

POSITIONING OF SEAMS

INTRODUCTION

This bulletin addresses the proper positioning of seams during the fabrication of DuPont™ Corian® solid surface.

OVERVIEW

Proper selection of seam placement impacts material yield and the durability of the installation. It is important to consider seam placement before quoting a job, as the design may impact the number of sheets required.

A. EXAMINATION OF PLANS

When examining plans of any installation of Corian® solid surface, the objectives are:

1. To place seam positions in a manner that minimizes the use of Corian® sheet and accessory material.
2. To place seams in positions that maximize product performance.

Examine plans thoroughly and consider alternative options of designing the installation to best fit the plan, following the objectives listed above. Failure to properly plan seam placement may result in poorly designed installations or poor cost estimates.

Adhering to technical design standards is as important as minimizing material and labor quantities.

B. SELECTION OF SEAM POSITIONS

All seams are best butt-seamed; i.e., seams must be placed either perpendicular or parallel to the length of the sheet. All seams in horizontal applications must be reinforced.

To select the best positioning of seams, follow the step-by-step process listed below.

Steps to completion:

1. Consider the positions of any cutouts, particularly for cook top or other heat-generating appliances. If the appliance is on an “L” or “U” place the seam on the opposite leg parallel with the front edge of the heat generating appliance if possible. This can be seen in Figure B-1. If parallel positioning is not possible, place seam in the most convenient position.
2. Seams should not be positioned over a dishwasher or other heat generating appliance. If a seam is required over dishwasher or heat generating appliance, the ends of the seam reinforcing strip must be supported by the support structure.
3. Wherever possible allow seams to be offset a minimum of three times the inside corner radius. For example, if inside corner radius is 1/2" (13 mm), offset seam at least 1 1/2" (38 mm). If this is not possible, specify a Corner Insert inside corner. See *DuPont™ Corian® Solid Surface Fabrication/Installation Fundamentals – Edge Details and Buildups* (K-25293).
4. Balance fabricating as many of the seams as possible in the shop versus the size and weight of the part to be delivered and installed. Make sure there is a path to the install location along which the part can be transported. Use information from the site inspection to determine the ideal balance of these two conflicting factors.
5. Consider the diagrams illustrated in Figure B-1 as good examples of optimizing the planning of seam positions.

An inconspicuous seam is achievable between two sheets by using appropriate techniques with DuPont™ Joint Adhesive. This seam has less strength than the sheet and must be reinforced. The space required by the reinforcement strip may influence the seam location.

POSITIONING OF SEAMS

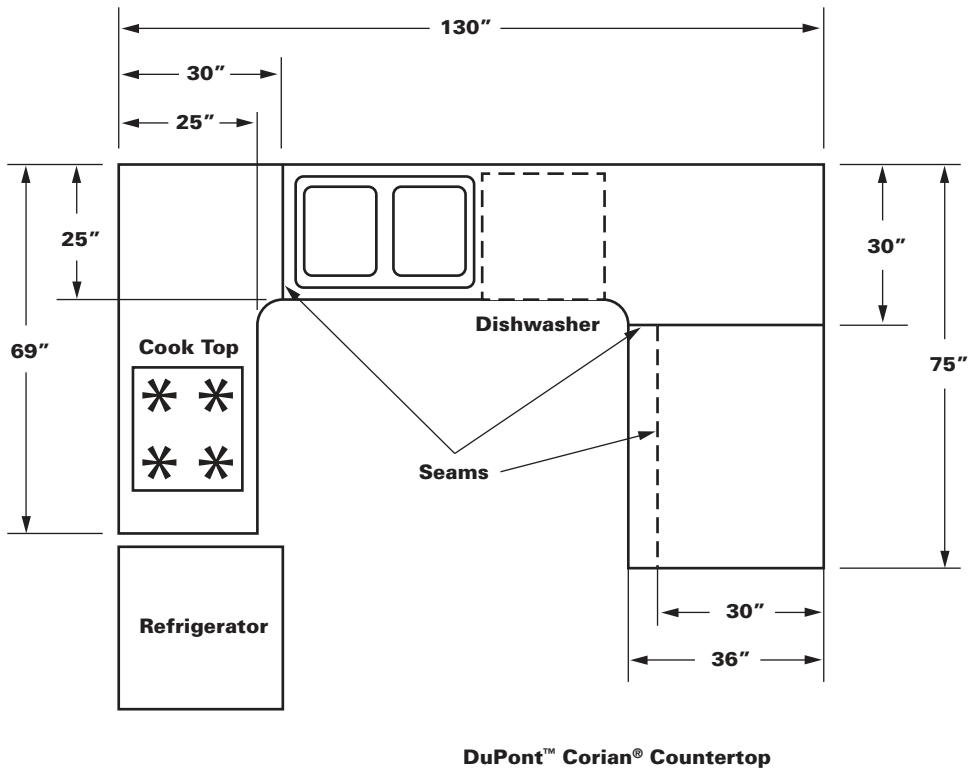
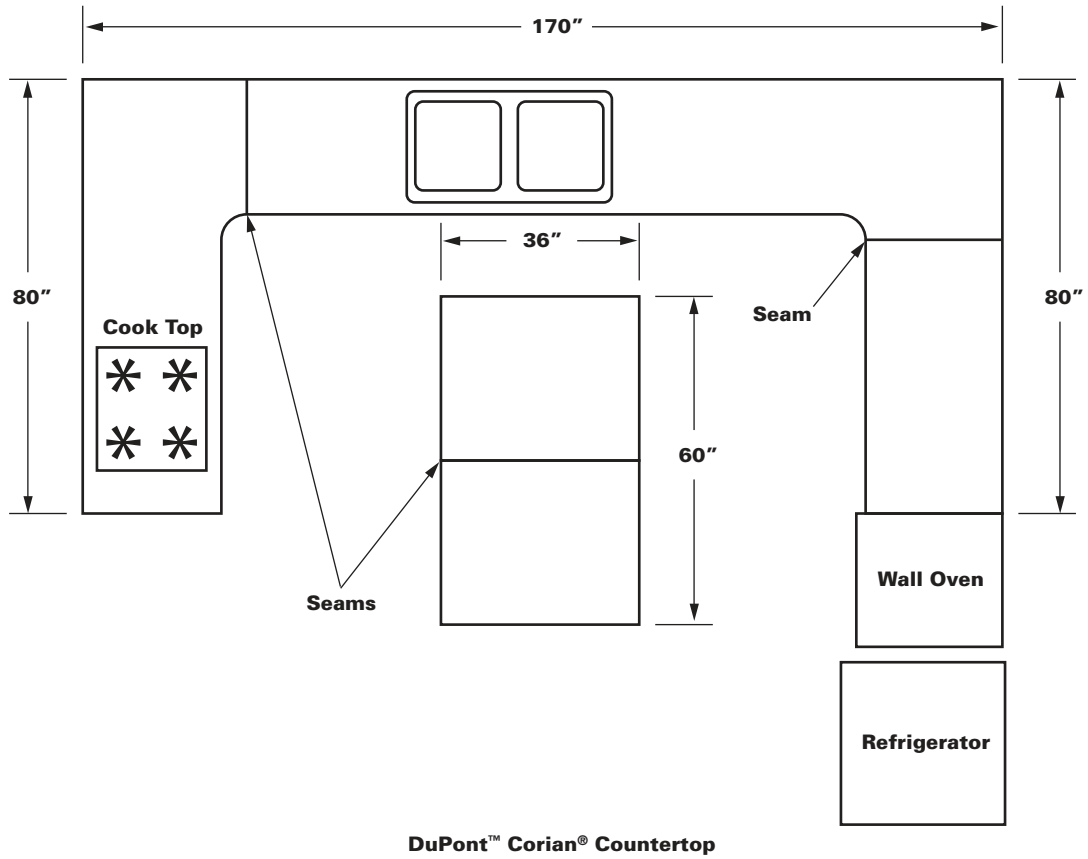


Figure B-1

POSITIONING OF SEAMS

HELPFUL HINTS

Where possible, minimize on-site seaming. Place seams away from appliances and where proper clamping is possible.

C. TYPES OF SEAMS

There are two recommended types of horizontal seams for DuPont™ Corian® solid surface:

1. “Hard” standard seams made with DuPont™ Joint Adhesive.

All standard seams must be reinforced directly under the seamed area to provide maximum strength. The reinforcing strip must be continuous, flush with both ends of the seam, fully adhered with joint adhesive and supported on both ends. More details are available in *DuPont™ Corian® Solid Surface Fabrication/Installation Fundamentals – Seaming* (K-25292).

2. “Soft” silicone seams

Silicone seams are recommended when there is a need to accommodate expansion and contraction or to minimize stress. For example, when there are two sections of horizontal surfaces connected by a narrow strip it is recommended that the strip be a separate piece attached with silicone, particularly if the strip is behind a heat generating appliance. Soft seams require support from the support structure under the seam.

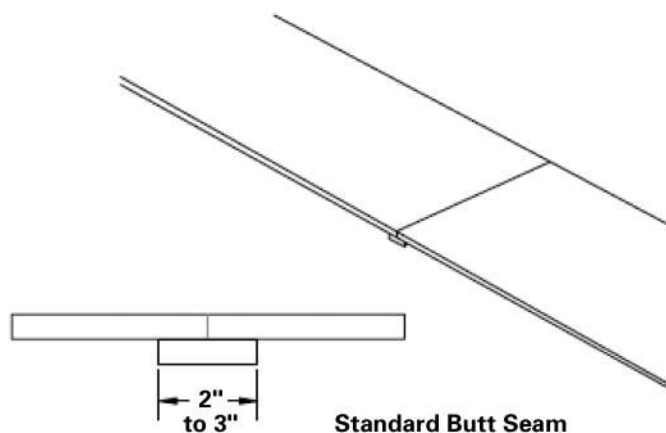


Figure C-1

D. REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

DuPont™ Corian® Solid Surface Fabrication/Installation Fundamentals – Edge Details and Buildups (K-25293).

DuPont™ Corian® Solid Surface Fabrication/Installation Fundamentals – Seaming (K-25292).

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