

STARON

Solid Surfaced

Worktop / Breakfast Bar

Installation & Care & Maintenance Guide

The advice in this guide should be carried out with due regards to health and safety and good working practices.

All accessories referred to in this guide are available from your distributor either as component items of the installation or care and maintenance kits or as specified individual accessories.

You should make yourself fully conversant with the tooling and accessories needed before starting work and preferably before pricing the work.

Do's & Don'ts

These key points are highlighted to ensure correct fitting of your Staron Worktop. Please read the following the guide in full before carrying out any installation.

Do:

- Store flat so worktop does not become bowed.
- Acclimatize the Worktops 24 hours prior to installation.
- Use the recommended tools Specified.
- Inspect each worktop for manufacturing/material surface defects prior to fabrication.
- Check batch numbers are the same to avoid colour shade variation.
- Use De-natured Alcohol or acetone and not Methylated spirits as dye may contaminate the joints.
- Ensure under mounted sinks are fully supported to avoid cracking the work surface.
- Wipe surface between sanding disc changes.

Don't:

- Attempt to fabricate the Worktop before reading this Guide.
- Store outside or in damp or wet conditions.
- Use Jigsaws to cut Staron Worktops as this may damage or stress the solid surface.
- Cut from the back edge of the Worktop as this may cause damage to the front edging strip.
- Use coloured cloths to clean the joints as the dye may transfer and become visible in the joint.
- Sand in a counter clockwise circular motion as this will leave swirls or pigtails.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

When cutting always use a dust mask and good extraction.

Methyl methacrylate can be present at the cutting tool face; however, it dissipates with good ventilation.

Eyes (during machine operation): Tightly fitting safety goggles or face-shield.

Hands (during machine operation): Leather gloves or thick fabric gloves.

Other (during machine operation): Ear protection, safety shoes.

HANDLING / STORAGE

Staron Worktops / Breakfast Bars should always be carried individually to eliminate the possibility of damage, wearing heavy-duty protective gloves and proper safety shoes. Carry vertically (on edge), with one hand under to support and one hand over for control.

Always store Staron Worktops / Breakfast Bars indoors, horizontally, on a pallet which exceeds the length of Worktop / Breakfast Bar in a well ventilated area to avoid distortion.

Before installation the worktops / breakfast bars and adhesive will benefit from being stored in the area that they are to be installed for a minimum of 24 hours.

PRODUCT WEIGHTS

A 3000mm x 650mm x 38mm Staron Worktop weighs approximately 80kg, and a 2100mm x 650mm x 38mm Staron Breakfast Bar 75kg and should not be carried by one person.

WORKTOP DIMENSIONS

Nominal thickness: 38mm

Length: 3000mm

Width: 650mm

BREAKFAST BAR DIMENSIONS

Nominal thickness: 38mm

Length: 2100mm

Width: 900mm

CUTTING

If possible all cutting should be carried out on a sliding table saw using a triple chip high quality tungsten carbide saw blade (5' Negative Hook), cutting face up and front edge first.

An allowance of 5mm per 3000mm top should be allowed for expansion.

If you have to use a jig saw you should always cut from the front edge first with the top face down on a protective surface or with the area that the base plate will be in contact with the Staron protected with masking tape or similar to prevent scratching of the surface.

Please bear in mind that jigsaws should never be used to form the finished cut. Jigsaws should be used to rough cut oversize and the final cut made with a router.

EQUIPMENT

In addition to standard woodworking tools the installer will need the following: -

1. Random orbital sander minimum speed 10,000 rpm and preferably with extraction.
2. Multi speed router 1600 – 2100 watt motor with a minimum rotational speed of 18,000 rpm. Router cutters should be of high quality tungsten carbide, double flute and 12mm (½") shank to reduce chatter and vibration.
3. Adhesive applicator gun.
4. Standard installation kit.

JOINTING

If it is at all possible we advise that it is best to pre-form the joints in your workshop rather than on site.

Joints must never extend across hob, sink or any other cutouts.

Allow an offset of a minimum of 200mm away from all cutouts.

Joints must never be formed over any appliances.

Allow an offset of a minimum of 100mm away from any appliance.

Corner joints are formed using a standard worktop jig the same as is used for laminated worktops.

The joint should be secured using three worktop bolts and plywood biscuits.

Joints in the length should be secured using three worktop bolts and plywood biscuits.

All joints should be dry fitted and secured before being taken apart and bonded.

Forming Joints

Joints in corners should be formed using a standard worktop jig. Joints in the length should be cut approximately 3mm over length and finished to size with a router. Both types of joints should be connected using plywood biscuits and worktop connector bolts; this ensures correct alignment and joint strength.

Always form joints working from the Staron face down to make sure that the faces are level in the finished joint. Any manufacturing tolerances for the Staron or the MDF will then only appear on the reverse side.

Do not try to form the joint in one pass. It is strongly advised that plenty of time is taken and the joint cut in two or even three passes. Care and time taken will directly affect the quality of the finished joint.

All joints should be put together dry. The tighter the dry fit the better the final joint will be.

Make sure that any pencil (or other such) marks are removed from the joint area using de-natured alcohol or cellulose clear thinners. If left these marks can show shadows through the finished joint especially in light colours.

Prepare the joint faces by cleaning with solid surface cleaning solvent using a clean white cloth to remove all contaminants and grease. Never use coloured cloths as the solvent can release dye onto the joint surface.

Do not touch the edges once cleaned.

Adhesive cartridges, which are not in use, should always be stored in a cool area, a refrigerator is ideal.

Apply the adhesive to both faces of the joint (at the top edge and along the biscuit line) ensuring there is enough adhesive in the joint to squeeze out onto the top surface.

Having applied the adhesive you will generally have less than 10 minutes to close and secure the joint before the adhesive starts to set. This will vary according to temperature and humidity. If there is any doubt the adhesive set time should be tested before putting adhesive into the joint.

Once the joint is secured there should be a small bead of adhesive left on the top and front edge. This bead should not be touched until totally dry, normally 30 – 40 minutes.

When the adhesive is totally set there only remains to sand and blend the joint to match the rest of the Staron tops.

FINISHING

Excess adhesive should be removed by using a 100 grit disc on a random orbital sander.

Once the glue line disappears use 180, 240 & 320 grit discs the finish with a Scotch brite pad. (Overlap ½ the diameter of the pad on the sander). **E.g. 6” Pad = 3” overlap**

When sanding, make sure to sand in the same direction every time you change the disc.

Always sand front to back, side to side, in a circular motion (clockwise).

Always wipe dust off the surface after each disc grit change. If the next grit is used without wiping, then there will be scratches left behind, the size of the previous grit.

Never let the sander remain stationary when in contact with the Staron and always use a circular motion when sanding or polishing.

Buff the area, which has been sanded, using the solid surface cleaner from the installation kit and a clean cloth.

The Staron Solid Surface Worktops are manufactured individually to a factory finish. After fabrication it may be necessary to sand the whole Worktop further to obtain the customers required finish.

This chart is only a guideline.

Finish	Standard Grit
Matt Finish (light colour)	100, 180, Red Scotch Bright
Matt Finish (dark colour)	100, 180, 240, 320, Grey Scotch Bright
Semi Gloss	100, 180, 240, 320, Grey Scotch Bright
High Gloss	100, 180, 240, 320, 600-(Wet)
Mirror Finish	All of the above plus
	1. Marine grade rubbing compound
	2. "Finesse it" compound (3M)
	3. Liquid Glass as coat.

CUTOUTS

It is important that all cut outs in solid surface material have radius corners. Square corners can result in damage after installation.

Drill through the Staron surface then cut away from this hole using a router cutter to a depth of 30mm. The final 8mm can be cut using a jigsaw.

It is important not to try to form cut outs in one pass; two passes should be the minimum. It is good practice to use a 3mm radius cutter to form the top and bottom edge of any cut out.

The edges of cut outs for sinks or any other appliance where damp or steam may be involved once prepared should be sealed with a good quality waterproof PVA adhesive or silicon.

Under mounted sinks should be fully supported to avoid cracking the work surface.

Do not fasten a cooker hob directly in to the Staron surface, please fasten into the moisture resistant MDF.

Edges of cut outs for hobs or any other appliance where heat is involved must be rounded over.

For hob cutouts measure the appliance decorative flange.

Determine cutout size including a minimum 6mm gap between cutout and the hob box.

Cut hole and prepare as above and apply aluminum heat reflective tape on the entire cutout rim. It is important to ensure the tape remains in place as the hob is fitted.

UPSTANDS

Upstands should be attached as follows;

Cut the upstand to the desired length (refer to CUTTING section)

Route 1/8" on any open sides then sand the entire upstand to the required finish (Refer to table in FINISHING section).

Apply silicone to the perimeter of the Upstand and spot at 10" intervals along its full length.

Place a few spots of hot melt glue on the back of the Upstand. (This will hold the Upstand in place while the silicone cures.

Quickly push into place making sure to push along the full length so all the silicone is touching the wall.

Caulk the joint between the Upstand and the Worktop with 100% silicone.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Staron is one of the most hygienic surfacing materials available; its non-porous surface cannot support bacterial or fungal growth.

Staron is a homogeneous and solid mineral-filled acrylic polymer material and simple routine maintenance is the only requirement needed to keep it looking new and fresh.

EVERYDAY CARE

Your beautiful Staron worktops are generally hard wearing and easy to maintain. But it is not self-cleaning. Like anything else it needs routine care to keep its original appearance. Wipe up food and liquid spills when they occur. In normal daily situations a damp cloth or a small amount of soapy water followed by buffing with a good quality cloth will be all that is required. In addition regular cleaning with an approved solid surface cleaner will help to prevent the build up of stains etc and maintain the appearance.

In particular dark colours such as Sanded Dark Nebula will require more maintenance to maintain their appearance.

Regular use of solid surface polish (please see your worktop supplier) will help to keep your surfaces looking as new, will prevent stains taking hold and will leave a very slight film on the surface enhancing the richness of colour.

Even Staron can be harmed by use of certain household chemicals, which can be surprisingly strong. Staron should not be exposed for prolonged periods to any strong chemicals such as acetone or bleach. Any spills should be removed immediately and promptly flushed with soapy water.

Do not allow contact with materials such as oven cleaners, paint remover, paint brush cleaners, and drain cleaners or any similar products.

Although Staron is a hard surface, (it will blunt any knife), it is not intended to be used as a cutting surface. You should always use a separate wood or polyethylene board for food preparation. It is more kind to your knives and prevents accidental scratching.

Staron has excellent heat resisting properties, but hot ovenware, pots and pans and the like can easily reach temperatures, which will damage any work surface, even Staron.

Always use a trivet with rubber feet or alternatively stainless steel hob bars or similar insulating pads.

REMOVING CUTS AND SCRATCHES

Because Staron is solid and non-porous with colour and pattern all the way through stains and scratches can usually be easily removed with mild abrasives. You can either obtain an approved solid surface care and maintenance kit to do this yourself or if you are unsure then you should contact your installer who should be able to carry out this minor work for you.

Some can be removed using fine grade sandpapers, polishing compounds and scouring pads that can be found in a solid surface care and maintenance kit.

If you have any doubts leave it to the professionals. Your installer will be able to put you in touch with an approved solid surface fabricator who should be able to carry out this work for you.

JOHN PORTER WORKTOPS
www.worktops.uk.com
01825 766512