UNIQUE WOOD PRODUCTS

Moulding • Stair Parts • Millwork

BUTCHER BLOCK COUNTERTOP

Installation Guide

1 — RECEIVING YOUR COUNTERTOP

Inspect your butcher block countertop immediately upon delivery. Do not skip this step. UWP crafts every top to exacting standards; transit damage must be documented before the product enters your project site.

- Any shipping damage must be noted on the bill of lading at time of delivery.
- Concealed damage found after delivery must be reported to the freight carrier within 14 days. Compensation is at the carrier's sole discretion.
- Damage not reported within these windows is deemed accepted; the product becomes the sole property of the receiving party.

2 — ACCLIMATING YOUR COUNTERTOP

All solid hardwood is hygroscopic — it responds to ambient moisture and temperature. Skipping acclimation is the leading cause of post-installation movement.

Minimum 72 hours in the installation space with climate control fully operational.

- Remove all packaging. Elevate the top on 2×4s set on edge, 12"–18" apart for air circulation on all faces.
- Never lay the block flat on a floor — restricted airflow invites cupping.

3 — INSTALLING YOUR COUNTERTOP

Wood expands and contracts with seasonal humidity. Every detail below exists to accommodate that movement.

WARNING: Never glue a butcher block surface with silicone caulk or construction adhesive. Preventing natural movement causes cracking and warping — excluded from warranty.

- Remove the existing top. If underlayment is solid particle board or MDF, have large ventilation holes cut into it first.
- Use #10 screws with washers. Penetration = ½ the top thickness. For 4" and 7" tops: 1"–1½" penetration.
- Allow 1/8" expansion gap at each end when trapped between two walls. Conceal with backsplash or trim.
- Use only enough fasteners to secure the top — typically at corners. Over-fastening restricts movement.
- Drill pilot holes first using a 5/32" bit. Driving screws without a pilot hole risks cracking.
- In the sub-top, drill a 3/8" expansion hole at every fastener location (see Diagram 1). Required for warranty.
- Drive the #10 pan head screw through the washer into the pilot hole from below. Do not overtighten.
- Do not glue countertop joints. Use the draw bolt fasteners provided, or consult a qualified installer.
- Overhangs 8" or greater require support corbels or brackets every 24" (see Diagram 3).

4 — INSTALLING WOOD BACKSPLASHES

Wood backsplash material may be attached before cabinet installation.

- Drill pilot holes and drive screws up through the bottom of the countertop into the backsplash (see Diagram 2). Expansion holes not required for backsplash attachment.

- Silicone caulk is acceptable for backsplash attachment only — never for the countertop itself.

5 — INSTALLING AROUND APPLIANCES

Sinks and cooktops introduce heat and moisture that require additional planning.

- Where appliances produce heat, install insulation between the appliance and the top. Ensure adequate ventilation.
- Cutouts must not restrict expansion/contraction. Maintain 1/4" minimum clearance around every appliance.
- Install insulation around cooktops. Use rubberized joint sealant in all sink applications.

QUICK REFERENCE — CRITICAL SPECIFICATIONS

SPECIFICATION	REQUIREMENT
Acclimation period	Minimum 72 hours in installation space, HVAC operating
Screw size	#10 with washer
Pilot hole bit	5/32"
Expansion hole (sub-top)	3/8"
Screw penetration depth	½ × top thickness | 4" & 7" tops: 1"–1½"
Expansion gap at walls	1/8" each end
Appliance clearance	1/4" minimum all around
Overhang support	Corbels every 24" for overhangs 8" or greater
Adhesives	**PROHIBITED — silicone caulk & construction adhesive**

For care & maintenance instructions, refer to the UWP Care & Maintenance Guide included with your order, or contact orders@uniquewoodproducts.com or hou@uniquewoodproducts.com.

INSTALLATION DIAGRAMS

DIAGRAM 1 — Fastener & Expansion Hole Detail

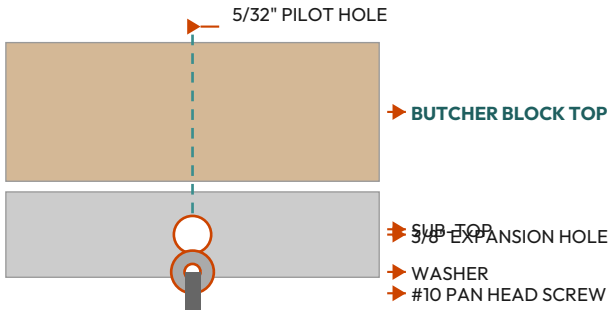


DIAGRAM 2 — Backsplash Attachment

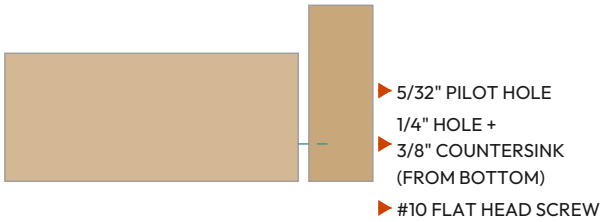


DIAGRAM 3 — Overhang Support (corbels every 24" for overhangs 8"+)

