



Novalab Resistop™ and Duratop

Installation and Handling Guide

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WARNING

For bench top applications, both Novalab Resistop™ and Duratop are manufactured as 16 mm thick sheets. They are supplied either pre-cut ready for installation, or in sheet form for cutting to size prior to fitting on site. In all cases, **care must be exercised in handling of the product, as it is extremely heavy.**

MECHANICAL ASSISTANCE OR TEAM LIFT REQUIRED

Receiving bench tops

- In most cases, tops will be delivered to site in palletised form
- If a fork lift is not available, open the pallet and unload individual tops from the truck.
- Standard tops should always be handled by two people. Larger tops and full sheets will require mechanical assistance or more people depending on the size and weight of the top.

Basic Handling and Storage

DO NOT stack more than 10 sheets high

DO NOT stack unevenly

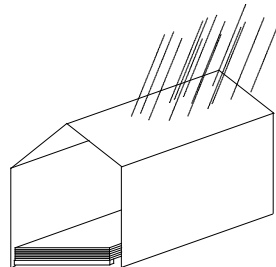
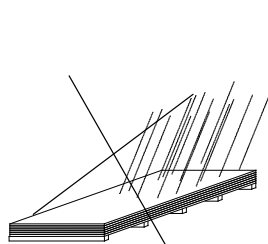
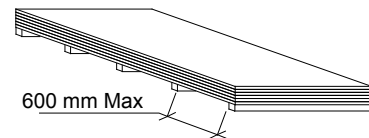
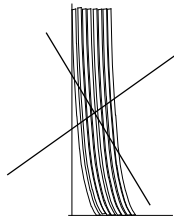
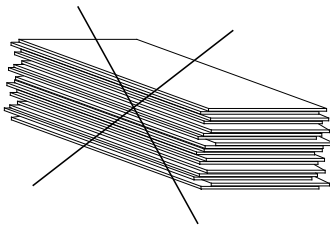
DO NOT lean the sheets against walls

DO NOT drag the sheets over the top of each other

DO stack on even supports no more than 600 mm apart

DO store under cover and protect from rain

DO use team lifting techniques



Tools Commonly Required For The Installation Of Novalab Resistop™ or Duratop

- Lamello/biscuit machine
- Skill saw, 7¼” or 8¼” skill saw is more than adequate provided it is equipped with a fine tooth tungsten tipped blade.
- Power plane
- Belt sander with 60 – 80 grit sanding belt
- Router with required router bits
- Straightedge, level and clamps
- Jigsaw
- Common drill bit sizes: 3.0 mm, 3.7 mm, 4.0 mm and 4.5 mm high speed steel. 5.0 mm masonry bit
- Good quality hole saws (Bluemol or equivalent)
- Drop saw
- Sharp knife

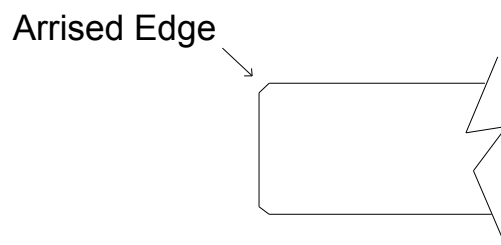
Note: All Tools Must Be Sharp and In Good Condition !!!!

Common Fixings Required

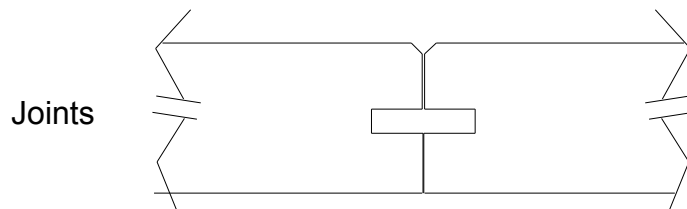
- Silaflex R.T.V. silicone, clear
- 6 x 10 mm stainless steel, self - tapping screws, pan head no.1 square drive
- 8 x 1½” surefast stainless steel screws, no.2 square drive
- 25 mm x 25 mm angle clips (holding down clips)

Machining of Bench Tops

- Bench tops can be cut to length or trimmed on site. Set the skill saw blade so that it will protrude no more than 15 mm through the bench top being cut. Clamp a straight edge onto the bench top to guide the cut.
- Bench tops can be scribed using either a skill saw or power plane. The power plane is suitable for scribing off small amounts. Larger scribes may require the use of a skill saw.
- Once the bench tops have been cut, seen edges should be sanded using the belt sander. The top seen edge can then be arrised using a sanding block and sandpaper, or for a larger arris, or bullnose, use a router and suitable bit.

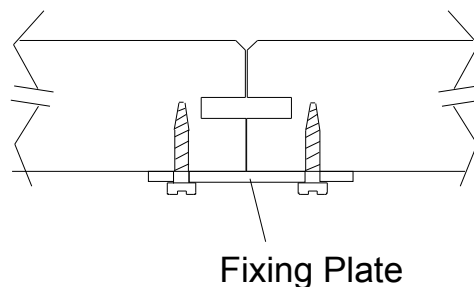


- Cutting out for columns or other obstructions is best done using a skill saw. A jigsaw can be used to finish the inside corners. A jigsaw can also be used to cut out other shapes, but the line of cut will need to be scribed using a sharp knife before cutting can start.
- Making bench top joints on site is also possible. Cut the joint using a skill saw and straight edge. Arris off the top edge of the joint with a sanding block. Mark out and machine the slots for jointing with the lamello/biscuit machine. Slots should be around 300 mm apart.
- Round service holes are best cut using a hole saw.
- If sink holes have not already been cut, these can be machined using a suitable jig and router fit with a plunge/router bit. Successfully cutting a sink hole will take several passes with the router.

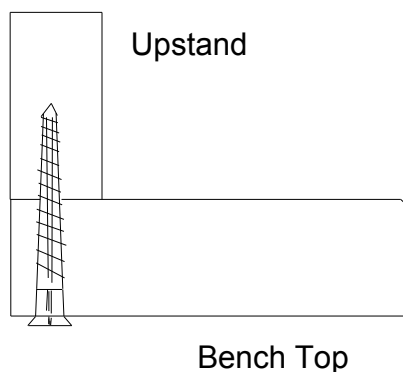


Fitting Novalab Bench Tops

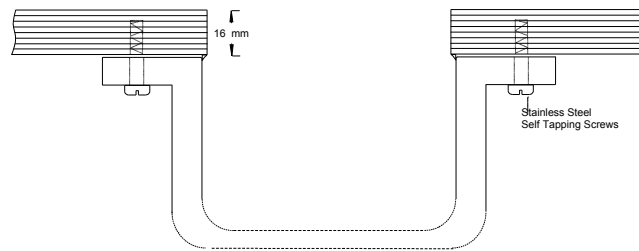
- Pre-fit all bench tops within an area before permanent assembly (in case machining, scribing or some adjustment is necessary).
- Put a small continuous bead of silicone along the bottom edges of the joints and a small amount in each of the biscuit slots. Push the joints firmly together. If some of the silicone squeezes out of the top of the joint, leave it to dry and cut it off later.
- Rectangular fixing plates are supplied with the bench tops and these should be used to secure the joints. They are fitted underneath the joint and we recommend 2 to 3 per joint. Drill 3 mm dia pilot holes in line with the holes in fixing plates being careful not to drill through to the top of the bench. Attach the plates using the 6 x 10 mm self-tapping screws supplied.



- In many cases it may be advisable to assemble all the bench joints within one area of the lab before the tops are fixed down. This will allow for minor adjustments to any of the joints if necessary.
- The bench tops will then need fixing down onto the steel frames or joinery units. Novalab steel support systems are already supplied with fixing tags, pre-drilled with 4 mm holes. These should be used as a guide for drilling 3 mm diameter holes into the bottom of the bench top, ready for fixing with 6 x 10 mm stainless steel self –tapping screws. If the steel frames have not been supplied with fixing tags, we recommend that 25 mm x 25 mm angle brackets should be pop riveted onto the steel frames and these can then be used to fix the bench tops in place. A similar approach can be used to fix the bench tops onto joinery units.
- Fitting of upstands (if required) is done once the tops have been assembled and screwed down.
- The upstands are usually supplied in 3 metre (Resistop) or 3.6 metre (Duratop) lengths. Firstly, cut these to the required length using a drop saw. Pre-fit and joint all the upstands for one area at a time ready for fixing.
- Drill 4.5 mm clearance holes in the back edge of the bench top, approximately 600 mm apart, or where required. Make certain that the centre of these holes will line up with the centre of the bottom edge of the upstand when fitted.
- Place a continuous bead of silicone along the bottom edge of the upstand and place onto the bench in the desired position.
- From the under side of the bench top and using the 4.5 mm clearance holes already drilled, drill pilot holes into the bottom edge of the upstand using the 3.7 mm drill bit. Secure the upstand to the bench top from underneath using the 8 x 1½” surefast stainless steel screws.
- Carefully remove any silicone that may have squeezed out onto the bench top during assembly.

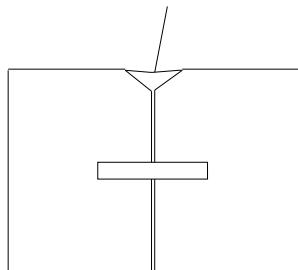


- Novalab bench tops are normally supplied with bowl holes pre-cut ready for sink bowl installation.
- Because the core of Novalab bench tops is completely moisture resistant and to facilitate cleaning of bench tops, we recommend that sink bowls are under mounted.
- To install stainless steel bowls, drill 3.7 mm clearance holes through the flange of the sink bowl
- Put a continuous bead of silicone around the bowl flange and then position the bowl from the under side of the bowl cut out.
- Drill the 3 mm pilot holes through the holes in the bowl flange into the bench top. Screw the bowl into place using the 6 x 10 mm screws.
- If you have been supplied with Novalab epoxy resin sink bowls, the process is similar with the following differences:-
 - Use the 5 mm masonry drill to drill the bowl flanges
 - Use 4 mm pilot holes into the underside of the bench tops
 - Fix using 10 x 3/4" screws



Cleaning and Finishing of Novalab Bench Tops

- Once assembly is complete, thoroughly clean the bench tops
- Remove any excess silicone on the bench tops and cut back any silicone that may have squeezed out during assembly
- Wipe down the joints with solvent to ensure they are completely clean
- Mask each side of the bench top joint keeping the edge of the masking tape just down into the edge of the arised joint.
- Gun silicone into the joint and tool in with a flat blade. Spray soapy water solution onto the joint and create a slight concave finishing by running a finger down the joint.



Finally, apply a little teak wax to all the edges on the bench tops and upstands. Apply sparingly with a clean, soft cloth.

Important Notes

DO

- Keep bench top surfaces clean at all times
- Handle bench tops with care. Lift the bench tops with 2 people or more if required.
- Protect the work benches if other contractors need to work on them, over or above them. Other contractors generally not very careful when it comes to looking after work tops.
- Ensure the bench top is completely clean before laying over any protective covering such as cardboard
- Double check the position of any service holes before cutting them

DO NOT

- Place tools, toolboxes or sharp objects onto the work top.
- Allow other contractors to use the bench tops as a work bench
- Install bench tops unless the support frame work or cabinets are flat, level and provide adequate support.
- Stack the bench tops unevenly on site, or leave them leaning against a wall.
- Do not drill completely through the work top when working from underneath

If treated properly and installed correctly, Novalab bench tops will provide long and trouble free service and maintain their good looks over many years. Repairs to Novalab bench tops are possible, but depending upon the nature and extent of any damage, can be costly and time consuming.