



ALPHA  
zero

PREPARATION  
FOR  
INSTALLATION

Thank you for purchasing Alpha Zero for your project. We have prepared a pre-project checklist that covers some key points that you and your supplier should review to be sure there is complete understanding of expectations, allowing the project to go smoothly.

## **PREPARATION FOR COUNTERTOP INSTALLATION**

Your chosen fabricator and installer possess the expertise to properly install countertops, minimising potential issues while maximising both the lifespan of the product and overall customer satisfaction.

To achieve optimal installation results, it's crucial that the walls, cabinets, and substructure are adequately prepared beforehand. Your installer bears the responsibility of assessing whether the project site is fully ready for the installation process to begin. This professional evaluation ensures a smooth and efficient installation, ultimately leading to a superior end result.

## **PRE INSTALLATION TOPICS**

### **Colour or slab selection**

- The Consumer is responsible for deciding on colour selection. Final selection should not be made from website pictures, magazines, literature or small samples. If necessary, the

consumer should work with their supplier to see full size slabs or current samples.

- The Fabricator is responsible for inspecting slabs for defects prior to fabrication.

Installing an Alpha Zero countertop may also require adding structural support to underlying cabinets since the slabs are extremely heavy. Review any needs with the designer or installer.

Agreement should be made to determine the location for cutouts; sink, cooktop, other appliances, faucets and seam location(s).

Edge detail must be decided before fabrication can begin.

Detail for all corners (inside corners and outside radiuses) should be reviewed.

- Inside corners should have a minimum of 5mm radius
- Outside corners should have a minimum 3mm radius/arris to eliminate sharp outside corners that could be a safety hazard.

### **Seam Expectations**

- Seams will be visible.
- Seams will show pattern changes.
- Seams may not be perfectly smooth.
- The Consumer and Installer should agree on the seam locations.

### **Splashback Expectations**

- Splash backs of 20 mm will reduce the total available counter top space.
- Do not let the splash back rest directly on the countertop (including tiles and other solid materials). The Installer should use spacers to keep the splash back off the countertop.
- Silicone is the best material to seal the gap between the counter top and splash back.

Overhangs may need additional support. Review with Installer what, if any, additional support will be needed for your overhang (underlayment, corbels or legs).

## **PRIOR TO INSTALLATION DAY**

The Consumer must ensure that subcontractor items are completed; plumbing & electrical roughed in, flooring set, cabinetry permanently affixed, etc.

Field measurements are to be taken once all cabinets have been installed in their permanent positions. In many cases, the Fabricator will make a template of the installation area.

The sink(s) should be available as well as all appliances that require a cut out in the countertop so the proper cutout sizes are made.

## **INSTALLATION DAY TIPS**

Remove any breakables from the room and from any wall that has work being done against it.

The majority of fabrication is done offsite, in the unlikely event that a small alteration is required dust control measures are required. Be sure they take dust control measures and adhere to the code of practice that might be necessary (for example, cutting outdoors, covering doorways, air duct returns, furniture etc.) prior to starting. A fan blowing out from the work area is an excellent idea to control any dust or fumes. Dust generation at a construction site is normal and requires containment & control within the construction work area.

The Consumer and Installer must agree who is responsible for protecting the floors.

- Alpha Zero is a heavy material. Be sure the path from the delivery vehicles to the installation area is free from obstructions.

Clean out cabinets as dust and particulates may fall into any exposed areas.

Cabinets must be level (side to side and front to back). Installers must ensure the area is flat and true (to 3mm over a 3m section).

Additional wood support strips may need to be installed on top of cabinets and against the back wall, especially in corners. When completed, the countertop should not have any “give” when pressure is applied in a down force.

Tops should have a gap of 3mm abutting any walls or cabinet side walls.

Silicone should be used to adhere the countertop. It will take at least 24 hours to “set”.

## **POST INSTALLATION TIPS**

The Installer should clean up after their work is completed. At a minimum, the area should be broom swept and all debris removed.

Allow adhesives to set (at least 24 hours) before using countertops. Failure to do so may impact the positioning of the material.

Obtain the following from your supplier or download them from our website;

- Care and Maintenance
- Warranty

***Alpha Zero highly recommends to carefully read the Fabrication and Installation Guide before manipulation of Alpha Zero's products.***