minerva®

FITTING PERFECTION

Installation, Care and Maintenance Manual

FIRAGOLD PRODUCT CERTIFICATION

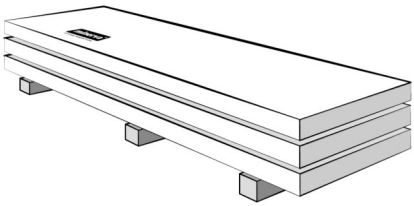
All aspects of the installation of maia are also covered in a DVD that is available to view on-line at www.minervabathrooms.co.uk

About your minerva worktops

These worktops were developed to make solid surface an easy fit option without the need for specialist templating or tooling. By following these instructions we know that competent installers can achieve excellent results.

Preparation

- The work surfaces and additional materials must be conditioned for at least 24 hours at room temperature prior to fitting.
- Work surfaces should be stored horizontal and flat in a dry, well-ventilated area.

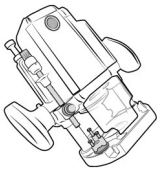


Must not be stored vertical and on one edge

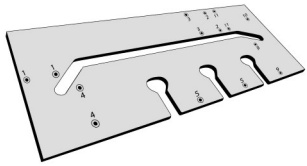
- The work surfaces are supplied with a final matt finish and do not require any further surface finishing apart from areas that require joints and any cut ends or edges.
- All surfaces should be checked for any damage and colour consistency prior to installation. Any claims after installation relating to inconsistency are not covered by the product warranty.
- Darker colours show scratches and marks more easily and should be treated with extra care and attention during and after installation.

Tooling required

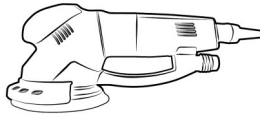
- 2½ HP, 1850 watt router.



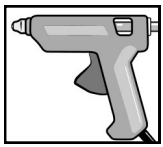
- Masons mitre Jig with 30mm guide ring and 12mm twin flute TCT cutter.

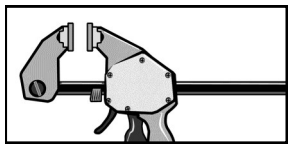


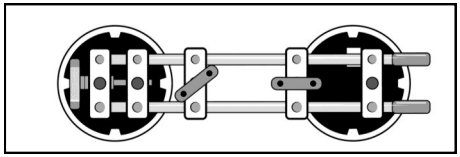
- Random orbital sander for finishing.



- Hot Melt Glue gun, glue, clamps or Seaming Tools.

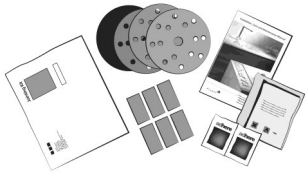






- Also required:
  Jointing kit—1 kit per joint.

  This kit is supplied with 2 part acrylic adhesive (10:1 adhesive and activator), 2 isopropyl alcohol wipes, 6 MDF Jointing Blocks and sandpapers in the following grades: P120, P240, P320, P500 grit and woven abrasive pad.



- ***We do not recommend the use of any finishing products to enhance the appearance of these woktops other than those supplied in the Care Kit. The surface is factory finished to a matt finish and we do not recommend that a higher gloss level is attempted.***

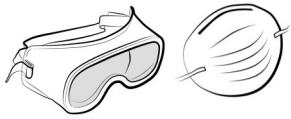
- ***Only use the sanding grades recommended in this installation guide.***

Planning your layout

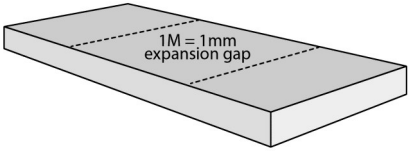
- Angled joints must always be supported by either wall battens or cabinetry.
- Joints should be at least 100mm away from all cut-outs.

Cutting the worksurface

- Eye protection and a dust mask should be worn when cutting.



- Tops may be over-cut, with a saw, by a minimum of 5mm and trimmed back using a router with a 12mm cutter and the straight edge of a jig.
- Always ensure that both sets of the cut are adequately supported. When cutting from the underside of the material, use a soft pad to avoid scratching.
- If you are cutting using a hand held skill/ circular saw then cut face up. Cut edge should always be clean cut with the router.
- **Please note** that an expansion gap of 1mm per meter of worksurface is required when fitting the product between two walls.

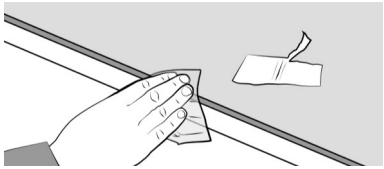


Jointing the worksurface

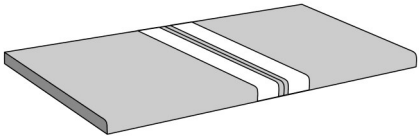
1. Use a router and 12mm cutter with a straight edge to cut the female worksurface to the desired length.
2. To prepare the cut faces for jointing, each side of the joint needs to be square cut. The broken/profiled edge of the surface edge needs to be removed and a small matching radius sanded on the 'dog-leg' of the male side of the joint to ensure seamless effect is achieved.

To ensure the best fit of these faces, one should be cut face up and the other cut face down.

3. Using the isopropyl alcohol wipe supplied in the jointing kit, clean the cut edges of the worksurface. Ensure all surfaces are clean, dry and free of debris and dirt including the surrounding areas before proceeding to the next stage.

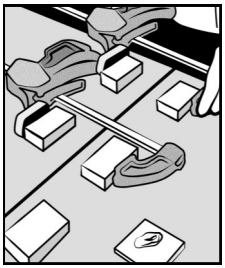


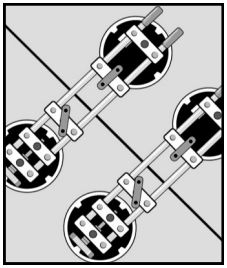
4. Position two layers of masking tape approx 3mm from the edge of each joint line.



5. It is essential that the joint is dry fitted before bonding, to check it has been machined correctly. The joint surfaces may require block sanding to ensure the cut edge is true. This will ensure that the two machined edges will draw together flush.

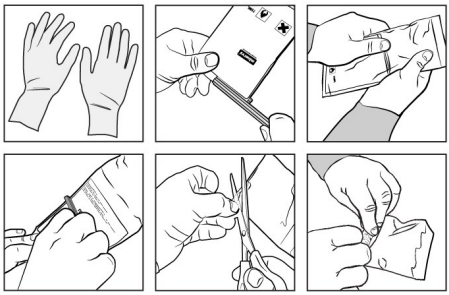
6. If not using the Optional Joint pulling tools then using the Hot Melt adhesive bond and position the 6 blocks (3 each side of the joint) just outside the masked area and lined up so a clamp can be positioned at either side to pull the joint together.





7. Ensure that the appropriate adhesive colour cartridge for the worksurface décor is being used.

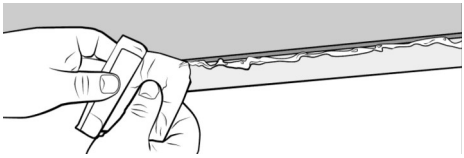
It is recommended that disposable gloves are worn when handling the adhesive.



Mix the adhesive as per the instructions with the pack.

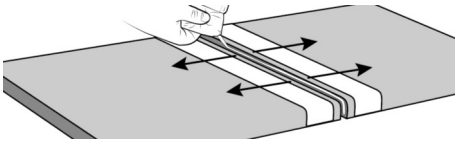
8. Position the first worksurface onto the base units and apply a coating of the 2-part acrylic adhesive onto the cut edge of the first board.

9. Apply adhesive to the cut edge of the second board.



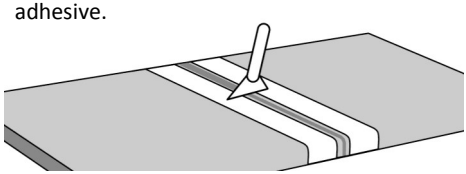
10. Using either the Seaming Tool or clamps on the glued blocks pull worksurfaces together leaving a gap of approximately 5mm and apply a further bead of adhesive along the gap and into the front edge of the joint.

11. Ensure the surfaces are level and tighten together.



NB. The working time of the adhesive once mixed is around 8-10 minutes depending on ambient temperature.

12. Before the adhesive starts to cure, bridge the strips of masking tape lightly with a spatula or scraper and remove any excess adhesive.

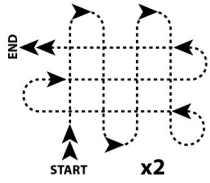


13. Ensure masking tape is removed before adhesive cures leaving a small bead line.
• The hardening time of the adhesive depends on the ambient temperature and the amount of adhesive applied.
• The hardening can be checked with a fingernail or by checking the adhesive in the sachet.
• Tapping the MDF blocks with a sideways motion will normally remove them quite easily. If not, lever them off or carefully use a sharp chisel to break the bond with the surface.

14. Once cured, the bead of adhesive can be removed by sanding with a random orbital sander with the following order of sandpaper grades: P120 to remove the adhesive bead, P240, P320, P500 grit and then finish with woven abrasive pad and a light mist of water.
All stages must be carried out with the random orbital sander.

• Ensure that dust is removed between sanding processes.

• Sand across, up and down then across, up and down in a north - south, east – west style.



- When changing the sandpaper grade, increase the sanding area slightly to blend in.

TOP TIP 1

WHEN MAKING A CUT OUT WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE MINERVA WORKSURFACE IS PLACED ON A SOLID SUBSTRATE WHILST MACHINING.

THIS WILL ENSURE THE CUT OUT DOES NOT DROP AND CAUSE EITHER INJURY OR DAMAGE TO THE SURFACE.

TOP TIP 2

IF MAKING A CUTOUT IT CAN SOMETIMES BE BENEFICIAL TO FABRICATE YOUR OWN JIG FROM MDF.

1. Mark the cut out in line with the instructions or template supplied with the sink being used.

2. Mill the cut-out using a router and cutter with minimum 20mm diameter.
- A radius of at least 3mm must be milled or sanded to the top edge of the solid surface material.

3. Make a hole for taps using standard tooling cutting from the top surface.

4. Soften the edge of the cut out with a P320 paper to eliminate any sharp edges.

Edge finishing

1. Cut the worksurface to length +5mm using a saw.

2. Trim to exact size using a router to ensure the edge is clean and straight.

3. Using a Random Orbital sander gently soften the top edge and surface with the P240, then using the P320 followed by the P500 grit and finally with the woven abrasive pad and a light mist of water to blend.

Cutting curves

Minerva worktops can easily be cut to form curves or shapes.

We recommend using a jig which should allow you to form clean edges to your required radius.

Always remember the jig needs to allow for the size of your router base.

Cut edges are simply sanded using the 3 grades of sandpaper and the grey finishing pad.

Handy Tips

When tiling down to the worksurface leave a minimum of 3mm gap between the bottom row of tiles and the worksurface. This gap should be sealed with a silicone sealant.

Do not fill the gap with grout.

When scribing the worktop to the back wall use an electric planer with TCT blades.

Before installation please thoroughly check your surfaces for damage and colour consistency.

Surface finish

Over a short period of time in use in the home, your worktops will develop a smoother finish and more lustrous appearance. In the first days after installation the dry finish of the surface may show finger marks more readily than it will do when it has achieved this ‘patina’. Regular cleaning with warm soapy water is the usual.

It is possible to enhance the surface lustre by using Countertop Magic*; as with any treatment of this nature, the application has to be repeated in order to maintain the same finish across all areas of the bathroom.

Initial treatment and cleaning

First ensure that your worksurface is thoroughly cleaned with warm soapy water or Fairy Power Spray to remove any greasy residues. A mild abrasive cream cleaner such as Cif cream is also a good part of your regular maintenance regime.

Countertop Magic

Countertop Magic is designed to give lustre to solid surface worktops – this will be particularly noticeable on darker décors. It will also help to build up the natural patina of your surface and a protective layer that will repel dirt and liquids.
Use daily when your worktops are first installed, after the first week this can then be reduced to a weekly application. Apply the cleaner using a micro-fibre cloth* and buff to leave a streak free finish. Countertop Magic will not remove scuffs or scratches but can mask the effect.

WHENEVER TRYING TO REMOVE MARKS OR SCRATCHES ALWAYS TRY THE LEAST SEVERE METHOD FIRST.

1. Everyday marks - Using a mild abrasive cleaner such as Cif cream, work in a circular motion; wipe away all residue and buff dry. Apply Countertop Magic if applicable.
2. Fine scuffs and scratches - Cover the affected area with a liberal amount of soapy water. Place the woven abrasive pad* onto the wet surface and, using a sanding block * or firm sponge to ensure even spread of pressure, rub over the affected area in a circular motion. A slight paste will be generated that aids the finishing process and helps to maintain the original level of surface finish. Repeat step 1. If marks are still evident, repeat the woven abrasive pad process or, in the case of deeper scratches, move on to step 3.
3. Removal of deeper scratches - Ensure that the surface is clean and dry before starting.
   Place the sanding disc* onto the sanding block ensuring that it is located correctly and wrapped onto both sides of the block.
   Using small circular movements, work a small area around the affected part of the surface. A small amount of dust will be generated – this will need to be wiped off to check progress and before moving onto the next step. When the mark has been removed the repaired area will retain very fine sanding marks; these are removed by repeating step 2 and then step 1 to blend in the refurbished area. Each time you move back through the steps, work a slightly wider area so as to help this blend in.

Items marked with '*' are included as part of the Care Kit available from your retailer.

Please Note

Darker colours show scratches and marks more easily and should be treated with extra care and attention during and after installation.

WARRANTY

Your worktops have a 10 year warranty against manufacturing defects. In the unlikely event of there being any problems with this product, please refer in the first instance back to your retailer.

It is imperative that the installation and care and maintenance instructions are referred to both before and after installation, as misuse of the worksurface may affect the appearance of the product. This does not affect your statutory rights as a consumer.

Register online at
www.minervawarranty.co.uk

The warranty applies to the first owner and first installation only and is not transferable.

Cleaning your worksurface

THINGS TO DO	THINGS TO AVOID
To prevent damage from hot objects, always use heat resistant mats or trivets on the surface of the worktop.	**Do not** place hot objects directly on the worktop.
Wipe spilt liquids away.	**Avoid** contact with aggressive chemical substances such as nail polish remover, chlorine, acetone, drain cleaner etc.
Wipe immediately with damp cloth. Dried on residues can be removed with a mild abrasive domestic cleaner. Rub gently, rinse and wipe dry.	**Do not** use very abrasive cleaners and solvents as cleaning agents.
Cleaning with a sponge, water and mild detergent liquid is sufficient for normal maintenance.	

Mark and stain removal

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD

Stain/Mark	*Damp cloth*	*Warm water and mild detergent*	*White spirit*
Oil	●	●	
Water based paint		●	
Solvent based paint		●	●
Permanent Dyes			●
Shoe polish			●
Biro		●	
Lipstick		●	

www.minervawarranty.co.uk

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02/14