

WORKTOP FABRICATIONS

Nottingham · Worktop manufacture & supply

INSTALLATION, CARE & MAINTENANCE

Compact Laminate



Tough. Hygienic. Waterproof.

Fitting guide, care & maintenance
for solid-core compact laminate worktops

A complete guide to measuring, cutting, jointing, edge profiling and caring for your solid-core compact laminate worktop. Compact laminate is a 2-person lift — please read fully before you begin, and keep for future reference.

Before you cut — inspect & acclimatise

You or your fitter must carefully inspect the worktop for texture, edge and decor appearance before cutting, jointing or installing. Any consequential fitting costs relating to such issues may not be accepted after installation.

Storage & handling

Always store the worktop flat for 24 hours in the room where it will be fitted, so it conditions to ambient conditions before cutting. These worktops are a two-person lift — do not carry them flat, as the weight may crack the panel.

Measuring & cutting

Compact worktops cut easily with standard TCT blades. Use a circular saw to cut to length where the cut edge will sit against a wall and stay unexposed.

Where a cut edge will be exposed and visible, cut to within 3 mm of the finished length with a circular saw, then trim the final 3 mm with a router for a clean edge.

Cutting tip

Always use sharp blades to reduce chipping. For a circular saw, scribe and cut from the reverse side (face down) so the saw teeth cut towards the laminate surface.

Dress cut edges — especially exposed ones — with the sanding sheets supplied: start at 180 grit, move to 240 grit, then a 320-grit nylon pad. Apply light, even pressure to remove machining marks or burrs.

Profiling edges

To match exposed cut edges to the factory edges, use a Titman adjustable chamfer with bearing (TTBGAC45). For a softer look, select a 1–2 mm pencil round. Always use a router/trimmer fitted with a bottom-bearing radius cutter, and ensure all blades and bearings are sharp and sound to prevent chatter and deep cutting.

Router into the face

Always router into the face — this reduces chipping and flaking. Keep polishing pads flat and away from the decorative surface at all times.

Jointing

Do not sand the joints. 10 mm and 12 mm compact laminate is not solid surface — the decorative face cannot be sanded back.

We supply a colour-matched worktop installation kit with each worktop (one per mitre joint) to ensure a correct, seamless joint. The kit's colour-matched sealant/adhesive gives instant grip, cures fast even at low temperatures (worktops ready to use in ~15 hours), is solvent-free and UV-stable, and resists dirt pick-up far better than silicone.

Mitred corners

Use a compact-laminate jig with a router fitted with a 12.7 mm (½") cutter and 30 mm guide bush; full instructions come with the jig. Dry-fit the joint first to confirm it is acceptable, then complete the final jointing process for a discreet joint with a 10 mm inset.

Fitting to base units

Do not screw compact laminate directly to the carcass — it will split the laminate, and the worktop needs to expand across its length and width.

To stop the worktop bowing and to create a waterproof bond, use a high-grab, fast-cure panel adhesive to bond the compact worktop to the carcass.

Shaping

- 1 Place the jig on the worktop, clamp it and mark its position.
- 2 Mark the outline by running an offset scribe around the jig.
- 3 Use a jigsaw to remove excess material, following the pencil lines.
- 4 Always use a router to create the finished edge.
- 5 Match the exposed edge to factory edges with a Titman chamfer (TTBGAC45).

Keep polishing pads flat and away from the decorative surface at all times.

Drainer grooves

(Undermount sink installation only.) Using sharp, good-quality cutters and working smoothly reduces finishing time and gives an excellent result.

Important: Always cut the drainer grooves after a radius profile has been applied to the inner edge, so the bearing follows a flat edge — not the grooves.

- 1 Apply masking tape to help position the grooves.
- 2 Mark groove centre-lines parallel to the worktop front edge.
- 3 Centralise the groove in the jig over the centre-line and clamp firmly.
- 4 Use a router with a 30 mm bush guide and radius cutter; lock plunge depth to 3 mm (never deeper than 6 mm).
- 5 From the sink cut-out, plunge and run smoothly along the jig to form the groove.
- 6 Repeat for the remaining grooves.

Finishing drainer grooves

Hand-sand the grooves with 180 then 240 grit, finishing with 320 grit and a Scotch-Brite pad. Keep the pads flat and away from the decorative surface.

Cleaning & care

There's nothing easier than caring for your compact worktop — the HPL surface makes cleaning simple, and the solid core is totally waterproof.

Everyday cleaning

Usually a damp cloth is enough; use washing-up liquid to remove grease. Stubborn dirt can be lifted with an organic solvent such as methylated spirits or alcohol. A hard-bristle brush (never wire) may be used — but not on glossy worktops.

Gloss finishes

For gloss compact worktops, use only a damp cloth with mild detergent or a non-abrasive cleaner in warm water. Avoid abrasive scouring powders, creams and polishes. Remove persistent stains immediately and buff dry with a soft cloth.

Protect your worktop

Always use a trivet or heat pad under hot pans and kitchen utensils, and always cut or chop on a board (worktop saver) — never directly on the surface.

Stain removal guide

Stain / soiling	How to remove
Light dirt	Dry or damp paper towel, cloth or sponge
Fat, oil, fingermarks, lime, wine, juice, coffee, tea, blood	Cloth or soft nylon brush with washing powder, soap or washing-up liquid; rinse with clean water
Long-exposure tea / coffee / juice discolouration	Washing powder with household bleach (do not repeat too often)
Pencil, felt-tip, biro, crayon, wax, shoe polish	Organic solvent — acetone, meths, petroleum spirit
Water/solvent paints, varnish, printing ink	Water or organic solvent; remove two-component paints immediately
Two-component adhesives, urea / melamine / phenolic resin	Remove immediately — do not allow to harden

Always read the manufacturer's instructions when using any solvent, and test on a hidden area first.

Before fitting & guarantee

Check the colour match first

If the worktop has a protective film, peel it back to check the colour match before you start. It can be pushed back after checking and before fitting. No refitting charges will be accepted for shade variation after fitting has been completed.

Always measure twice

Always double-check, measure twice, and thoroughly inspect the worktop for any transit damage and marks before fitting.

Quick reference — do & don't

Do	Don't
Store flat for 24 hours before cutting	Carry the worktop flat (2-person lift)
Cut face-down with sharp TCT blades	Sand or polish the decorative face / joints
Bond to the carcass with panel adhesive	Screw the laminate directly to the carcass
Use a heat pad under hot pans	Place hot pans/utensils directly on the surface
Use a chopping board (worktop saver)	Cut or chop directly on the worktop
Wipe spills promptly; remove two-part adhesives at once	Use abrasive scourers on gloss finishes

Quality guarantee

We offer a 5-year guarantee against manufacturing defects, provided all installation and care instructions are strictly followed, subject to normal wear and tear. Due to the inherent properties of gloss laminate, we cannot accept responsibility for the performance of the decorative surface — please follow the gloss care guidance before and after installation, as misuse may affect appearance, particularly scratching.

Keep this guide

Please do not throw this leaflet away — keep it for future reference. For installation kits or advice, contact Worktop Fabrications on 0115 942 5549 or visit worktop-fabrications.com.