

UPSTANDS & BACKSPLASHES

Introduction

This bulletin addresses the fabrication of Corian® Solid Surface upstands and backsplashes.

Overview

Corian® Solid Surface upstands and backsplashes are both decorative and functional. Coved upstands and low height backsplashes in particular can be easier to clean. This document describes several options and the associated fabrication methods.

A. Square Upstand & Backsplash

The square upstand or backsplash approach is a return up the vertical wall at the rear of the worktop that is seamed to the worktop with silicone adhesive using a simple butt seam.

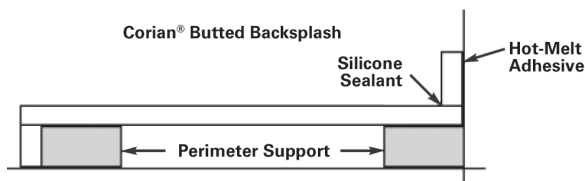


Figure A-1

Steps to completion:

1. After the worktop has been installed, confirm that it is level and measure from worktop to desired height of upstand or backsplash.
2. Check for any obstructions along the wall such as power sockets, windowsills and any other obstructions.
3. Cut the upstand or backsplash to approximate size and place sections in position.
4. Scribe the upstand or backsplash to match the worktop.
5. Trim to pencil lines and check fit.
6. Remove any non-permanent obstruction from the wall that will prevent a close fit of the Corian® to the wall. In addition, make any cut-outs required to accommodate power sockets, windowsills, etc.
7. Wipe edge face and worktop to be seamed with clear, denatured alcohol¹.

8. Select colour-matched, mildew resistant silicone sealant and apply a large bead along the entire seam area.
9. Every 500 mm, apply a small dab of silicone and hot-melt adhesive to the wall to hold the vertical Corian® in place while the silicone cures.
10. Place the upstand or backsplash in position and wipe surplus sealant from the seam angle.
11. Use the “push” method to apply sealant between the upstand or backsplash and worktop.

Do not adhere upstands or backsplashes to the wall with large amounts of silicone. This will cause separation from the worktop during settling. If the upstand or backsplash butts into underside of a windowsill, seal between them using silicone. Do not use joint adhesive as this may restrict expansion/contraction.

HELPFUL HINTS

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

B. Coved upstand & backsplash fabrication aids

To make fabrication as quick as possible, the following special supplies are useful:

- Squaring blocks.
- Wooden clamping strips sufficient to cover entire length of cove.
- Painter’s masking tape to aid positioning.

Squaring Block

Use one squaring block every 300 mm of upstand length plus one for each inside and outside corner.

¹Denatured alcohol is the preferred solvent for cleaning Corian® Solid Surface products. Acetone is approved for cleaning in regions where denatured alcohol is prohibited. Please see *Corian® Solid Surface Fabrication/Installation Fundamentals – Approved Cleaning Solvents* (K-25701) for more details.

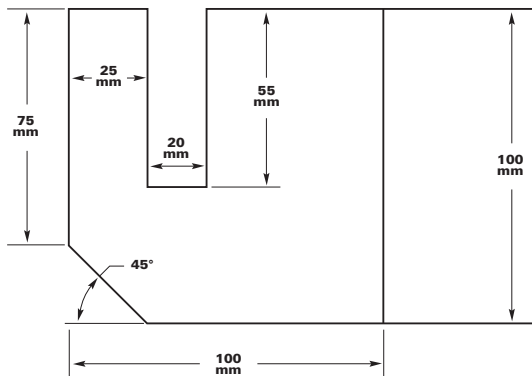


Figure B-1

To use the squaring blocks, position with the 45-degree cut near the cove at 300 mm intervals. During trial fitting of the upstand ensure the squaring blocks rest flush against the upstand and worktop. Apply hot-melt adhesive where the block rests on the worktop. Painter's masking tape can be used as a positioning tool to replicate trial fit when it comes to glue-up. See Figure B-2 and B-3.

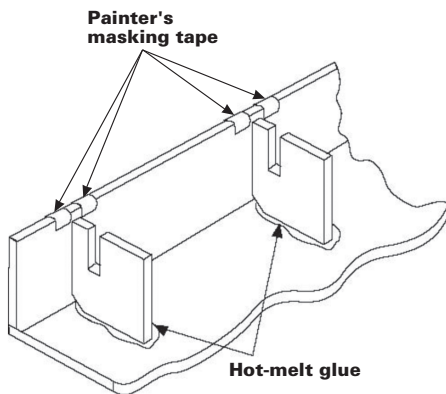


Figure B-2

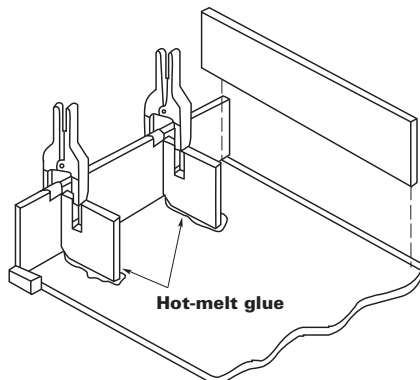


Figure B-3

When removing blocks and clamps, spray the hot-melt glue with denatured alcohol to ease removal.

Clamping Strip

To make clamping strips, run plywood or MDF through a table saw with blade set to 45 degrees. Cut to dimensions shown in Figure B-4.

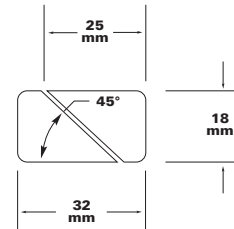


Figure B-4

Clamping strips can be used as an aid to enable spring clamps to apply force during coved upstand glue-up as shown in Figure B-5.

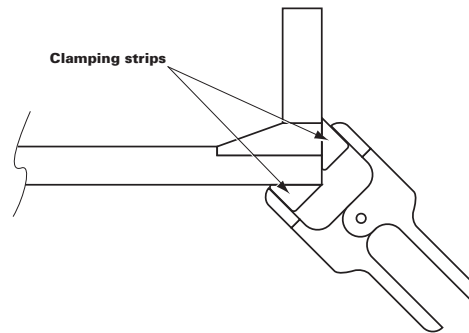


Figure B-5

C. Fabricating coved upstands & low backsplashes

Coved upstands and low height backsplashes can be an attractive upgrade that facilitates cleaning.

Because of the unique characteristics of veined or reflective colours of Corian® Solid Surface, a cove created with traditional fabrication techniques may not match the sheet appearance of the worktop or upstand. A new method for forming coves by thermoforming has been developed for these colours and is described in *Corian® Solid Surface Specialty Application Bulletin – Thermoformed Coved Backsplash (K-28253)*.

When using traditional fabrication techniques as described here, it's advisable to inform the end consumer of this outcome to ensure their satisfaction. Physical samples will help demonstrate the cove appearance. Refer to *Corian® Solid Surface Product Fabrication Bulletin – Directional Aesthetics (K-26833)* for more information on which colours have directional aesthetics.

C.1. Coved Upstand/Low Backsplash-Butt-Seamed Corners

For more information on coving routers, contact router manufacturers. Part dimensions, depths and radii may vary depending on router cutter used to make the cove.

Steps to completion:

1. Place the Corian® sheet on a level workbench with easy working access to the rear of the sheet where the upstand is to be built.
 2. Cove strip: With an accurate straightedge, a two-flute router cutter and a 2200W 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°, 7 mm bevel along the back edge to reduce cove routing later. This 45° bevel will be undersized to allow material for the cove router to cut after glue-up.
 4. Cove strip: Cut the cove strip from the back of the sheet to exact size, 22 mm from the leading edge. Cut worktop to correct depth.
 5. Worktop: Make a rebate in the face of the worktop 3 mm deep by 22 mm wide the length of the back edge to be coved. A 25 mm diameter, two-flute cutter in a 2200W router works well for this step.
 6. Cove strip: Cut the bevelled cove strip to length. At corners, mitre-cut the strip and dry-fit. The worktop, cove strip and upstand are shown in Figure C-1.
 7. Clean the worktop rebate and cove strip thoroughly with denatured alcohol and white paper towel or cloth.
- Apply painter's masking tape along the worktop 1mm away from the rebate to reduce clean-up.**
8. Apply DuPont™ Joint Adhesive or Corian® Joint Adhesive along the shoulder of the worktop rebate and a thin bead 6 mm from the back edge.
 9. Carefully spring-clip the cove strip into position. Apply spring clamps every 50 mm, forcing the cove strip forward. Allow the joint adhesive to cure.
 10. Upstand/Low Backsplash: Cut the upstand or low height backsplash to desired height, noting the 10 mm rise of the cove strip in the worktop. Repeating step 2 above is recommended on the seaming edge. Allow 1.5 mm additional width for clean-up.
 11. Clean up adhesive at cove strip corner seams as necessary and dry-clip upstand in position. Inspect for perfect fit.
12. Hot-melt squaring blocks are a useful aid (see Figure B-1) every 300 mm to hold the upstand in 90° position. This is shown in Figure B-2 and Figure B-3.
 13. Clean cove strip and upstand thoroughly with denatured alcohol and clean white paper towel or cloth. If the upstand is butt-seamed at corner, apply painter's masking tape to within 1 mm of seam on butting pieces to expedite clean-up.
 14. Apply DuPont™ Joint Adhesive or Corian® Joint Adhesive along the cove strip and clamp the upstand into place. Check that the upstand is flush against the squaring blocks. Do not over tighten bar clamps.
 15. Allow the joint adhesive to cure. Remove painter's masking 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 coving cutter head should be sharp and set at a paper's thickness above the worktop and away from the vertical upstand or low 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. Use the correct soft pads for curved work. Hard pads 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 *Corian® Solid Surface Fabrication/Installation Fundamentals – Finishing and Polishing* (K-25298).

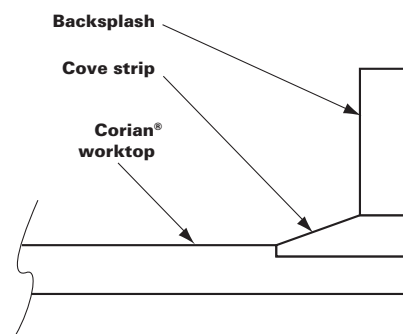


Figure C-1

C.2. Coved Upstand/Low backsplash- 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 25 mm from the corner. This allows material for the coving router to shape after assembly. Butt-seam the corner.
2. Upstand/Low backsplash: The end of one upstand/backsplash piece will need to be rebated as in Step 5 of Section C.1 on the previous page. See Figure C-1. Cut the upstand/backsplash piece oversized to allow for clean-up later. Then follow steps 6 through 9 in Section C.1.
3. After adhering a cove strip to the upstand/backsplash panel, clean up by routing and sanding, and complete the procedures provided in steps 10 through 18 in Section C.1.

It's important that all parts fit perfectly. Special attention is required at inside/outside corners to ensure good fit. DuPont™ Joint Adhesive and Corian® Joint Adhesive are never used to fill gaps.

C.3. Full-height backsplashes

Do not create hard seamed full-height backsplashes. Building settling may cause differential movement of the horizontal surface and the wall, leading to cracking.

Full-height backsplashes should be jointed with colour coordinated silicone sealant. Full-height backsplashes are treated as a limited example of wall surfacing and are constructed at installation. More details are available at *Corian® Solid Surface Fabrication/Installation Fundamentals – Transportation and Installation* (K-25299).

D. Referenced documents

Corian® Solid Surface Fabrication/Installation Fundamentals – Finishing and Polishing (K-25298)

Corian® Solid Surface Fabrication/Installation Fundamentals – Transportation and Installation (K-25299)

Corian® Solid Surface Fabrication/Installation Fundamentals – Approved Cleaning Solvents (K-25701)

Corian® Solid Surface Product Fabrication Bulletin – Directional Aesthetics (K-26833)

Corian® Solid Surface Specialty Application Bulletin – Thermoformed Coved Backsplash (K-28253)

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