



## ACCLIMATION & INSTALLATION GUIDELINES TABLE AND COUNTERTOP PRODUCTS

### **This document includes:**

1. Guidelines for storing and acclimating tables and counters prior to installation.
2. Installation details relating to the top construction type.
3. Guidelines for attachment of tops to bases and casework.

### **Storage and Acclimation**

All wood products should be stored flat and protected from impacts, falls, and spillage, with special attention paid to the edges and corners. Wood products must be stored in a dry state and protected from weather during storage. The products must be stored flat in a sealed, waterproof envelope on a smooth level surface clear of the ground and away from exposure to water, moisture, temperature extremes, etc.

Wood products for interior use must be properly acclimated for a minimum of 7 days in the environment in which they are to be installed. Proper acclimation requires an enclosed installation area where the wet-work has been completed and the HVAC system is operating and maintaining temperature between 60- and 90-degrees F and relative humidity between 18 and 55 percent. The wood products must be acclimated in the "stacked & stickered" format for proper air circulation (see diagram). Pay special attention to maintaining the flatness of the material while it is being stored and acclimated.

Windfall cannot be held responsible for products that are installed incorrectly or without proper acclimation. See warranty below.

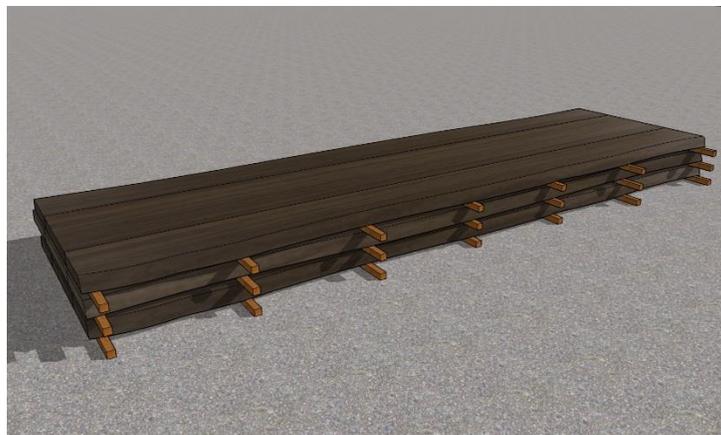


Illustration: "stacked & stickered."

## **Installation details relating to construction type**

### **Plank and side grain construction**

Standard overhang of a side grain or plank countertop over the cabinet face of 1" to 1-1/2" is acceptable. Up to a 3" overhang does not require support from brackets or posts. For larger overhangs, corbels, brackets, posts, or a steel plate substrate is recommended.

### **End grain construction**

End grain countertops, by nature of the grain direction, do not carry the horizontal strength of side grain or plank countertops. Extra care is required in mounting the end grain product to a cabinet. A very flat mounting surface that includes ample solid support is required.

A 3/4" plywood substrate support within the base cabinet is recommended or cross member support every 12"-16".

Smaller sections of 2-3 feet are relatively strong and stable. Expect End Grain construction to have more overall seasonal movement than Plank or Side Grain. Any overhang of more than 1.5" to 3" will require substantial support of plywood or a steel plate, corbels or posts.

Seaming between sections is typically accomplished with a combination of dominos or biscuits and mechanical draw tightening hardware. The machining and parts for the dominos, biscuits and connectors is typically provided by Windfall and can be installed by a qualified fabricator/installer allowing for on-site installation.

### **Seaming for all tops**

All seams are cut straight and sanded at pre-assembly. For acclimation, it is recommended to fabricate and site-assemble tops, including draw tight hardware, as soon as possible as over time they may change shape with changes in humidity. Place on counters for acclimation without attachment for 7 days. If the counter is solid, use stickers, evenly sized, such as made from MDF.

## **Installation Methods**

Windfall strongly recommends that our wood products be installed by a licensed and bonded general contractor (GC) in accordance with industry best practices and our installation recommendations. Windfall is not responsible for damages caused by incorrect installation of our products.

## Attachment of tabletops to Bases

All screw holes in the tabletop must be pre-drilled. Bases should have slotted or oversized holes to accommodate seasonal movement of the wood. Windfall recommends the use of fender washers and hand tightening of screws. Power tools may over tighten the fasteners, damaging the top, and preventing movement.

End grain tops attached to table bases must be supported by a substrate within 2" of the edge of the top.

## Attachment of tops to Casework

Any method of attachment should reflect careful consideration of seasonal wood movement. Wood moves the greatest amount across the grain; therefore, care should be used not to trap the wood from movement in this direction.



Use as few screws as possible to keep the countertop fastened to the base cabinets. Screw holes should be pre-drilled, and screws should not penetrate more than 1/2" into the countertop. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR END GRAIN TOPS!

A screw can be used through a substrate from below provided the screw hole in the substrate is oversized to accommodate seasonal movement of the wood. A fender washer is used to allow movement while maintaining a snug connection.

An alternate method of attachment of a wood top to casework is with a z-clip type of tabletop fastener.

The proper use and installation of this type of attachment [can be seen here](#).

## Care of Wood Tops and Counters

### Finish Recommendations

NOTE: If the top is cut in the field, a finish must be applied to the cut edge before the top is put to use. This is very important to allow for consistent wood movement during seasonal acclimation through the lifetime of the top. Touch up kits are available from Windfall.

## **Oil finish for cutting surfaces**

If the countertop is used for food preparation or regular chopping, we recommend an oil finish such as walnut oil or OSMO Polyx Oil be applied to provide water repellency with a rich matte appearance. Periodic (re)treatment of oil is required to prevent the wood from becoming too dry and losing repellency. [See manufacturers details about application.](#)

## **Waterborne Varnish**

For general use tables and counters which will not involve direct knife contact, we recommend a low-VOC, waterborne finish. Three to four coats of waterborne varnish for softwoods (Douglas Fir, Red Alder) and two to three coats for hardwoods (Pacific Madrone, Oregon Myrtle, Western Maple, Black Walnut, African Hardwood blend) are required. Additional coats can be applied as needed to retain protection and water repellency.

Use of polyurethane based finishes, even low toxic products, is not recommended as they are a surface film finish that does not penetrate and care for the wood.

## **Cleaning**

The cleaning of wood tops manufactured by Windfall using our waterborne varnish or an oil finish should be done with mild soap and water and a soft cloth or sponge.

## **NOTE**

If you have any questions regarding specification or defects prior to installation - DO NOT INSTALL. Instead, contact your Windfall Sales Representative or the Windfall office (360) 352-2250 for immediate assistance.

If there is damage to the packaging, please take photographs of the original packing materials before opening the shipment. Immediately send these photos to [info@windfall.design](mailto:info@windfall.design) along with the project name and details and your phone number.

Once installed and the material has been accepted and deemed suitable by the customer, our 1 Year Warranty goes into effect.