13.1

STANDARD HEIGHT BACKSPLASH

Figure 13.1.A

The Standard Height Backsplash describes a return up the vertical wall behind the countertop that is seamed to the countertop with a simple butt seam.

Corian® Butted Backsplash — Hot-Melt Glue — Silicone — Perimeter Support
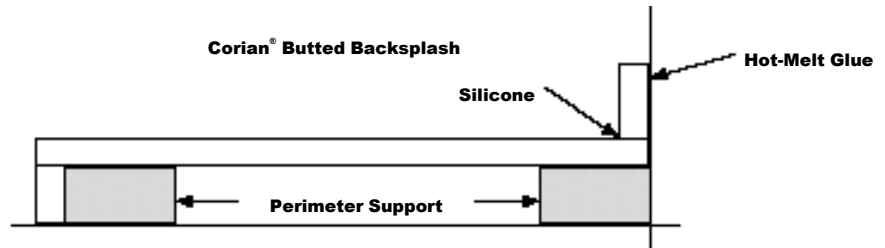
This method is a quick and simple method of adding value to a Corian® countertop and is glued using silicone.

STEPS TO COMPLETION:

1. After the countertop has been installed, recheck for level and measure from countertop to desired height of backsplash.

2. Check for any obstructions along the wall such as power outlets, window-sills and any other obstructions.

3. Cut the backsplash to approximate size and place sections in position.

4. Scribe to the countertop.

5. Trim to pencil lines and recheck for fit.

6. Remove any nonpermanent obstruction from the wall that will prevent a close fit of the backsplash to the wall. In addition, make any cutouts required to accommodate power outlets, windowsills, etc.

7. Wipe edge face and countertop to be seamed with clear, denatured alcohol.

8. Select color-matched, mildew-resistant silicone and apply a large bead along the entire seam area.

9. Every 20" (508 mm) apply a small dab of hot-melt glue to the wall to provide added fixing.

10. Place the backsplash in position and,wipe surplus adhesive from the seam angle.

11. Use the "push" method to seal between the backsplash and deck.

NOTE:

Do not adhere splash to the wall. This will cause separation during settling.

If backsplash butts into underside of windowsill, seal between them using

silicone. Do Not use joint adhesive as this may restrict expansion/contraction.

Helpful Hints:

Leave a small radius in the inside corner to make cleaning easier. Wipe up excess silicone using a rag dampened with denatured alcohol.

Note:

The DuPont Corian® Coved Backsplash is for use only with DuPont Corian® sheet. Use with any other material may void the warranty.

Material Needed:

To make installation as quick as possible, the following special supplies are needed:

1. Squaring blocks @ 1 per 12" (305 mm) of backsplash length plus one for each inside and outside corner. See Figure 13.2.A.

2. Wooden clamping strips sufficient to cover entire length of backsplash. To make, run pieces of 1" x 3" (25 mm x 76 mm) wood lathe or $^3/_4$" (19 mm) plywood through table saw with blade set to 45 degrees. Cut to dimensions shown in Figure 13.2.A.

3. 3M #232 masking tape.

4. Several $^1/_2$" x 1" x 2" (13 mm x 25 mm x 51 mm) Corian® blocks wrapped with aluminum tape to dam ends.

5. 1/2" double-flute, carbide-tipped router bit.
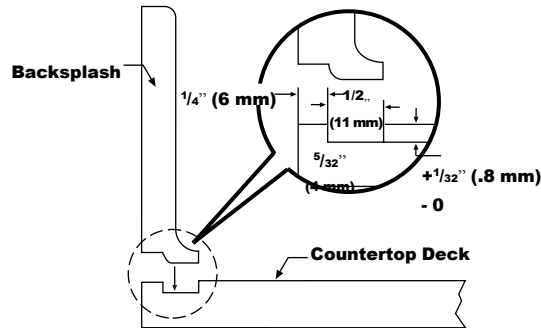
Figure 13.2.A

Squaring Block

Clamping Strip
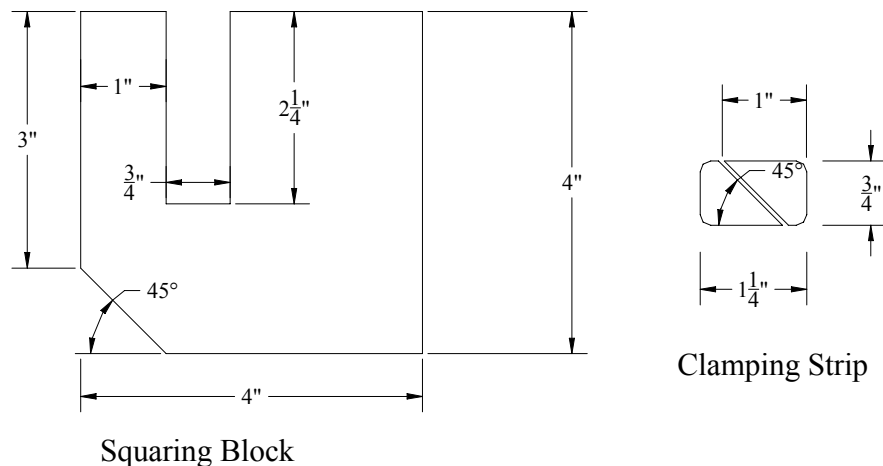
COVED BACKSPLASH METHODS

Procedure:

1. Use router equipped with 1/2" (12.7 mm) bit and straightedge or edge guide to rout groove in back of countertop as shown in Figure 13.2.B.

Figure 13.2.B

2. Check depth of groove with small piece of backsplash. Rerout if necessary.

3. Cut backsplash pieces to length. Miter all inside and outside corners. If run is longer than a full-sized backsplash piece, be sure to color-match butting pieces.
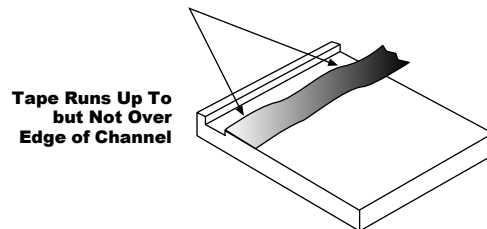

Tape Runs Up To but Not Over Edge of Channel

Figure 13.2.C

4. Apply #232 masking tape within $^1/_{32}$" (.8 mm) of, and along entire length of, the groove. See Figure 13.2.C.

5. Apply #232 masking tape in cove of backsplash piece, allowing it to overhang slightly. Trim back to "toe" with sharp knife.
   Caution: Do not scrape or scratch the toe of backsplash. This will cause whitened areas in seam.

6. If splash is to be butt-seamed, apply tape to within $^1/_{32}$" (.8 mm) of seam on butting pieces.
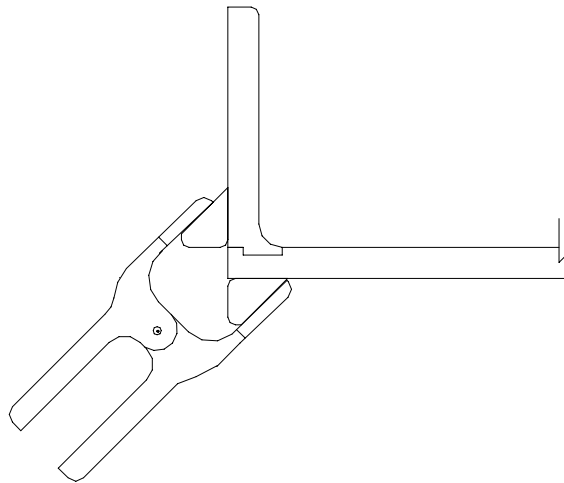
7. Using plenty of hot-melt glue, apply a wood clamping strip to the under-side of countertop. Then attach a strip to the backside of the splash piece. See Figure 13.2.D.
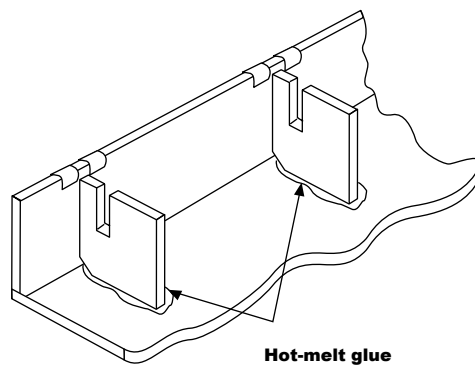
Figure 13.2.D
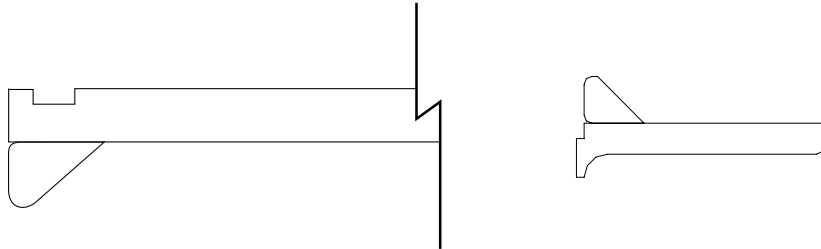
8. Carefully place backsplash pieces in groove. Apply 2" (51 mm) spring clamps at 4" intervals all along backsplash See Figure 13.2.E.

Figure 13.2.E

9. Position a squaring block, with 45 degrees cut near cove, at 12" to 14" inter-vals. Adjust splash piece so that blocks rest flush against backsplash and deck. Apply hot-melt glue to where block rests on deck. See Figure 13.2.F.
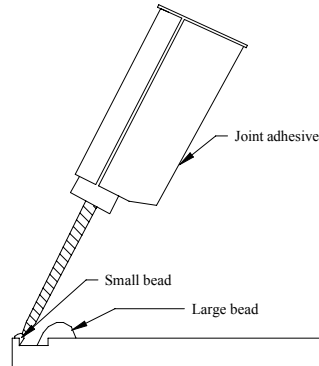
Figure 13.2.F

Hot-melt glue

10. Remove all clamps, remove backsplash from groove. Thoroughly clean all areas to be seamed with denatured alcohol and a clean, white rag.

Figure 13.2.G

Joint adhesive

Small bead

Large bead

11. Prepare Joint Adhesive. Allow one tube for each 10' length of backsplash. Apply continuous, large bead along cove edge of groove and 3" (76 mm) beads about 2" (51 mm) apart along back of groove. See Figure 13.2.G.

12. Place backsplash piece in groove. Press firmly so that adhesive squeezes out all along seam area. Align ends of splash with ends of deck. Apply 2" (51 mm) spring clamps at 4" intervals along the backsplash. . Apply spring clamps between backsplash and squaring blocks. Use hot-melt glue to fasten Corian® blocks wrapped with tape to dam seams at ends of deck. See Figure 13.2.H.

Figure 13.2.H
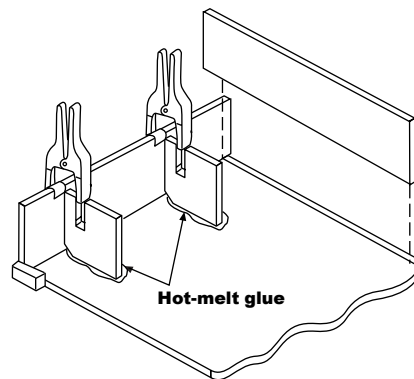
Hot-melt glue

13. After adhesive is set, remove all clamps, squaring blocks and Corian® blocks. Remove wooden clamping strip.

Note:
Spray hot-melt glue with denatured alcohol to ease removal of blocks and clamping strips.

14. Use putty knife to loosen excess adhesive at one end of cove area. Peel masking tape to remove adhesive.

15. Finish sand cove area to specified gloss level.

Note:

A molding scraper or cabinet scraper with a $^{1}/_{4}$" (6 mm) radius ground onto one corner
can be used to begin smoothing process. Finish to desired gloss.

Helpful Hints:

When 1/2" (12.7 mm) router bit becomes dull, have bit sharpener grind off the dull section from the bottom.

Typical sharpening will reduce bit diameter leaning.

13.3

USING THE COVING ROUTER METHOD

Do not fabricate a full-height, 1/4" (6 mm) coved backsplash. The chances of a failure at the cove is too great.

Coved Backsplash with Butt-Seamed Corners

Note: For more information, contact router manufacturer

STEPS TO COMPLETION:

1. Place the Corian® sheet on a level workbench with easy working access to the rear of the sheet where the backsplash is to be built.

2. Cove strip: With an accurate straightedge, a two-flute cutter and a 3-hp router, true the back edge of the sheet. This will become the leading edge of the cove strip.

3. Optional: Using a router, rout a 45°, $^{5}/_{16}$" (7.9 mm) bevel along the back edge to reduce cove routing later. This 45-degree bevel will be $^{1}/_{16}$" (1.5 mm) undersized to allow material for the cove router to cut after glue-up.

4. Cove strip: Rip the cove strip from the back of the sheet to exact size, $^{7}/_{8}$" (22 mm) from edge. Cut countertop to correct depth.

5. Countertop: Make a rabbet $^{1}/_{8}$" (3 mm) deep by $^{7}/_{8}$" (22 mm) wide the length of the back edge to be coved. A 1" (25 mm) diameter, two-flute cutter in a 3-hp router works well for this step.

6. Cove strip: Cut the beveled cove strip to length. At corners, miter-cut the strip and dry-fit.

7. Clean the countertop rabbet and cove strip thoroughly with denatured alcohol.

Note:

Apply 3M #232 tape along the countertop $^{1}/_{32}$" (.74 mm) away from rabbet to reduce cleanup.

8. Apply Corian® Joint Adhesive along shoulder of the countertop rabbet and a thin bead $^{1}/_{4}$" (6 mm) from back edge.

9. Carefully spring-clamp the cove strip into position. Apply spring clamps every 2" (51 mm), forcing the cove strip forward.

10. Backsplash: Rip the backsplash to desired height or width, noting the $^3/_8$" (10 mm) rise of the cove strip in the countertop. Repeating step 2 above is recommended on the seaming edge. Allow $^1/_{16}$" (1.5 mm) additional width for cleanup.

11. Clean up adhesive at cove strip corner seams as necessary and dry-clamp backsplash in position. Inspect for perfect fit.

12. Hot-melt squaring blocks (see Figure 13.2.A) every 6" to 12" (152 mm to 305 mm) as needed to hold backsplash in 90° position.

13. Clean cove strip and backsplash thoroughly with denatured alcohol.

Note:
If backsplash is butt-seamed at corner, apply 3M #232 tape to within $^1/_{32}$" (.74 mm) of seam on butting pieces to expedite cleanup.

14. Apply Corian® Joint Adhesive along cove strip and clamp backsplash into place. Check that backsplash is flush against squaring blocks. Do not over-tighten bar clamps.

15. Allow Corian® Joint Adhesive to cure 45 to 60 minutes. Remove 3M #232 tape and excess adhesive.

16. Remove all clamps and squaring blocks. Clean and inspect the coving router path. Debris will hamper the coving procedure.

17. Coving router: Inspect the coving router adjustment before beginning. The $^3/_8$" (10 mm) cutter head should be sharp and set at a paper's thickness above the countertop and away from the backsplash. This will allow for sanding and finishing. Rout with a pulling motion left to right where possible. This allows the cutter to run cool and yields better results.

18. **Sanding**

Caution: Use random orbital sanders with care. They are designed to sand flat surfaces. Pushing them against coved backsplash will result in a tunnel effect. This is not acceptable.

Finish-sand as described in Chapter 18.

Note:
A $^3/_8$" (10 mm) furniture scraper can be used before sanding to carefully remove excess glue. Take care not to add scratches requiring additional sanding.

Coved Backsplash with Coved Inside Corners

STEPS TO COMPLETION

Follow the procedures for butt-seamed corners, with the following exceptions:

1. Coving strip: Stop the optional bevel (step 3 above) about 1" (25 mm) from the corner. This allows material for the coving router to shape after glue-up. Butt-seam the corner.

2. Backsplash: The end of one backsplash panel will need to be rabbeted as in step #5 above. See Figure 13.3.A. Rip the backsplash panel oversized to allow for cleanup later. Then follow steps 6–9 above.

Figure 13.3.A
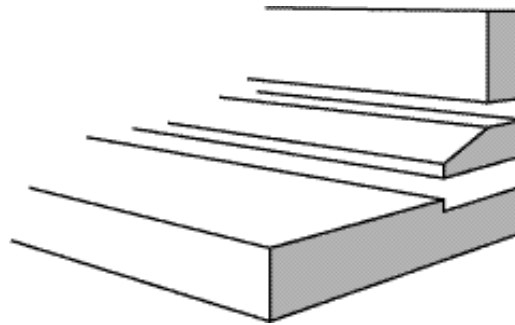
Exploded View of Block Insert Method

3. After adhering a cove strip to the backsplash panel, clean up by routing or sanding, and complete the glue-up procedures in steps 10–18 above.

Helpful Hints:

It's important that all parts fit perfectly. Special attention is required at inside/outside corners to ensure good fit. Corian® glue is never used as a gap filler.

Because of the unique characteristics of Lustra and the Venaro Colors of Corian®, coving may not match the sheet pattern unless V-grooved. It's advisable to inform the end consumer of this outcome to ensure their satisfaction at completion.

CHAPTER **13**

UPDATE 4/03