

casftimber

Installation Guide



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Right: Design by Mint Kitchens

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INTRODUCTION

CASF Timber surfaces are excellent for kitchen work surfaces as timber is extremely durable and its natural beauty is enhanced with age. Timber is warm and inviting to the touch.

CASF Timber surfaces are crafted from solid hardwood timber. Staves of kiln dried timber are finger jointed in the length, butt jointed and glued together along their width. When finely oiled, CASF Timber creates a beautiful water repellent surface that will mellow with age. Simple maintenance is all that is required, occasionally re-oiling will help to maintain the beauty and water resistance of the wood.

As with any high quality benchtops, care should be taken against possible scoring with knives or other cutting tools and chopping boards should always be used. Although accidental damage can be sanded out and then re-oiled to restore it to its original condition.

CASF Timber should not be subjected to high temperatures. **Always use a heat pad or trivet** when placing hot pots/pans on the benchtop. Please see our care and maintenance literature for more information.

CASF Timber wood is a natural, living product and just as no two sets of fingerprints are alike, the same can be said of variations in wood graining and colouring, as no two lengths of wood benchtops will ever look exactly alike. It should be pointed out that the following can occur:

- Variations in colour & graining
- Possibility of knots
- Wood will darken with age
- Wood is water resistant it is NOT WATER PROOF!
- Wood grain can lift if subjected to standing water for any length of time
- Remove all spillages immediately

The information contained in this document is provided as a guide for the installation of CASF Timber. No warranty, however expressed or implied, is given in relation to the guidelines in this document.

INSTALLATION GUIDE

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

PLEASE READ THIS BOOKLET BEFORE COMMENCING INSTALLATION OF YOUR BENCHTOPS. SOME OF THE INFORMATION MAY NOT BE APPLICABLE TO YOUR PARTICULAR INSTALLATION, HOWEVER CERTAIN STAGES OF PREPARATION AND ASSEMBLY ARE IMPORTANT, AND SPENDING A SHORT TIME TO REVIEW THIS BOOKLET MAY SAVE TIME LATER.

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Installation of the benchtops **MUST** be carried out by a competent person.
If in any doubt, consult an expert for any technical advice.
2. Always carry your benchtop on edge (never flat) (see Fig. 1).
3. Do not rush your installation. Take time and care during installation to achieve a professional finish.
4. Protect your benchtop from damage by keeping all metal tools off the surface during the installation process.
5. For achieving the best installation results, **DO NOT** store in extremes of temperature or humidity, this may result in the material being adversely affected, causing splitting or bowing. Store in a dry weatherproof room, where the temperature is around 20°C and humidity is that of the room where it is to be fitted.
6. Before installing, ensure both sides of the CASF Timber surfaces are sealed (oiled). These instructions refer to oiling as a sealing product.

STORAGE & PREPARATION

Installation of the benchtops should be carried out as soon as possible after delivery. If storage is necessary, benchtops **MUST** be laid flat and fully supported in their original packaging (see Fig. 2).

Make sure the storage area is indoors, and in a completely dry area. Do not unpack the benchtops unless the room humidity is stable and all cabinets are installed with any debris cleared away.

To achieve the best installation results, store your benchtops in a room temperature of around 20°C. This should be for at least 24 hours prior to installation.



Fig. 1

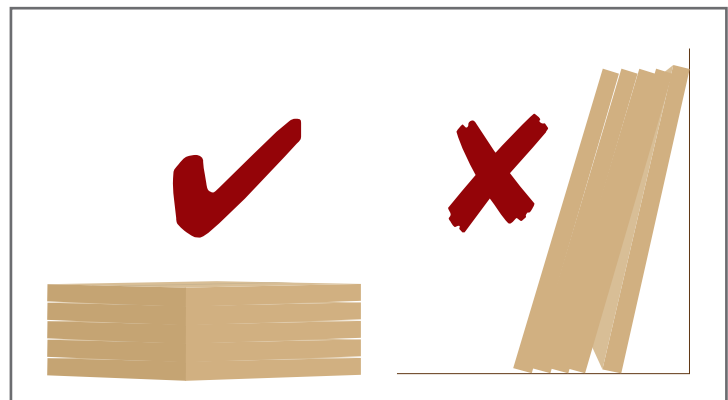


Fig. 2

TOOLS & MATERIALS YOU MAY NEED

ADHERING YOUR CASF TIMBER BENCHTOP TO YOUR CABINETS

- Tape measure
- Spirit level
- Silicone gun
- Slotted angle brackets (optional 4-6 per benchtop length)
- Sanding block
- 150 & 500 grit sand paper
- Straight edge
- Rustin's danish oil (supplied with your bentop order)
- Lint free cloth

JOINING

- Power/cordless drill
- Packers or wedges
- Methylated spirits
- Standard benchtop joiner bolts (as required - supplied with your bentop order)
- Silicone adhesive

APPLIANCE INSTALLATION

- Face mask
- Safety glasses
- Pencil & square
- Jigsaw (used for cutting template board material)
- Router (1800-2300 watts / 2.5-3 hp), (used for cut-outs in CASF Timber benchtop)
- Sand paper (150 grit, to smooth edges of cut-outs)
- Vacuum cleaner
- Template board
- Thin moisture/heat resistant board
- Router bits

PROFESSIONAL TIP

The operation of sanding and routing will generate dust. It is strongly recommended to use extraction on your power tools to remove the dust, i.e. vacuum cleaner. There will be airborne dust which can only be cleaned after routing. Sealing doorways etc. to occupied areas is advisable or alternatively do these tasks externally.

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CABINET REQUIREMENTS (INCORPORATING BENCHTOP SUPPORT)

The design and construction of the cabinets as a benchtop support has a large influence on the successful installation and ongoing performance of your CASF Timber benchtop.

A suitable benchtop support will minimise the chance of the CASF Timber surface from warping and bowing under load during normal applications. The benchtop support must be able to hold the CASF Timber material, which weighs approx 20kg per m² plus any additional load the top could be subject to. Typical loads applied to benchtops can exceed 100kg per m².

- Cabinets must be constructed from solid panels 16mm thick (minimum), ensuring the weight transfer from the benchtop to the floor is carried out through each end gable or division (Fig. 3).
- If the cabinets are fitted with plastic adjustable legs, then the base plate design must facilitate a support lug for the cabinet end.
- Vertical support rails should be screw fixed to the front of the cabinet, to ensure adequate rigid support for the benchtop. The rails can be made from moisture resistant HMR or MDF, moisture resistant plywood or timber and the rail should be at least 50mm wide x 25mm thick.
- Cabinets deeper than 700mm, will require an additional vertical support rail in the centre.

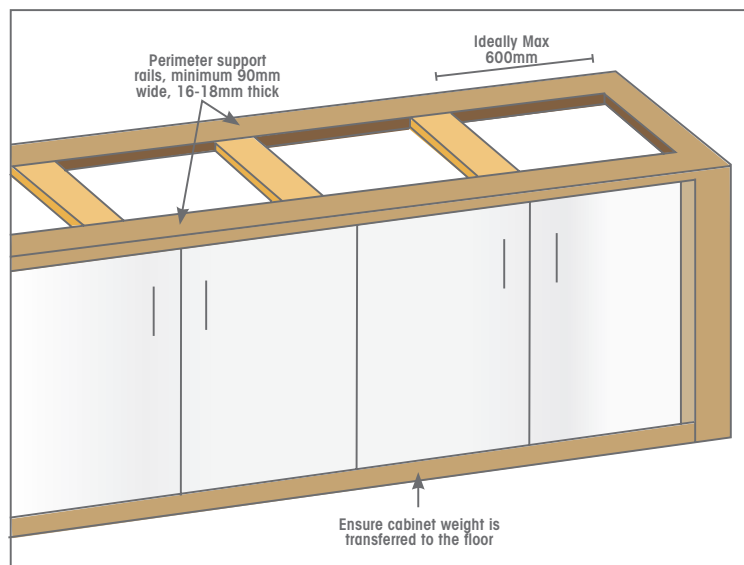


Fig. 3

SPAN & OVERHANG SUPPORT

SPANS

CASF Timber requires a strong perimeter support frame that will keep it level for the useful life of the benchtop. Base cabinets that are spaced 600mm apart provide an ideal base for your CASF Timber benchtop. If base cabinets exceed 900mm, then additional support material will be required to strengthen these types of installations, ensuring that it provides a strong and level base for the benchtops to be installed.

OVERHANG SUPPORT

Some applications may require a significant benchtop overhang as a functional element or a design feature such as a breakfast bar or island top. The following chart provides guidelines for designing overhanging benchtop sections to ensure adequate support.

Note: Overhangs beyond 300mm are not recommended.

OVERHANG SIZE 32mm MATERIAL	SUGGESTED SUPPORT
Less than 150mm	No additional support required
Between 150mm & 300mm	Brackets every 500mm and extending within 100mm of the edge
Overhangs not to exceed 300mm	

BENCHTOP SIZING & CUTTING

PREPARATION

- Always cut so the joint sits on the end panel of the cabinet wherever possible (Fig. 4), enabling benchtops to be joined on a gable end not in the middle. This gives added support to a join and a stronger area for leveling up the surface to achieve a flush join. Where this isn't possible an MDF strip (75x25mm) should be secured below the join to give added support (Fig. 5).
- Ensure benchtops get an expansion clearance between walls of 1mm for every linear metre of worksurface (i.e. 3mm for 3 metre length).
- Ensure you use a router with a double flute bit to size benchtops. Follow the manufacturers instructions on how to operate this tool.
- Ensure all benchtop joints are a minimum of 150mm away from any appliance cut-out.
- Any cutting work should be done outside as machining CASF Timber creates dust.

JOIN POSITIONING ON CABINETS

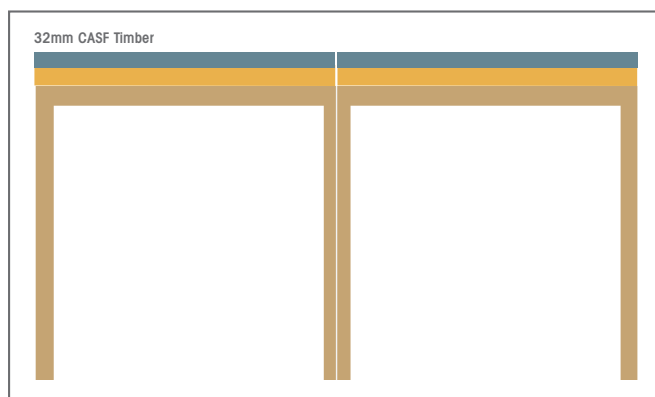


Fig. 4 Strongly recommended position

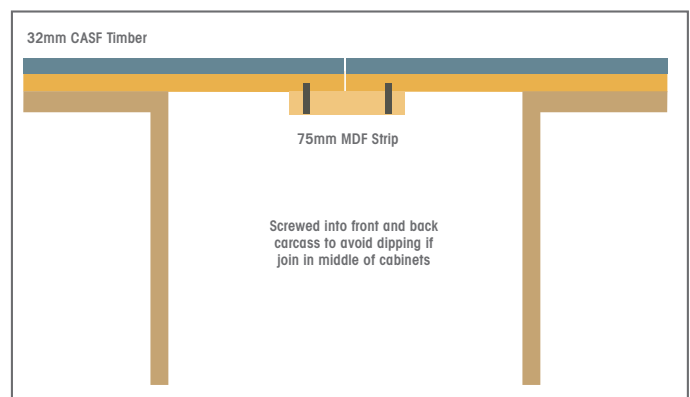


Fig. 5 (not advisable) Join in middle of unit with MDF strip (if recommended position not possible)

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BENCHTOP SIZING & CUTTING (CONTINUED)

SCRIBING BENCHTOPS (IF NECESSARY)

The scribing process (Fig. 6) reflects the contours of the wall not the benchtop and is achieved by placing a small block of wood onto the surface and against the wall.

Always remember to add the required overhang to carcass, to take account of the door thickness, also make sure the thickness of any waterfall end (if applicable) is taken into account. Adhere a strip of 50mm masking tape flush with the back edge of the benchtop, this will enable you to see the pencil line that will be produced in the scribing process. A pencil is then placed at the front edge of the block. The block and pencil are then pushed along the length of the benchtop, marking the benchtop as you proceed. Using this method, any deviation in the wall is marked onto the benchtop.

Scribe with a straight flute router bit fitted to router (or planer if available).

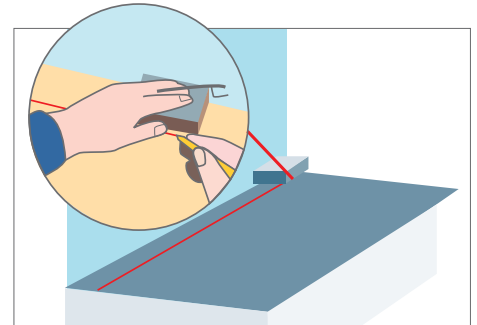


Fig. 6 Scribing to correct depth

SINK & COOKTOP CUT-OUTS

STEP 1 - MAKING CUT-OUT TEMPLATES

The use of an accurate template is one of the most essential elements to the successful completion of a cut-out in your CASF Timber benchtop.

- Ensure the appliance manufacturer's paper templates are used and trace onto the template board materials.
- Use a jigsaw to make the cut-out in the template board material.
- Sand the template board material as smooth and as perfectly shaped as possible.
- Gently position and clamp the template in the exact position of where you require the cut-out.

STEP 2 - ROUTING

CAUTION: Use a router to make a cut-out in a CASF Timber benchtop. Ensure you operate this power tool according to the manufacturer's instructions.

- Ensure the benchtop is properly supported before you commence routing the cut-out, making sure the waste part of the benchtop is supported at all times.
- Once you have the template board clamped into the correct position, plunge the router into the cut-out using a profile router bit similar to that shown in Fig. 7.
- Using the template board as your guide, route in a left to right direction around the template to complete the cut-out.
- Using a 150 grit sand paper, sand the inside edge of the cut-out to remove cutting marks.
- Remove sharp edges at the top and bottom of the cut-out by sanding the edges to an approx. 2mm radius.



Fig. 7

RETURN END OPTION

- When a benchtop is fitted near to a constant heat source i.e. a dropped hob or freestanding cooker allow a minimum gap of 10mm or cut yourself a 20mm end cap to be glued to the end of the benchtop adjacent to the heat source, this will stop the end grain drying out and splitting. (see Fig. 8)

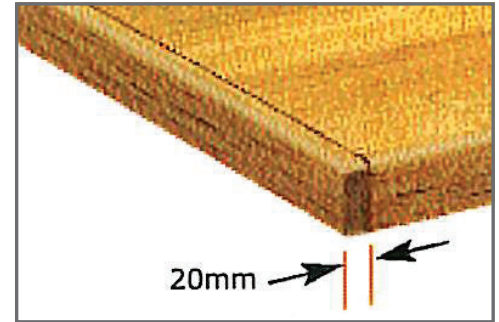


Fig. 8 Solid wood return

SEALING BENCHTOP COMPONENTS

Your CASF Timber benchtops are pre-sanded to a 500 grit finish and are supplied pre-finished with 2 coats of Rustin's Danish oil.

Before installing your "custom sized" benchtop components, you will be required to apply another coat of Rustin's danish oil to seal them as they can be accessed for "all over" sealing. Timber needs to be sealed on both sides to maintain a balance.

Natural plant oils such a Rustin's danish oil penetrate deep into timbers. Light also travels with the oils along the timber fibres into the wood, enhancing all the colour, glow and character of the structure.

Please follow the below instructions to prepare and apply Rustin's Danish oil to CASF Timber Benchtops:

Preparation: The bare wood must be clean, smooth, dry and free from wax, dust and contaminants. Remove wax by scrubbing with white spirit and a scouring pad, then wipe away whilst still wet with clean rags. Existing paint and varnishes should be removed with a Paint and Varnish Stripper. Bare wood may be dyed before coating with oil. Do not apply Knotting.

Application: Apply liberally with a clean rag or brush and wipe off the surplus oil after a few minutes. On exterior wood, the first coat should be applied liberally with a brush and allowed to dry without wiping. Nibs may be removed from the final coat by applying oil with a scouring pad, rubbing in the direction of the grain, then wiping away the surplus with clean rags or paper kitchen towels.

PROFESSIONAL TIP

Professional Tip - Ensure all exposed edges of the cut-outs are sealed with Rustins Danish Oil. Rustin's Danish Oil is normally touch dry in 6-8 hours and fully cured in 24 hours.

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JOINING & INSTALLATION OF BENCHTOPS

CASF Timber benchtops are supplied pre-machined for joins, typically these will be 90° joins (Fig. 14). All joins are supplied with benchtop bolts for ease of installation (Fig.15)



Fig. 14 Benchtop bolts insitu



Fig. 15 Benchtop bolts

Upon installation of the benchtop, dry fit the pieces together to double check the alignment and fit. Also make sure the tops are level.

Note: Ensure the edges which are joining meet along the full length. Where benchtops are butted together they can be leveled underneath with thin packing pieces to ensure the top surfaces are level. Note: Properly leveled joints allow a better quality finish.

STEP 1 - CLEANING AND PREPARING JOINS

Clean the pre-prepared edges with a lint free cloth prior to applying the silicone adhesive to ensure the join will be free of any dirt or grime. If there is contamination on the join, use a 500 grit sand paper to clean lightly.

STEP 2 - POSITION AND FIXING BENCHTOPS (INSTALLING FIRST TOP)

Because benchtops need to be allowed to move, holding the top down to its supports correctly is critical. An option is to drill oversized holes in the cabinet support rails (e.g. 10mm holes for a standard #8 round head gauge screw). Drill small pilot holes in underside of timber top to avoid splitting of timber and then screw round head screws up from underneath, with a washer on the screw. Minimal fixings should be used to hold the top in position and do not over tighten screws (glue should not be used).

Fixing brackets may be used but they must be slotted as shown to allow for timber movement. Use washers with round head screws by fully tightening and then turn back a quarter of a turn to allow the natural movement of the wood, whilst still holding in place. Use two brackets per end panel of a typical carcass up to 600mm deep. Once again minimal fixings are required (approximately every 600mm along the rear and front of the carcass).

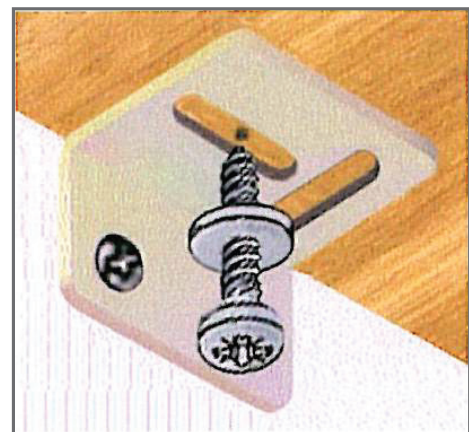


Fig. 16 Do not over tighten screws

STEP 3 - INSTALLING THE SECOND/THIRD TOPS

Joining the benchtops together.

CAUTION: When joining benchtops, ensure the pre-prepared edges are protected from damage when being positioned together.

Join using Silicone which should be applied to the top and bottom edge of the join. Tape each side of join with masking tape to avoid sealant spreading over the benchtops.

Pencil front edge

CASF Timber benchtops are supplied as standard with a 2-3mm pencil edge.

Insulation and venting of timber benchtops

Do not allow benchtops to touch masonry or concrete surfaces without a moisture barrier. When benchtops are installed over oven's, dishwashers, moisture barriers and/or heat insulation board may be needed. Benchtops should not be installed over hot air vents from ducted heating units or similar. It is also very important where cupboards have solid tops, to cut away at least 50% of the top panel to allow underside of work surface to breathe and stay in balance with the upper surface.

Appliances

Where 2 appliances are situated side by side, the span must be supported either by a mid panel or a solid timber front rail that is at least 40mm thick.

Once you have completed the installation of all benchtops, you can have your appliances installed by a license plumber and/or electrician.



Fig. 17 Butt joint

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 1300 795 044

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