn you. Move the hot air gun slowly along the edge to soften the seam adhesive, following closely behind with a sharp edges blade like a laminate or paint scraper. Repeat until the edge is clean and smooth.
7. Clean the surface with denatured alcohol or acetone and remake the seam using the technique outlined in the DuPont Zodiaq® Installation video.

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Seam Breaking For Corian® Adhesives**Z-2006-003****STEPS TO COMPLETION**

1. Loosen countertop section(s) to be removed by cutting perimeter silicone bead. If silicone has been placed under the countertop, slide a thin stiff putty knife under into the silicone to cut it and free the top from the cabinet.
2. Insert a wedge next to the seam on the side still adhered to the cabinets and raise the free end of the countertop at least ½” off the cabinet.
3. Place a protective cloth or cardboard followed with approximately 100Lbs to 150 Lbs of weight (sandbags, cast weights) between 1 to 3 feet from the seam to create a constant separation force on the seam. If the free end of the countertop is more than 4 feet long, this may be unnecessary since the weight of the slab alone will provide sufficient force.
6. Use a hot air gun that reaches temperatures of 500 deg.F to 1,000 deg.F approximately 2 inches from the seam surface and move back and forth along seam to warm up. Be sure to wear protective hot gloves since the temperature of the air will be hot enough to burn you. Bring the length of the seam area up to a temperature where it is hot to the touch (approximately 40 deg.C).
7. Continue heating seam but focus on the front 6 inches of the seam (closest to the front edge and the wedge) and concentrate more heat to this region. If you have an infrared temperature meter, bring temperature up to between 60 deg. C to 90 deg.C. Eventually, you will see the seam begin to open up (around 5 to 10 minutes of concentrated heating). Take care not to damage the Zodiaq® from excessive heating.
8. Once seam starts to open up, move to the next 6 inches. As the seam opens up, periodically apply some sharp downward force on the free end as this will cause the seam to open up and eventually fail. Take care not to apply too much pressure to a cold seam as the crack may not follow the softened adhesive and may propagate into the Zodiaq®
9. Once the seam is separated, raise the seam edges and position the hot air gun approximately 2 inches from the seam surface. Again, be sure to wear protective hot gloves since slab and the air is hot enough to burn you. Move the hot air gun slowly along the edge to soften the seam adhesive, following closely behind with a sharp edged blade like a laminate or paint scraper.

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STEPS TO COMPLETION

10. Allow the seam to sufficiently cool. Clean the surface with denatured alcohol or acetone and remake the seam using the technique outlined in the DuPont Zodiaq® Installation video.

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