

FREE BROCHURE | Reverso en español

# How-to-Install

## Laminate Countertops and Sheet Laminate

- Easy to install—instructions provided inside
- Multiple colors available for unique design options
- Durable and easy to care for



**LOWE'S**

## Accessory Kits

### Accessory Kits

- For creating a professional finish



Build-Up Kit



Miter Bolt Kit



End Cap Kit

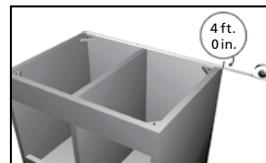


End Splash Kit

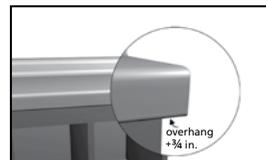
## How to Install Laminate Countertops

### Step 1: Measure & Mark

Measure the cabinets that will be covered with your new countertop. Always measure the back wall of the countertop for correct readings.

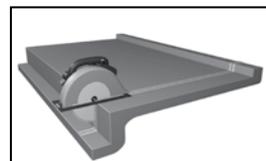


**OVERHANG:** When the countertop does not butt up to a wall or an appliance, allow an extra  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. to the total length of the countertop for the overhang. Measure section by section. For section requiring overhang, add  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. for each overhang.



### Step 2: Cutting

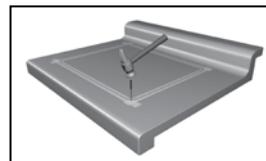
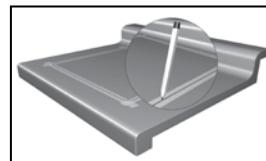
Recheck your measurements before cutting. Measure and draw a heavy pencil line where the cut is to be made on the top (decorative laminate) side of the countertop. Apply transparent tape to prevent chipping while sawing. Turn the countertop over, measure and draw a heavy pencil line again where the cut is to be made. Recheck measurements and proceed to saw from the bottom side.



**NOTE:** If using a hand saw, measure and draw a heavy pencil line where the cut is to be made on the top (decorative laminate) side of the countertop. Recheck your measurements and apply transparent tape to avoid chipping while sawing. Use a 10 to 12 point finishing saw for cutting on the down stroke.

### Step 3: Sink Cut-Outs

Follow the instructions provided with the rim to mark the position for the cut-out. Mark around rim with a pencil on outside of vertical member. If you are installing a self-rimmed stainless steel sink, mark around the outer edge of the sink and cut out the hole  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. smaller than the line.



Trace the outline and cover with transparent tape.

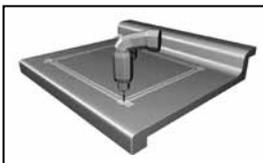
## How to Install Laminate Countertops

With a sharp punch or nail, tap a starter point for drilling pilot holes at each round corner.

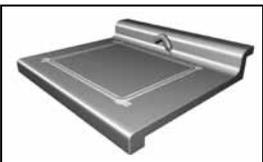
### Step 4: Cut-Outs

Drill pilot holes.

**NOTE:** If using a jigsaw, turn the countertop over and using previously drilled holes, mark a new cut line on the bottom surface.



Use a fine tooth keyhole saw to make the cut-out. File or sand the edges of all inside corners.



### Step 5: Build-up

A **Build-up Kit (A KIT)** is required on some cabinetry to ensure that the drawers have enough clearance to slide open.



### Step 6: Assembling the Miter

Miter sections should be joined together before installing on the cabinet.

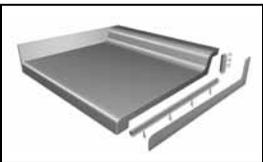
A **Miter Bolt Kit (B KIT)**

is required to assemble the miter.



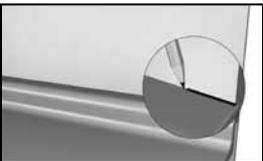
### Step 7: End Finishing

To finish the ends of the countertop, use an **Endcap Kit (C KIT)** or **Endsplash Kit (D KIT)**.



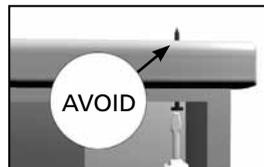
### Step 8: Mounting On Cabinet

The countertop can be scribed to match the wall surface. The backsplash overhang is used for this purpose. Place the countertop on the cabinet, use a pencil to mark the top edge of the countertop and file or sand to the line.



## How to Install Laminate Countertops

Put countertop in place, check the level and stability. Secure to cabinets with wood screws or panel adhesive. If using screws, check length to ensure that they won't protrude through the countertop. Use caulking compound to seal top to wall. Wipe off excess.



**FOLLOW INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS ENCLOSED WITH YOUR SINK OR SINK RIM.**

### Removing Old Countertop:

For safety — disconnect all utility service. **SHUT OFF WATER** under sink or at water meter valve. If removing garbage disposal or cook top unit, **SHUT OFF ELECTRICITY** at meter panel.

**DISCONNECT SINK DRAIN AT TRAP.**

**DISCONNECT PLUMBING SUPPLY AT UNIONS.**

### Tools You'll Need

- Pencil
- Hammer
- Screwdriver
- Measuring tape or ruler
- Power saw or handsaw, fine tooth (10-12 teeth per inch)
- Keyhole saw, fine tooth (for sink cut-out)
- File, fine
- Drill and assorted bits (for sink cut-out & endsplashes)
- Carpenters square
- Sanding block & sandpaper
- Household iron (for applying endcaps)

## How to Install Sheet Laminate

### Application Instructions

Make sure laminate and the surface you are covering are clean, dry and smooth. Do not laminate over paint, varnish or old covering.

#### Step 1: Cutting Your Laminate

On the laminate sheet, mark dimensions 1/2 in. larger than the size of the surface to be covered (substrate) to allow for trimming after bonding. Place a strip of masking tape over the cut line to prevent chipping. Mark the line on the tape and cut through tape and laminate at the same time when using a scoring knife. When using a circular saw, cutting from the bottom side of the laminate will eliminate chipping of the decorative surface. Use a router from the top or bottom of the laminate when cutting.



Use the remaining material to cut strips for the edges in the same manner as stated above.

#### Step 2: Laminating the Edges

Using a 1 in. brush, apply adhesive to the backside of the laminate edge strips and double coat the edge of the substrate. Do not apply adhesive to top surface at this time. Allow adhesive to dry.



*Important! Once the adhesive is ready to bond, if any contact is made between the back side of the laminate and the edge of the substrate, they will bond immediately.*

Be very careful to align each laminate piece with the substrate prior to the surfaces touching. Starting at one end of the edge, start applying the edge strip with excess laminate extending above the top side of the counter. Use a hard rubber J-roller to apply uniform pressure along the entire edge strip.



## How to Install Sheet Laminate

#### Step 3: Trimming Laminate Edge

Using the laminate trimmer/router, trim off the excess laminate protruding above the substrate surface. Areas that cannot be routed may be filed smooth. When filing never drag a file out toward the decorative surface of the laminate. Doing so can result in chipping of the color/pattern.



#### Step 4: Laminating the Top

Spread the adhesive on the substrate using your adhesive roller. Two thin coats on the surface are better than one heavy coat. 100 percent adhesive coverage is required (each coat). Before applying a second coat, make sure that the first coat is dry. Allow adhesive on both components to dry.



Position the dowel rods on the top surface approximately 12 in. apart, perpendicular to the front edge. Position the laminate carefully over the substrate. Starting at one end of the counter, start removing the dowels one at a time while holding the laminate in place.



Use a hard rubber 3 in. J-roller to apply uniform pressure across the entire countertop. Apply pressure to every inch of the surface for a complete and lasting bond.

## How to Install Sheet Laminate

### Step 5: Trimming Laminate Deck

Route off the laminate overhangs with the router and flush trim bit. The radius left by the routing process in any inside corner should remain. A radius on an inside corner (minimum 1/8 in.) will strengthen the corner. Use a file to remove sharp edges and sharp outside corners.

Clean off excess adhesive with clean white cloth (Acetone).

#### Tools You'll Need

- Trim Router
- 3 in.-9 in. paint/adhesive roller with cover (1/8 in. nap)
- Flush trim router bit (carbide tips)
- 1 in. paintbrush (china bristle) — no sponge brushes
- File
- 1/4 in. dowel rods 36 in. long (one for every 12 in. of countertop)
- 3 in. hard rubber J-roller
- Sanding block with 80-grit sandpaper

#### Optional Tools

- Circular saw with finetooth carbide blade
- Scoring knife
- Laminate scissors

#### Recommended Substrates

- 5/8 in. or 3/4 in. thickness
- Particle board
  - Medium density fiberboard (MDF)
  - Plywood with one "A" face thickness

**BELANGER** Fine Laminate Countertops featuring:

