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Key installation points



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## KEY INSTALLATION POINTS TO FOLLOW FOR KITCHEN BENCH TOPS AND SPLASH BACKS

### Handling

Always be careful when transporting to site and in particular benches with cut outs. Lay bench against a solid substrate, ensure that backing support is at least 2cm wider than the bench-top, strap, clamp or tape both together, so handling will be easier and will avoid potential damage to panels in particular to cut outs. Always carry panels vertically not horizontally.\*

### Cutting & Drilling

Always use wet methods of cutting and drilling to reduce generation of dust. Eye protection, respiratory masks, gloves and other protective devices are required along with proper ventilation. Refer to Fabrication Manual thoroughly before engaging in installation.

### Substrates for Countertops

Always use a rigid and continuous moisture resistant substrate such as HMR, CFC or FC and ensure that the substrate has no flex. Do not install Maximum panels without a suitable substrate.

### Adhesives

Most fabricators will have a knowledge of best adhesives to use. We recommend Mapei Keralastic or T-Rex Power Wall and Floor for adhesion to substrates. Apply adhesive to substrate as per manufacturers recommendation and lightly skim adhesive to rear of panel as 100% adhesion is essential. Always respect manufacturers curing times for adhesives before completing further works such as coring holes or working above the finished Maximum installation. For mitred joints Akemi Akepox 5010 epoxy adhesive has excellent adhesion for porcelain.

### Overhangs

We recommend a flush finish (no overhang, or not more than 5mm) to benches or a maximum of 20mm overhang with angle support when using 6mm material for benchtops; for details please see our fabrication manual. If larger overhangs are required for island benches, use a suitable rigid substrate (including possible use of steel framing) to minimise any potential damage to material due to impact or flexing.

### Undermounted Sinks

To avoid hairline cracks, do not adhere sinks to underside of porcelain only. Ensure that sink flange completely supported by the substrate.

### Drop In Sinks

Ensure that Maximum sits flush to edge of substrate and that porcelain and substrate both support sink weight.

### Avoid over tightening tap fittings

You must ensure that Maximum sits flush to edge of substrate and that porcelain and substrate both support tap base and fixing. Only use silicon to adhere sink flange (aluminum or stainless element) to Maximum (due to possible thermal expansion of metal) and adhesive to fix Maximum to substrate. Ensure that the silicon and adhesive sit at the same level and thickness.

### Rectangular or square cutouts and drilled holes

All rectangular cutouts, such as for sinks and cook tops, must have rounded internal corners (min 5mm radius). Also consider items like shower niches and fireplaces where the porcelain is expected to return in from one or more faces with a mitred or butt joint. It is essential that the face panel is sectioned around this type of opening to avoid stress points where subsequent movement in the structure may cause a fracture. We recommend a minimum 80mm from any major cutout to any edge, pending cook-top or sink sizes and hole for the tap, and a minimum of 50mm from any drilled hole to any edge.

### Respect manufacturers adhesive curing times

Always respect manufacturers curing times for adhesives before completing further works such as coring holes or working above the finished Maximum installation. Never spot fix Maximum panels for any application. Always adhere with 100% coverage

\* Handling systems such as those supplied by Montolit may be useful., as supplied by Bat Trams and Sydney Tile Group.

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## KITCHEN BENCH TOPS AND SPLASH BACKS

### Care and Maintenance

Maximum Porcelain Panels are stain, scratch and thermal shock resistant. Panels are suitable for internal and external use as the product is UV resistant. It is recommended that all maintenance guidelines are followed to ensure that the surfaces stay in excellent condition. Maximum Porcelain Panels are stain resistant as porcelain is a low porosity material but normal daily care must be taken to immediately clean up stains, especially on polished bench tops.

### Routine Cleaning

The best method to minimise stubborn stains is to immediately wash away stains such as red wine, food, oils and other liquids by using warm water or with small quantities of a non-bleach or nonabrasive household cleaner. Use a soft non abrasive cloth.

Do not use cleaners that have high alkaline pH levels, such as oven or drain cleaners. Avoid hydrofluoric acid or its compounds.

### Stubborn Stains

For stubborn stains use a nonabrasive cleaning product, sugar soap or normal house cleaning products that are cream based or bicarbonate soda mixed with warm water. To remove other hard substances that may adhere to surfaces always use a plastic scraper to gently remove material.

Avoid the use of industrial and harsh chemicals on the surface of material, such as paints, paint strippers, permanent markers and inks. To remove permanent marker marks or other stubborn stains pour a small amount of Glitz Premium Bleach just over the stain and let sit for 4 hours or overnight, then wash off with warm water.

### Heat Resistant

Although Maximum is thermal shock resistant, it is always advisable to use a heat mat or similar as a normal practice when placing hot pots on the bench.

### Minimising Scratches

Maximum panels are scratch resistant, not scratch proof. Maximum will easily withstand daily use. Always use cutting boards when preparing food. Avoid sliding heavy metallic objects along the porcelain surface.

**Repairing Chips** For chips and other small damage, normal adhesives and colouring pastes used for engineered stones can be used, such as Akepox 5010 and Akemi colouring paste, or the KONIG chip repair system for porcelain.

### Revitalising Surfaces

Use Glitz Green Eucalyptus oil (available from Bunnings). Use a dry soft cloth and wipe over surface.

### External Use

Maximum is UV resistant and can be used externally. Follow routine cleaning procedures as you would internally.

**Read Fabrication Manual thoroughly before engaging in installation.**



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