

Installation

Preparing the Base Units/Cabinets

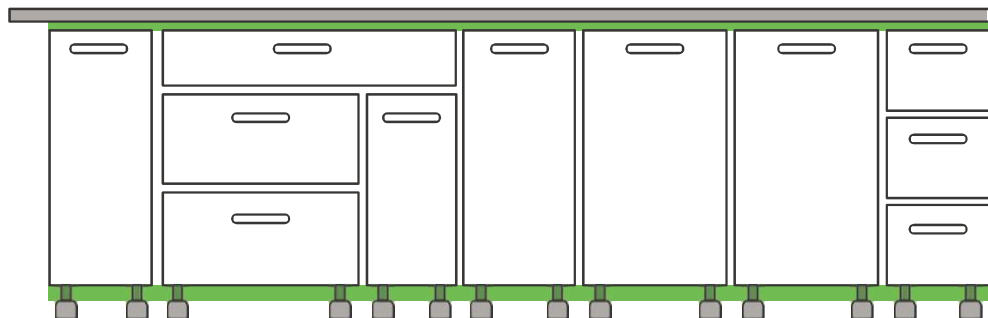
Below are technical information and data related to some common applications of Alito products. For any other applications, please consult your local distributor.

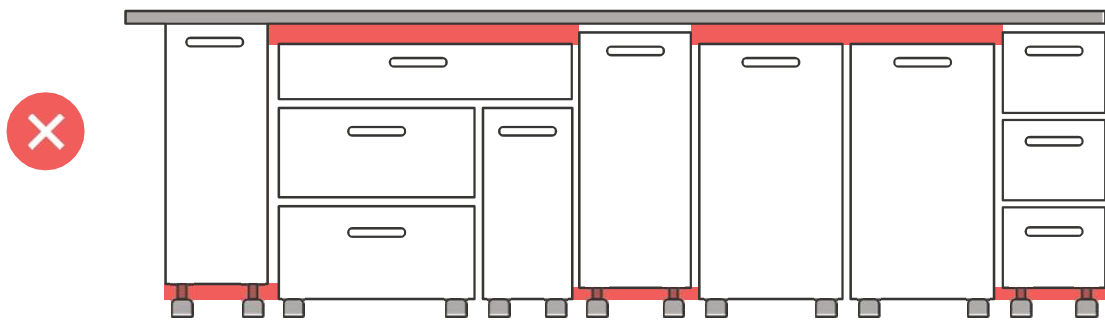
DO NOT FIX TO WALL

Alito surfaces are installed on top of cabinets and are not fixed only on the support to the wall.

CABINET REQUIREMENTS

Before installing the surface, ensure that cabinets are complete, stable, level and suitable for bearing the weight of the surface. The cabinets should be fixed to each other and secured to the back wall. Check that the front and back legs are stable and in full contact with the floor.





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SUPPORT

Ideally, Alito surfaces should be supported on a sub deck. It is also acceptable for them to be supported on a strong perimeter frame provided that all necessary supports are installed.

For areas larger than 600 x 900 mm (24" X 36"):

20 mm surfaces, use a 15 mm (5/8") plywood sub deck

Provide front-to-back support underneath the surface every 500-600 mm (20-24"). ■ Provide additional support for any cabinets wider than 600 mm (24").

For any area with less than four sides, e.g., opening for a dishwasher or under counter, refrigerator, provide support every 200 mm (8") for 20 mm slabs.

In cabinets where there will be cutouts or ovens, install vinyl-wrapped, solid timber, vertical rails for additional support. This is especially important when the cooktop/hob cutout is above the oven. For cutouts longer than 600 mm (24"), provide side-to-side support beams under the surface.

Verify that the countertop is sufficiently supported in areas of seams, cutouts and over spaces for appliances such as dishwashers, ovens, washing machines, etc.

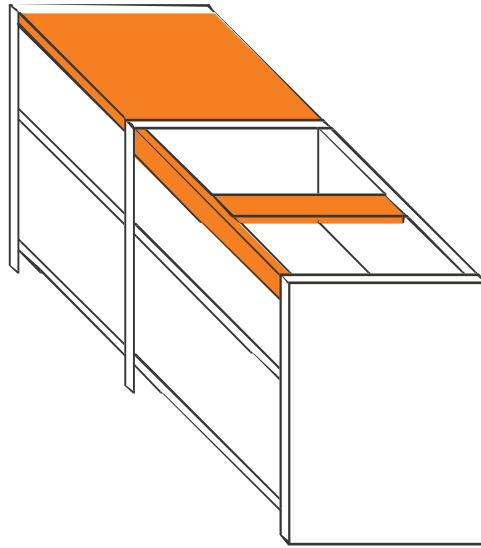
Examples of support are: wooden beams inside cabinets; upright countertop to floor panel.

Provide support under all countertop seams.

Attach a solid top on top of under counter appliances that generate heat. This will provide both support and insulation for the countertops. This is not necessary in the case of fully integrated appliances with integral heat insulation where it would prevent proper alignment with the cabinet doors.

DRAWER CABINETS

Drawer cabinets should have a solid top as vertical rails are not practical.



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Counter Tops

Preparation for Installation

CHECK PIECES IN FINAL POSITION

Place all the fabricated pieces of the surface in their final position on the cabinets without adhesive. Check that all the pieces are the correct size, shape and direction in relation to the cabinets and the walls.

CHECK EDGES AND CORNERS

Check that all exposed edges and corners are fabricated and rounded as required.

CHECK LEVEL

Check with a spirit level and long ruler that the surface is straight and level.

ALLOW FOR EXPANSION AND CONTRACTION

Leave a space of 1 mm (1/32") per linear meter between straight stretches of the surface and each wall for expansion and contraction, but not less than 3 mm (1/8") in any event.

VISUAL INSPECTION

Perform a final visual inspection to ensure that the surface is to your satisfaction.

Seaming

Part the fabricated pieces of surface slightly at the seam.

Place a layer of paper, plastic film or plastic tape on the cabinet underneath the seam in order to prevent the adhesive from sticking the surface to the cabinet.

Prepare a suitable color-matched resin adhesive.

If necessary, mix the adhesive with pigments using a stainless steel or plastic spatula until achieving the required shade or use a precooled methyl methacrylate type adhesive with a dispensing gun.

Ensure that the seam is clean of debris.

Clean the edges to be joined with

alcohol.

It is recommended to apply tape to the edges of the surface to be seamed in order to prevent staining by adhesives.



Spread a generous amount of the adhesive on both sides of the seam.

Ensure that the X-shaped pattern in the middle of the seam is filled with adhesive.

Close, secure and straighten the seam with clamps or a professional seaming clamp to create a smooth, flush surface.

After the adhesive is completely dry, remove the clamps.

Remove any excess adhesive with a scraper or razor blade held at an angle to avoid chipping the adhesive. Perform final cleaning with alcohol on a clean white cloth.

Do not polish seams on Alito surfaces!



Sealing Between the Surface and the Wall

TENSION LEGS EVENLY

If the cabinets are supported on adjustable legs, ensure that all legs are evenly tensioned to ensure stability.

CLEAN SPACE

Clean the space between the surface and the wall.

FILL SPACE

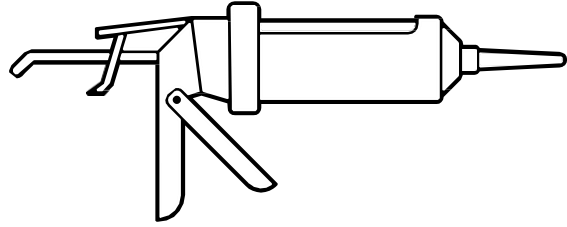
Fill the space generously with a flexible adhesive such as 100% silicone.

Do not create grooves in the wall for fixing the Alito.



The silicone adhesive prevents water from entering the cabinet.

For visible joins between the Alito and a different material, use colored silicone, a suitable acrylic mastic or paintable latex caulk.



Attaching Alito to Cabinets

CARCASS/SOLID TOP

Attach the Alito to the carcass/solid top with dabs of 100% silicone approximately 300 mm apart.

STAND-ALONE PIECES

Stand-alone pieces smaller than approximately 1 m² (10 sq ft) should be fixed with a suitable flexible adhesive.

Sinks

FOLLOW MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS

Install, glue and seal the sink per the manufacturer's instructions after installing the surface.

USE 100% SILICONE

Seal the sink to the surface with 100% silicone.

PROVIDE FULL SUPPORT

Ensure that the sink is fully supported inside the cabinet, e.g., by support rails or legs connected to the cabinet, in addition to being attached to the Alito surface.

DO NOT USE SINK CLIPS

Do not attach sink clips or any mechanical fasteners directly to the Alito surface.

Ensure that sufficient space remains underneath the cutout for access and any parts installed underneath the surface, e.g., sink, bolts, soap bottle, etc.

Cooktops/Hobs

FOLLOW MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS

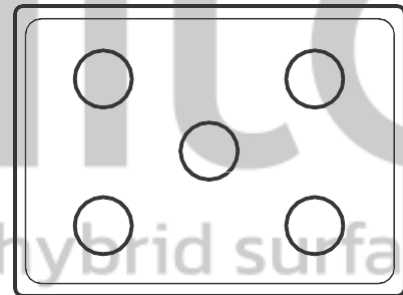
Install cooktops/hobs per the manufacturer's instructions, paying particular attention to insulation requirements and materials.

AVOID COOKTOPS/HOBS ABOVE DRAWER UNITS

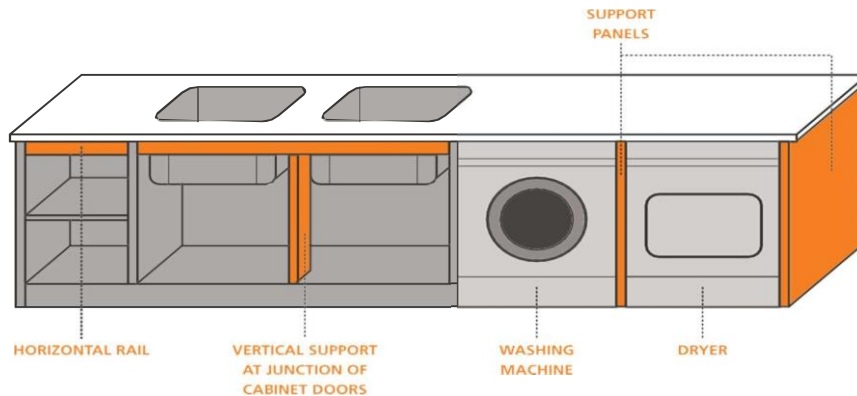
Try to avoid installing cooktops/hobs above drawer units as it restricts the use of vertical rails and weakens the support structure under the countertop. If it is unavoidable, drill 5 holes of 80 mm ($3\frac{1}{8}$ ") diameter in the base of the cabinet underneath the cooktops/hobs to allow for ventilation and cooling. If there are shelves, ensure that space is left at the back for ventilation.

INSTALL RAISED COOKTOPS/HOBS OVER CUTOUTS

Raised cooktops/hobs should ideally be installed over cutouts for ventilation and dissipation of heat. If a cutout is not created, drill 5 holes of 80 mm ($3\frac{1}{8}$ ") each in the surface underneath the cooktops/hobs and in any cabinet tops if present.



Utility Rooms



Utility Sinks

Utility sinks require additional reinforcement and support. The dual 45-litre (12 gallon) sink above, which requires a wide cabinet to accommodate it, has a total capacity of 90 litres (24 gallons) so it could potentially hold 90 kg (200 lb) of water. This is equivalent to a person standing on the top in an area with a large cutout.

Washing Machine and Dryer

Considerable heat is generated by these appliances. Some exhaust through the front while others exhaust through the back; some may need to be ducted. Where these appliances are installed side by side, place a support panel between the appliances and either a support panel or cabinet on either side. Install a solid plywood top over these appliances to protect the surface from the heat. These principles apply also to wine refrigerators.

Accessories

Accessories can be attached to Alito by mechanical anchoring, adhesive anchoring, or a combination of both. Use a combination of the methods below to attach heavy accessories to Alito.

Attaching Accessories Mechanically

Drill a hole of the required size and shape through the material.

When the back of the slab is accessible (e.g., sink surrounds, countertops and vanities), slot the accessory through the hole and secure it to the back of the slab with the appropriate nut or fastener supplied by the accessory manufacturer. Do not apply excessive pressure when tightening the nut as this may damage the surface. Use a washer or other pressure disperser to avoid creating pressure on a small area.

When the back of the slab is inaccessible attach the accessory to the substrate behind the material with anti-corrosive screws or bolts of the appropriate size and strength, with the screws or bolts slip-fitted through the material.

For both types of mechanical attachment: For holes of up to approximately 40 mm (1 ½"), leave a minimum of 50 mm (2") between the edge of the hole and the edge of the surface/cutout to maintain the strength of the surface. For larger holes, the minimum remaining surrounding surface must be proportionately larger.

Do not attach mechanical fasteners (screws, nails, etc.) directly to Alito surfaces. If it is necessary to secure items to the surface, use flexible adhesive only.

Attaching Accessories with Adhesive

Most accessories are supplied with an integral self-adhesive pad, which can be attached directly to the surface.

If the accessory is not supplied with a self-adhesive pad, attach the accessory to the surface with an appropriate adhesive, e.g., 100% silicone.

Overhangs

An overhang is a surface that is not directly supported by a construction underneath, e.g., a surface that extends past the edge of the supporting cabinet for use as a countertop.

REINFORCEMENT

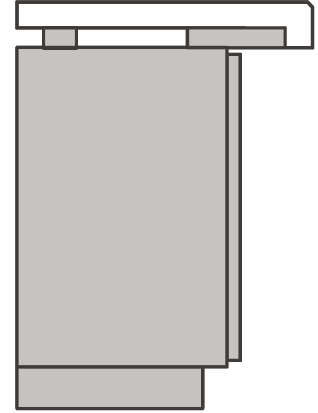
Extra strength can be provided by laminating the edge of the overhang and attaching another slab of the same thickness underneath. In this case, the bottom slab is attached back to back underneath the surface so that the polished surface is exposed underneath the slab.

PERMITTED OVERHANG CONSIDERATIONS

The permitted overhang dimension must be determined by a professional. It is dependent on a number of factors, such as: The complete length to width ratio of the surface relative to the length and width ratio of the overhang • whether the overhang is supported on one or more sides by a wall or other supporting fixture

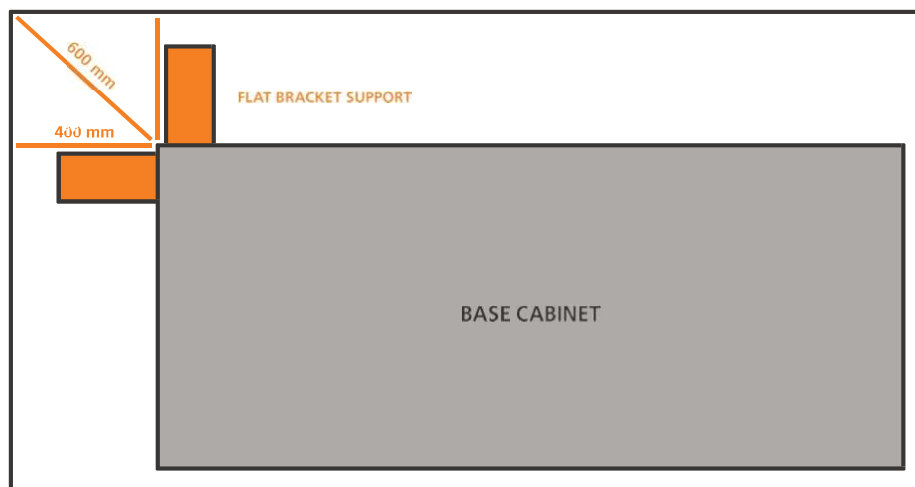


20 MM THICKNESS SLABS	SUPPORT REQUIRED
<300 mm (12")	No additional support required
300-500 mm (12-20")	Support brackets at 600 mm (24") intervals
>500 mm (20")	Legs, columns or panels at 600 mm (24") intervals



OVERHANG SUPPORT GUIDELINES

If the outside corner of a two-direction overhang extends beyond the recommended unsupported overhang limit, provide support by flat brackets as indicated in the diagram below in addition to the recommended support.

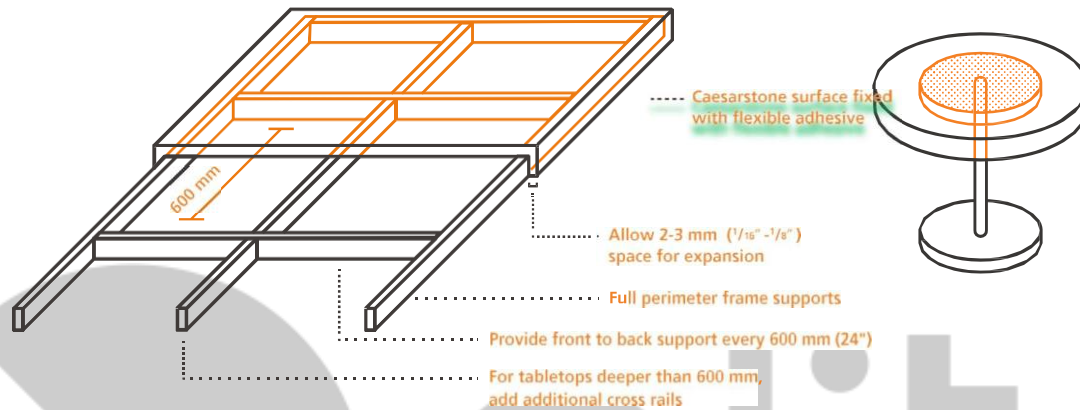


Tabletops

When installing a Alito surface as a freestanding tabletop, design the base area of the leg or legs to securely support the table top.

Spread a suitable flexible adhesive evenly on the top surface area of the supporting leg or legs. Ensure that the adhesive is spread on a sufficient area to secure the surface.

Tabletops can also be created on a frame as below.



Finishing Touches

POST-INSTALLATION CLEANING

Thorough post-installation cleaning, particularly of dried adhesive or silicone residue, is of paramount importance as it reduces time-consuming and costly remedial work. Please see detailed instructions for removal of dried adhesive and silicone in Section 10, Care & Maintenance.

PROTECT SURFACE FROM OTHER WORK

If further construction work is to be performed at the job site after the installation of the surface is complete, ensure that the Alito surface is properly protected by covering the entire top with corrugated cardboard or another protective material.

WARN OF POTENTIAL DAMAGE BY OTHER TRADESMEN

Make the customer aware that any following tradesmen must NOT use the new countertop as a work bench, step or standing platform, and that any tradesmen using strong solvents or adhesive must exercise due care.

OBTAIN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IN WRITING

Alito strongly recommends that customers confirm in writing their satisfaction with the material and workmanship at the end of the installation to cover the fabricator against damage caused by others.

PROVIDE WARRANTY AND CARE & MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Make sure to leave the Limited Warranty and Care & Maintenance details for the customer.

