IMPORTANT

Your laminate has been packaged with the utmost care to avoid breakage. Please contact us as soon as possible if you find anything damaged or missing so that we can make it right and get you on your way to your new project. Please note that SparkleLam can be more brittle than traditional laminates. Handle with care.

PACKAGE CONTENTS

1. Instruction pamphlet
2. Laminate roll

NECESSARY TOOLS AND MATERIALS

1. Large, well-ventilated work area
2. Particle Board or MDF
3. Screws
4. Wood Glue
5. Contact cement
6. Roller
7. Dowel rods or wooden sticks
8. Router or laminate trimmer
9. Flush-cut bit
10. File
11. Edging (optional)

Note: Tools and materials are necessary only if you are building your own countertops from scratch. Please disregard if you are having someone else apply your laminate.

INSTALLATION AND CARE INSTRUCTIONS

SPARKLELAM™

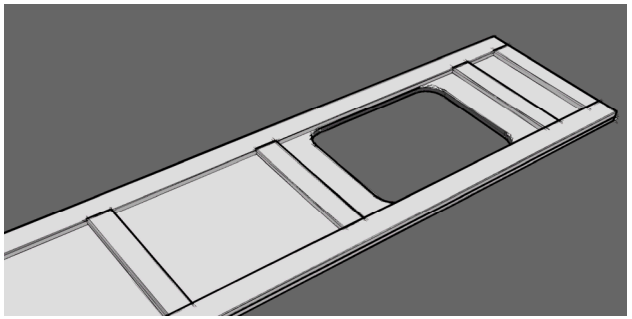
Make it MID*CENTURY, LLC 2025

BASIC COUNTERTOP CONSTRUCTION

Building your own countertops can be rewarding and is not as difficult as you might think. Only basic woodworking skills are required.

Step 1: Build the Basic Countertop Shape.

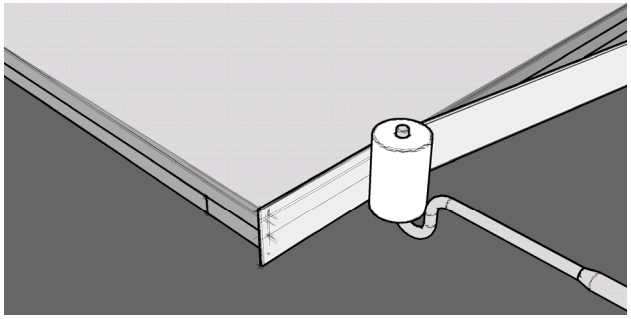
Using particleboard or MDF, cut out the basic shape of countertop you will need. Add 4" strips of your substrate to all edges using wood glue and screws making sure that all outside edges are completely flush. If you are installing a sink, cut out the opening now.



Step 2: Applying Edge Laminate

Side countertop edges should be applied first followed by the front edge. (Note: If you are attaching metal or other edges, you may skip this next section.) Cut laminate strips that are 1" longer and taller than the edges of your countertop.

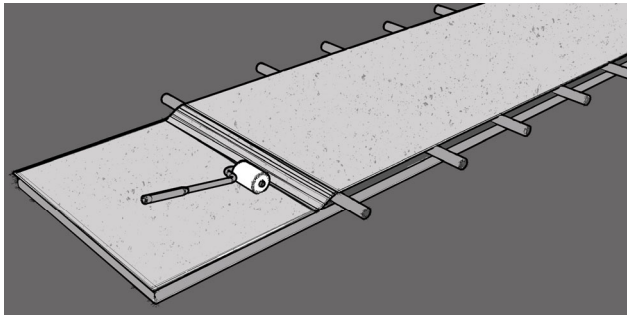
Following the instructions for your contact cement, apply the cement to both the edge and the laminate strip and allow to tack. Using a J-roller, start at one end of your edge and roll a small section, not allowing the remaining laminate band to touch. Work your way down the edge in sections, rolling towards the end.



Using a laminate trimmer or router with a laminate bit, trim the excess laminate flush with the edges of your substrate. Where laminate corners meet, use a file to lightly file the corner at a 45° angle to finish.

Step 3: Applying Top Laminate

Cut your laminate 1-2" larger in all directions than your countertop. Do not cut out the sink opening at this time. Following the instructions for your contact cement, apply the cement to both the top and the back of the laminate and allow to tack. Place 1"ø dowel rods 12" apart on the countertop and place laminate sheet on top. Similar to the edging, start at one end and roll the laminate to attach it to the countertop. As you progress, remove the next dowel rod until you reach the end. Do a second rolling over the entire top to ensure a good bond.



Finish by using the laminate trimmer and router to trim edges and to cut out the sink opening.

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

Every countertop material has maintenance and cleaning requirements, and laminate is no exception. A light wipe-down with a damp sponge or dish cloth after use is usually all it will need. Here are some other basic rules:

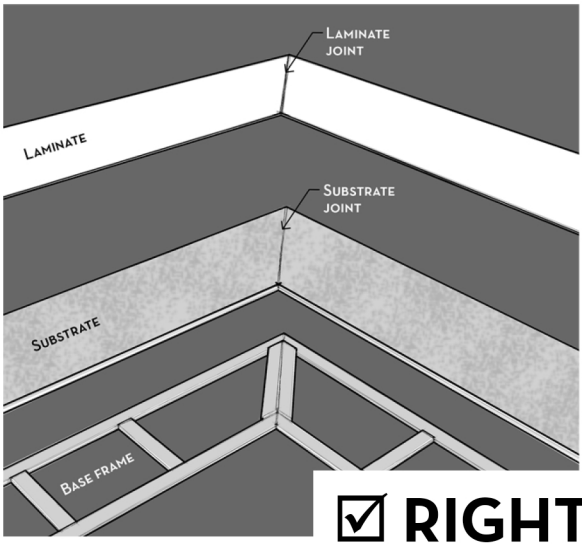
- Wipe up spills right away, especially if they are potentially staining such as coffee, tea, fruit punch, beets, etc.
- Use only a mild cleanser such as dish soap, 409 or other countertop cleanser to clean the countertop. Do not use abrasives such as powdered cleaning products. If your product leaves a residue (like soap) follow up with clean water and then wipe dry.
- Do not use abrasive sponges. A soft-bristle brush is okay when used sparingly.
- Never leave a Brillo pad or other metal cleaning pad sitting on the counter as they might leave rust stains.
- Do not set anything hot on the countertop. Always use hot pads.
- Don't leave liquid sitting on seams.
- Don't get harsh chemicals on the countertop such as ceramic cooktop cleaners, oven cleaners, coffee pot cleaners, limescale removers, rust removers, etc.

If you do get a stain on your counter, a 3:1 mix of baking soda to water can be made and slathered on the stain. Let it sit for 3-5 minutes. Do not work it in as baking soda is an abrasive. If 3-5 minutes does not remove your stain, repeat and let it sit overnight. You may need to repeat, but stains will fade if applied over a period of days.

See our Pinterest page (MakeitMCM) for a more thorough video on building a laminate countertop.

COUNTERTOP CORNER CONSTRUCTION

No one likes seams in their countertop, but they play an important role in correct construction. The following are correct ways to deal with joints:



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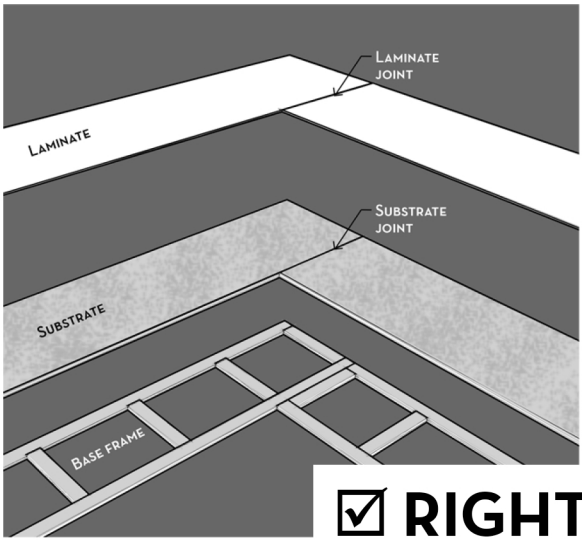

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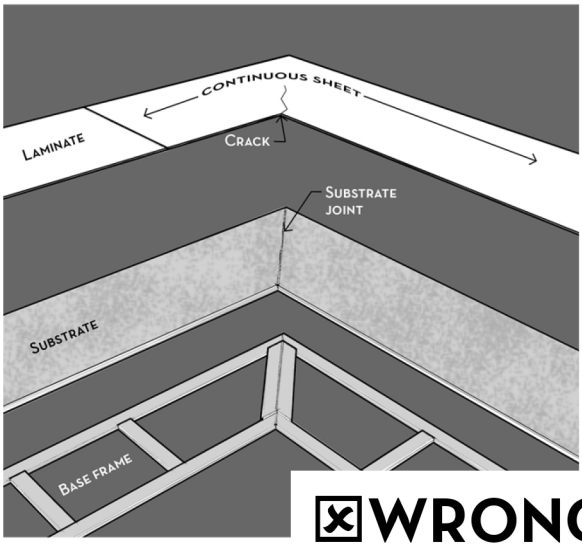
It's important that your laminate and your substrate joints match at corners or elsewhere or your laminate could crack over time. The two parts of the substrate will move at different rates causing a crack to form at the intersection. Avoid the following scenarios:



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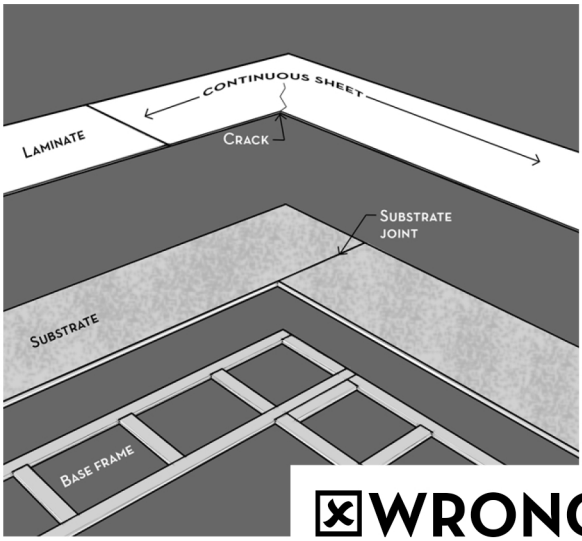

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