

SITE PREPARATION AND TEMPLATING

INTRODUCTION

This fabrication bulletin addresses the site preparation and templating for the fabrication and installation of DuPont™ Corian® solid surface.

OVERVIEW

Proper site inspection and templating are key factors in a successful installation. This document reviews site inspection and describes a common method of template creation.

A. SITE INSPECTION

A site inspection is required to determine all relevant site details for all DuPont™ Corian® solid surface installations.

Steps to completion:

1. Be aware of how the following affect the installation of DuPont™ Corian® products:
 - ease of access to site
 - wall conditions
 - electrical and plumbing positioning
 - windows, doors and ceilings
 - any other information that may influence the fabrication and installation of the countertop
2. During site inspection, ensure that consideration is given to:
 - site layout: e.g., adjoining rooms, furnishings, etc.
 - instructions for the customer and installer to minimize the impact of construction on building occupants (dust, noise, etc.)

HELPFUL HINTS

Proper site knowledge prevents fundamental installation problems such as:

- *prefabricating parts that are then too large to deliver easily to the installation location*
- *difficulties due to lack of awareness of the position and condition of plumbing, sill and window heights, ducting, and poor wall condition*
- *misunderstanding the desired timing and site availability*
- *customer dissatisfaction due to excessive noise and dust levels.*

B. TEMPLATES

Templates should be made for all installations of DuPont™ Corian® solid surface that incorporate covered backsplashes. Templates are not essential for other installations of Corian® solid surface however, they are highly recommended.

Templates will give an indication of whether a complete top will fit into the job or whether smaller pieces are needed. The template must be a true representation of the shape of the top to be produced. Electronic templating systems are available commercially.

The following is one example of how to template a countertop:

Steps to completion:

1. Templates can be made from the following materials:
 - reusable plywood strips, 4" x 1/4" (102 mm x 6 mm)
 - 1/8" (3 mm) hardboard
 - heavy cardboard sheets
 - MDF board/plywood of varying thicknesses
 - reusable materials such as battens and cross-ties are the most effective for making templates and are very useful for repeat layouts
 - thin sheet board is also often used to mock up the actual top
2. Fitting template to wall
 - Cut template material to length and rest against wall.
 - Set a scribe to largest gap between template strip and wall, and scribe the wall profile on the template strip.
 - Trim excess material back to line using a hand plane or saber saw.
 - Check fit of strip to wall. Re-scribe and trim if needed.
 - Use hot-melt glue to secure strips into one long piece.
 - Lay out more strips to make template exact size and shape of countertop.
 - The template is also useful to determine if there are sufficient clearances to successfully deliver the countertop to the installation site.

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3. Mark all important information on the template, such as points of support, centerline of sink plumbing, electrical, ducting, centerline of cutouts, seam location(s), finished ideas, type and location of backsplash, and any other details that will ensure fabrication accuracy.

The figure below illustrates a well-constructed $\frac{5}{32}$ " (4 mm) plywood template.

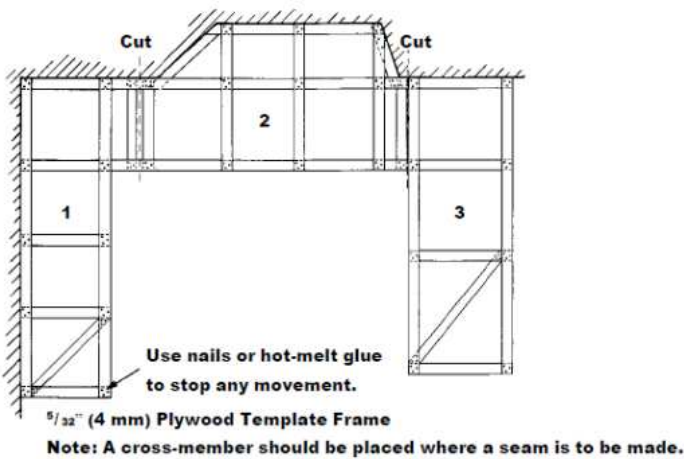


Figure B-1

HELPFUL HINTS

Use corner straps to maintain squareness of the frame.

Make sure that the template matches the shape of the room, in terms of both squares and contours in walls and corners.

C. DIGITAL TEMPLATES

There are several commercially available digital template systems. Each one has its own features and benefits. Careful investigation should be done before making a purchase.

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