



Butcher Block Installation Instructions

Natural Properties of Wood

Most buyers of butcher block are drawn to it because of its natural qualities. These same natural qualities also impact the installation, maintenance and preservation of butcher block.

Woods are composed of millions of cells and these cells contract and expand as a result of exposure to different levels of humidity. Almost all homes, offices and businesses experience sufficient changes in humidity to allow the wood in them to go through periods of shrinking and expanding. Most of us have noticed such changes in your wood doors, for example.

Wood products will last the longest when installed in a controlled environment. Some common sense measures will help to preserve your wood. Avoid areas that are very dry or wet. Keep your butcher block away from hot, dry air such as heat outlets. Exposure to excessively dry conditions can not only cause shrinkage but splitting. Also avoid wet areas and especially allowing water to stand on your butcher block.

The tendency in most of the United States is for wood to expand in the summer (because of humidity) and contract in the winter. The change can be as much as 3/16" in the width (across the ends of the boards) of your butcher block. The wider the butcher block is the greater the expansion will be.

Before Installation

- Before you install your butcher block please inspect it thoroughly. If you see any problems call us immediately.
- Allow your butcher block to acclimate to the environment of your home or office before you install it. It is best to unpack the butcher block and let it sit inside for several days.
- If your butcher block has an oiled finish re-oil it on both sides as soon as you unpack it. If the butcher block will sit for several weeks before install make sure it is stored in a controlled environment. An oiled butcher block should be checked once a week to see if it is drying out. If you see indications of dryness the butcher block should be re-oiled.

Installation

- ❑ If the butcher block has an oil finish re-oil the bottom before you install it.
- ❑ Cutting your butcher block requires special care. After you have made cuts reseal any exposed wood with an appropriate finish. Leaving raw wood edges exposed can lead to warping and cracking of your butcher block.
- ❑ Special care should be taken when you are making cutouts for sinks and stoves.
 - With sinks the concern is water of course. Make sure to coat the cutout and all wood that will be under the sink, as well as the underside of the countertop around the sink with a water resistant finish such as polyurethane. You can seal the sink/top edge with 100% silicone caulk.
 - With stovetops the concern is heat. You might consider edging the cut out (after sealing it with a resistant finish such as polyurethane) with heat resistant tape.
- ❑ Butcher Block tops are best installed using wood screws attached through the corner blocks of the cabinet on which it rests. You can use 100% silicone caulk to fill gaps but it should not be the only method of adhering the top to the base. **NEVER** use a standard caulk or construction adhesive as these products dry hard and will not let the wood expand and contract.
- ❑ Always pre-drill holes in a butcher block, prior to installing. The holes in the butcher block should penetrate the top approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of its thickness. Holes in any base or furniture to which you attach a top should be $\frac{1}{8}$ " to $\frac{1}{4}$ " larger than the screw or bolt. Center the screw in the hole. This will allow enough clearance to accommodate the natural expansion and shrinkage of wood.

Thank You for Choosing Texas Garages!