

INLAYS

INLAY MATERIALS

11.1

INLAY MATERIALS

Inlaying material into Corian® can greatly add value to the finished product and make your work stand out from other products.

There are only a few basic rules pertaining to Corian® when it comes to inlays:

1. The product must be compatible with Corian®.
2. All internal corners must be rounded.
3. The product must be food-safe when used in kitchen decks.
4. Inlays do not fall within the Corian® warranties.

Compatible products include:

- Corian®
- Zodiaq®
- brass
- acrylic sheet
- wood
- wood veneers
- tiles
- laminate
- glass
- acrylic adhesive
- Corian® adhesive
- epoxy inlays

Noncompatible products include:

- ferrous metals
- full-wood sandwiches

Helpful Hints:

Do not install material into Corian® that will expand and contract excessively when heated or chilled (e.g., ferrous metals).

Do not pour liquid fillers over large areas that might shrink and expose blowholes.

Do not allow air bubbles to form in liquid inlays.

It is suggested that joint adhesive inlays be limited to “line or stripe” details. The width of the groove should be no more than double the depth of the groove.

The bit used to rout out groove should have rounded corners.

The inlay must be sound and free of gaps and nicks that may collect dirt or start a stress riser.

INLAYS

INLAYS OF CORIAN®

11.2

INLAYS OF CORIAN®

11.2.1

1 PIECE INLAYS OF CORIAN®

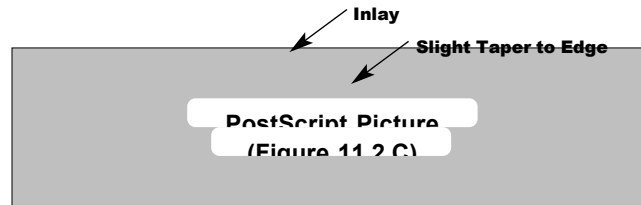
Inlaying a piece of Corian® sheet material into the surface of another sheet.

1. Construct the Corian® inlay piece as per standard fabrication techniques, ensuring the inlay is thicker than the depth of the trench. 1/4" (6 mm) Corian® can be used to create the inlay piece.

The edges of the inlay piece must be tapered with a bevel to assist a good fit.

2. If the Corian® piece is a strip, use a straightedge. If it is of a more complex design, create a template for use when routing the trench. A C.N.C. router is also a good alternative if available.
3. Using the router with a straightedge or template, create a groove in the Corian® surface that is 1/16" (1.5 mm) less deep than the thickness of the piece to be inlayed, as illustrated in Figure 11.2.1.A.

Figure 11.2.1.A



5. Thoroughly clean the groove with clear, denatured alcohol.
6. Trial-fit the inlay and check for precise fit, then trim where required until fit is perfect.
7. Using Corian® Joint Adhesive as per specified for the countertop color, apply an even coat of adhesive over the entire groove area.
Apply a similar coat of Corian® Joint Adhesive to the inlay piece, paying particular attention to the tapered edges.
8. Place the inlay into the groove and apply even pressure across the entire inlay piece using clamps and wooden blocks.
9. When the Corian® Joint Adhesive has set, remove excess material and glue with a router on "skis."
10. Sand, smooth and finish as per standard instructions.

INLAYS

INLAYS OF CORIAN® • LIQUID INLAYS • SOLID INLAYS

Helpful Hints:

When completing liquid inlays in Venaro materials, colors tend to fade through the side of the groove. This gives an unusual blurred effect as though the color has run.

Do not cut the groove for liquid inlays square. Always use a bit with rounded corners.

It may be necessary to round the underside of the acrylic inlay to make a good fit.

Avoid nicks and chips, as these may cause stress risers.

If an inlay is deeper than half the thickness of the material, then the entire inlay must be reinforced using another piece of Corian® of the same thickness.

11.3

LIQUID INLAYS

There are several types of liquid inlays that will work with Corian®; however, there are several types that are incompatible, such as polyesters. Polyesters have different mechanical properties than Corian® and will eventually work loose. Corian® Joint Adhesive can be used, but great care must be used to avoid air bubbles in the inlay.

The best liquid to use is the Epoxy Inlay System from Align-Rite Tool Company. Contact your local Authorized Distributor of Corian® for more information.

11.4

SOLID INLAYS

Solid inlays are a great way to introduce color and style into an installation. Typical examples of solid inlays are:

- wood veneers
- tile
- plastic veneer tapes
- plastic laminate

Solid inlay can be installed by cutting a groove into the Corian® and using a flexible adhesive to adhere the inlay in place. See Table 10.7.A for the proper adhesives. Many types of inlay materials come in sheets or strips and have a peel-and-stick adhesive on the back for easy installation.

It is best to stain and finish real wood veneers before installing them into Corian®. This prevents getting the stain or finish on the Corian®. Although the Corian® is easy to clean, it would require great care to avoid harming the finish on the veneer during cleaning.

When using laminate as the inlay, be sure to get postformable grade, as this makes bending around inside and outside corners much easier.

INLAYS

INLAY MATERIALS • ZODIAQ® INLAYS

11.5

ZODIAQ®

Zodiaq® quartz surface and Corian® solid surface should work very well together if the following precautions are taken:

- Be sure surfaces to be joined are clean.
- Use an adequate amount of adhesive for the job.
- Seal all gaps in the edges after application to prevent moisture penetration.
- ***Do Not*** rigidly adhere butt seams in the Zodiaq® strips in the inside corners of inlays. Use only silicone when making inside corners in inlays of Zodiaq®.

A slight recess of the Zodiaq® back from the edge of the Corian® will help prevent any interference during sanding.