YDL STONE
INSPIRED SURFACES

Fabrication & Installation Guide

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1. Introduction

YDL Stone Mineral Surfaces are designed for a wide range of interior residential and commercial applications, including kitchen benchtops, bathroom vanities, reception counters and furniture. They combine refined aesthetics with durability and low maintenance for everyday use.

Intended for interior applications only, YDL Stone surfaces are not suitable for exterior use or areas exposed to prolonged UV radiation or excessive heat.

Engineered for material authenticity, YDL Stone features full-bodied construction with multidimensional veining that runs throughout the slab. Unlike surface-printed materials, the pattern is inherent to the material, delivering consistent depth and continuity across edges and fabricated details.

Manufactured using advanced compaction technology, our surfaces are dense, non-porous and highly durable.

Our crystalline silica-free Mineral Surface supports a safer working environment for fabricators while maintaining the performance and design flexibility required in modern interiors.

2. General Safety

At YDL Stone, we are committed to maintaining a safe working environment and expect the same level of responsibility from all distributors, fabricators and installers. Compliance with all applicable occupational health and safety regulations is essential.

Fabrication of stone materials may generate respirable dust that can pose serious health risks if not properly controlled. While YDL Stone Mineral Surfaces are crystalline silica-free, appropriate safety measures and dust control practices must always be implemented.

Housekeeping

Maintain a clean and organized work area at all times. Regularly monitor housekeeping to prevent hazards caused by dust accumulation and untidy conditions.

Ventilation

Ensure all work areas are well-ventilated and adequately lit to support a safe and comfortable working environment.

Restricted Access

Limit access to the work area to authorized personnel only.

First-Aid Readiness

Ensure a fully equipped first-aid kit is available and suitable for the tasks being performed.

Tool Familiarity

Read and understand all tool instruction manuals. Be aware of proper application, maintenance requirements and potential hazards.

Proper Tool Use

Use only appropriate tools and attachments as recommended by the manufacturer. Do not exceed intended operating conditions or use improvised equipment.

Tool Maintenance

Keep all tools in good working condition and ensure they are regularly inspected and maintained in accordance with manufacturer guidelines.

Wear the following protective equipment when fabricating YDL Stone:

HELMET & HAIR COVERING

Use appropriate hair covering to secure long hair and prevent entanglement.

Wear a safety helmet when handling, transporting or working around slabs.

RESPIRATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT(RPE)

Use appropriate respiratory protection where dust is present, such as a **P2/P3 disposable respirator,** a fit-tested half-face respirator with suitable filters, or a **Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR)** where required.

RPE must be appropriate for the task and comply with relevant standards. Workers with facial hair should use PAPR.

GLOVES

Wear suitable gloves to protect against sharp edges, rough surfaces and potential chemical exposure.

HEARING PROTECTION

Use appropriate hearing protection when operating machinery or working in high-noise environments.

SAFETY GOGGLES

Wear approved safety glasses or goggles to protect against dust and airborne particles.

SAFETY SHOES

Wear non-slip, steel-capped safety footwear at all times.

In wet conditions, steel-capped rubber boots may be required.

3. Slab Information

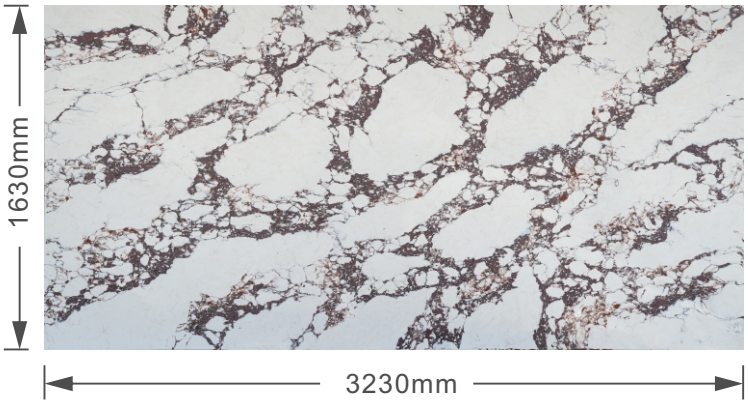
3.1 Slab Data

DIMENSIONS

Length:3230 mm +/- 10mm
Width: 1630 mm +/- 10mm
Thickness: 20mm +/-1 mm

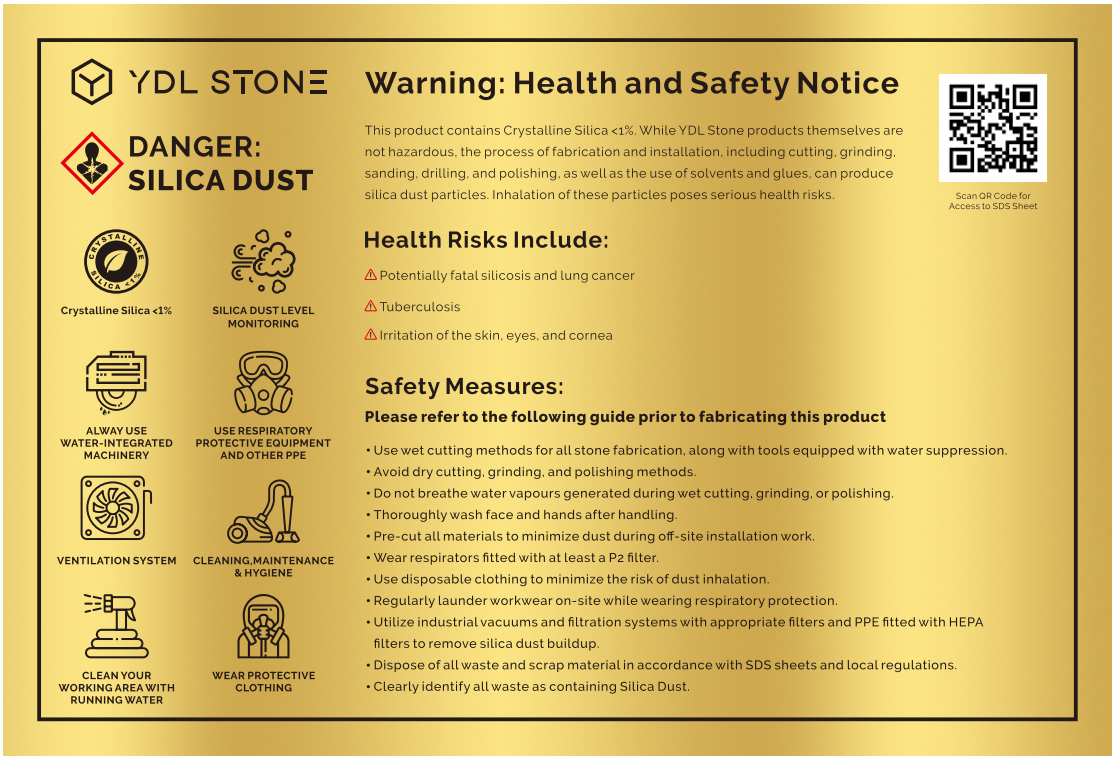
WEIGHT

20mm: 50 kg per m2



Each YDL Stone slab features a unique label that displays all its identifying information: product code, product name, dimensions, surface finish and more.

Each YDL Stone slab comes with a warning sticker on its back. It highlights useful information to ensure that the work is carried out in a safe and responsible manner.



3.2 Slab Stamp

Each slab is stamped with identification information on both the **back and the side of the slab.**

This information remains visible throughout the slab's lifetime and allows for identification even after installation.

The stamp provides key information used to track and match slabs, including **product code, date, shade number and QC number.**

Batch & Shade Consistency

For slabs to be considered from the **same batch and shade**, the following information must be identical:

- **Date**
- **Shade Number**
- **QC Number**

All three must match.
If any one of these differs, the slabs **must not be considered from the same batch or shade,** and may result in visible variation after installation.

Example:

Acceptable (Same Batch & Shade):

- Slab 1: 9966 | 23.07.2024 | Shade 1 | QC1
- Slab 2: 9966 | 23.07.2024 | Shade 1 | QC1

✓ All details match → Suitable for use together

Not Acceptable (Different Batch or Shade):

- Slab 1: 9966 | 23.07.2024 | Shade 1 | QC1
- Slab 2: 9966 | 23.07.2024 | Shade 2 | QC1

✗ Shade differs → Not from same shade

- Slab 1: 9966 | 23.07.2024 | Shade 1 | QC1
- Slab 2: 9966 | 24.07.2024 | Shade 1 | Qc1

✗ Date differs → Not from same batch

- Slab 1: 9966 | 23.07.2024 | Shade 1 | QC1
- Slab 2: 9966 | 23.07.2024 | Shade 1 | QC2

✗ QC differs → Not from same batch

4. Handling & Storage

At all stages of handling, transportation and storage, slabs must be **properly supported and balanced according to their center of gravity.**

All lifting equipment must be suitable for the load, regularly inspected, and operated in accordance with applicable safety regulations and manufacturer guidelines.

It is the responsibility of the operator to ensure that all lifting activities are carried out safely and within the rated capacity of the equipment.

4.1 Handling

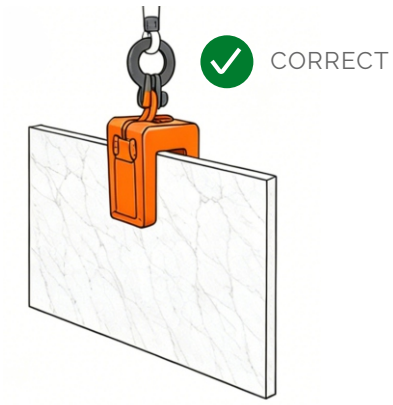
YDL Stone slabs must be loaded, unloaded and transported using appropriate equipment such as **forklifts, clamp lifters, vacuum lifters, slings or cranes,** depending on the application.

Improper handling may result in slab damage, equipment failure or serious injury.

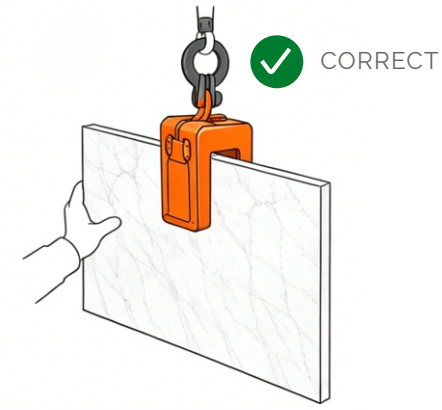
General Handling Requirements

- Always ensure slabs are stable and securely positioned before lifting
- Maintain a safe distance from all lifting operations
- Never stand **in front of or beneath a suspended load**
- Ensure clear visibility between the operator and guide at all times
- Do not exceed the safe working load (SWL) of any equipment

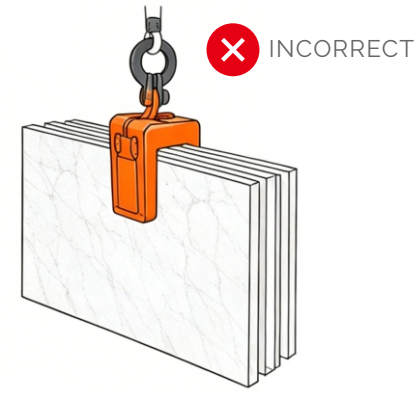
Lifting with Clamps



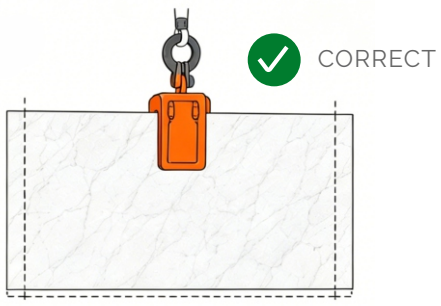
- Use only clamps that are suitable and rated for the slab size and weight



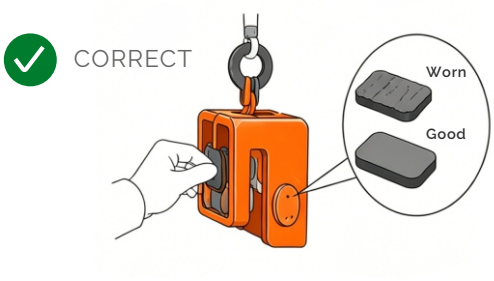
- Ensure slabs are correctly positioned within the clamp before lifting



- Do not lift multiple slabs unless the clamp is specifically designed for this purpose

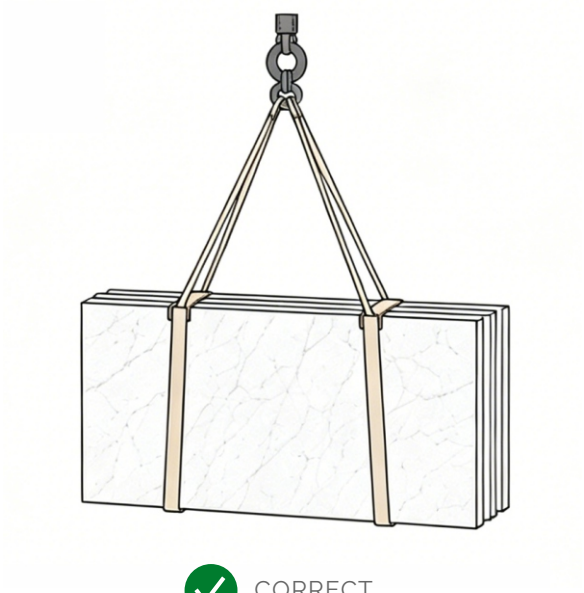


- Slabs must be aligned evenly and held securely without gaps



- Inspect clamp pads regularly and replace worn components as required

Lifting Bundles of Slabs



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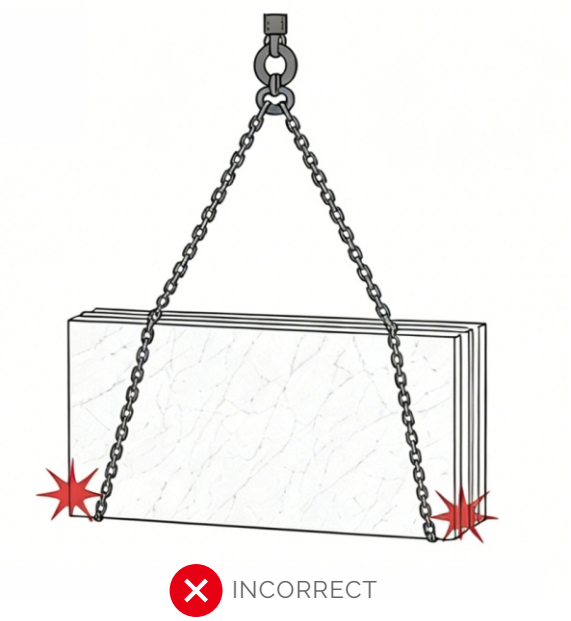
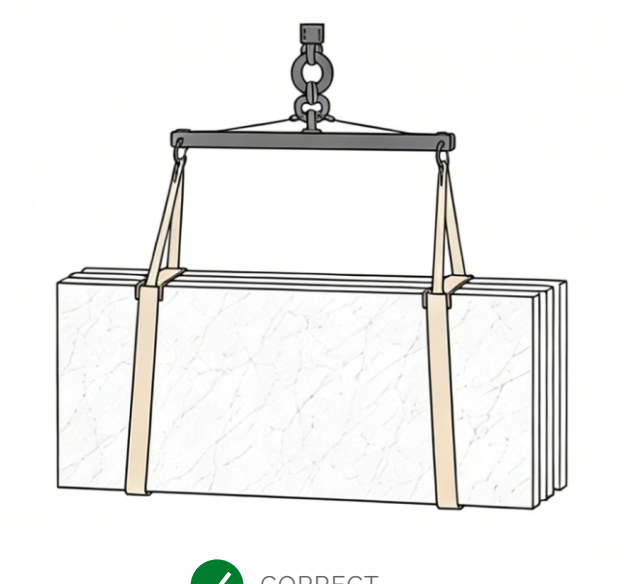
- Use appropriate lifting methods such as **canvas slings or approved lifting systems**



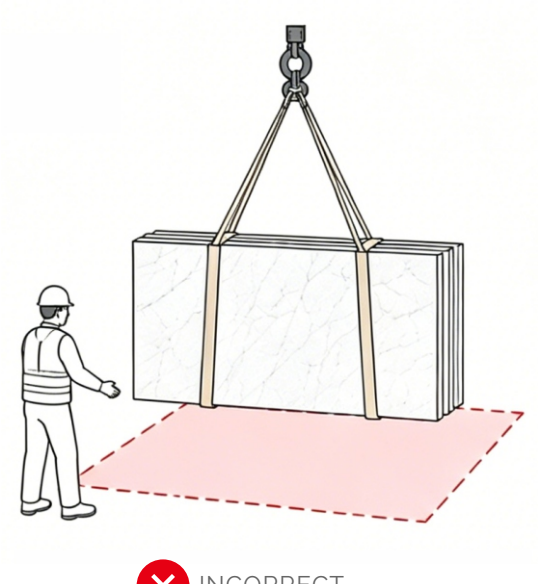
INCORRECT

- Do not use metal slings directly on slabs, as they may cause edge damage



CORRECT

- Ensure slabs are evenly supported and secured before lifting



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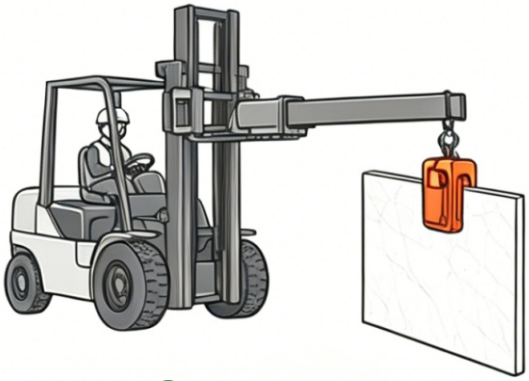
- Keep all personnel clear of the lifting area during operation

Forklift Handling



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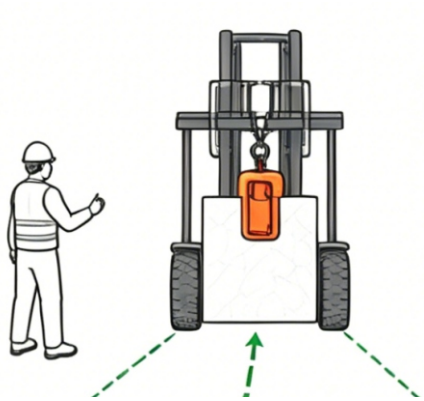
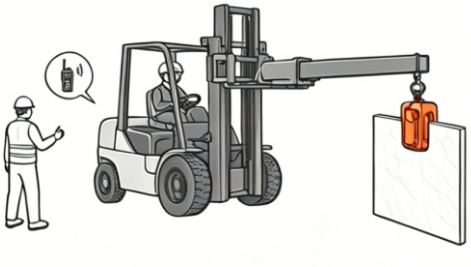
- Ensure forks are correctly positioned and fully support the load



CORRECT

- The guide must stand **to the side of the load,** not in the line of movement



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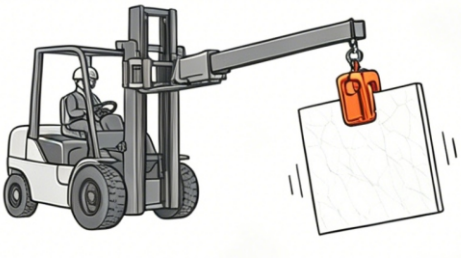
- Maintain clear communication between operator and guide



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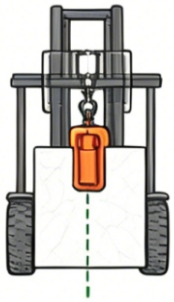
- Avoid sudden movements, tilting or uneven lifting



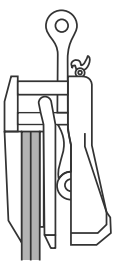
CORRECT

- Never transport unstable or unsecured slabs

Correct Use of Clamps

Slabs must be positioned correctly within the clamp as shown in the diagrams

- Incorrect positioning may result in **slippage, slab damage or serious injury**
- Ensure full contact between the clamp pads and slab surface
- Do not clamp uneven or misaligned slabs



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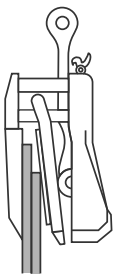

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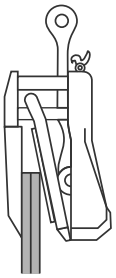


INCORRECT

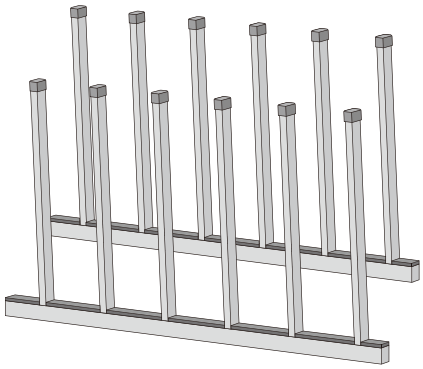
4.2 General Storage Requirements

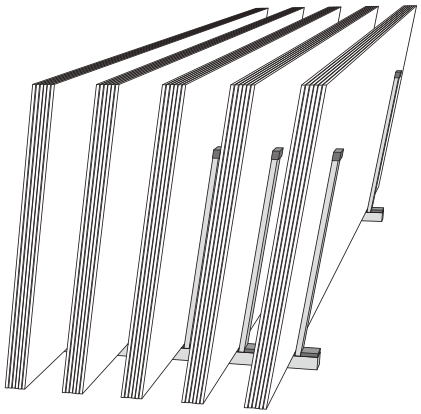
The following requirements apply to all storage methods:

- Ensure slabs are fully supported and evenly distributed at all times
- Do not exceed the load capacity of racks or A-frames
- Keep storage areas level, dry and free from obstructions
- Ensure no personnel are in the immediate area during loading or unloading
- Use rubber, timber or other protective buffers to prevent damage
- Do not store full slabs on top of partial slabs or cut pieces
- Store slabs face-to-face or back-to-back with minimal gaps for stability
- Storage systems should be periodically inspected by a qualified person

Rack Storage (Angled Posts)

Slabs stored on racks must be properly supported and secured at all times to prevent movement, tipping or falling. Failure to store slabs correctly may result in serious injury, crushing or product damage.





Support & Positioning

- Slabs must be supported by a minimum of two support posts
- Ensure slabs are positioned centrally between support posts
- Full contact must be maintained between the slab and support posts along the entire height
- Support posts must be angled appropriately to maintain slab stability

Rack Capacity & Load

- Do not exceed the designed load capacity of the rack system.
- Ensure racks are suitable for the size, thickness and weight of the slabs.
- Distribute slabs evenly to avoid concentrated loads.

Slab Arrangement

- Store slabs face-to-face or back-to-back with minimal gaps.
- Avoid gaps that may allow slabs to shift or become unstable.
- Do not store cut pieces or small slabs between full slabs.

Protection & Surface Care

- Use rubber, timber or other protective buffers at all contact points.
- Protect slab edges and surfaces from impact or abrasion.
- Store outer slabs with the back facing outward where possible to protect finished surfaces.

Environmental Conditions

- Store slabs under cover where possible to minimise exposure to sunlight and environmental conditions.
- In high temperature environments, ensure adequate support to reduce the risk of movement or deformation.

Inspection & Maintenance

- Storage racks must be regularly inspected for structural integrity.
- Replace damaged or worn components immediately.
- Ensure all supports, connectors and base beams remain secure.

Storage on A-Frames

CORRECT

INCORRECT

A-frames should be used for temporary storage, viewing or relocation only.

- Ensure slabs are securely positioned between the uprights
- Do not store slabs on open-ended sides of A-frames
- Always control slabs from the outside of the frame
- Do not allow slabs to lean beyond a safe angle

Once slabs begin to tip, they cannot be controlled and may result in serious injury.

When Separating Slabs on Racks

- Always control slabs from the outside — never stand between slabs
- Keep hands clear of pinch points
- Use approved separation tools only
- Do not use sharp or improvised tools (e.g. screwdrivers)

Additional Safety Note

Large slabs are extremely heavy. If a slab begins to fall, it is unlikely that an operator will be able to stop it. This may result in serious injury or crushing.

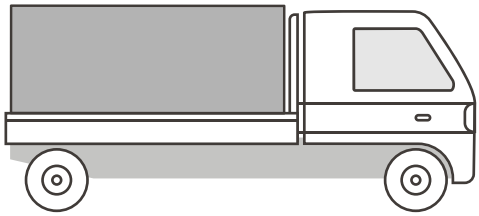
4.3 Transportation

YDL Stone slabs are heavy and may exceed 260 kg (575 lb) per slab.

Improper transportation may result in **load failure, slab damage or serious injury.**

All vehicles and transport systems must be suitable for the load and comply with applicable transport and safety regulations.

- Securely attach an appropriate, approved transport frame (such as an A-frame) to the vehicle. The frame must be in good condition and free from visible defects
- Ensure A-frames are firmly secured to the vehicle, and that slabs are properly restrained to prevent movement during transport
- Distribute slabs evenly on both sides of the frame, positioned face-to-face or back-to-back with no gaps
- Use load-rated straps or ratchet tie-downs to secure the load. Replace straps at the first signs of wear or damage
- Do not use rope to secure loads, as it degrades quickly and lacks sufficient strength and stability
- Protect straps from abrasion by placing protective materials between straps and slab edges
- Ensure the load is fully contained within the vehicle tray. In the event of slab breakage, no part of the load should fall onto the road



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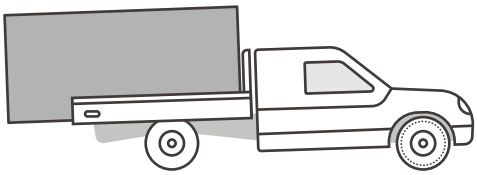

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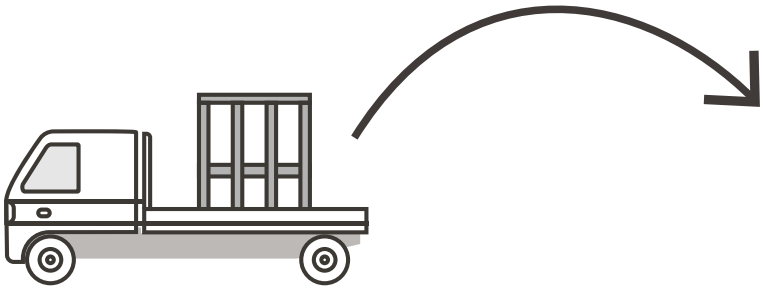

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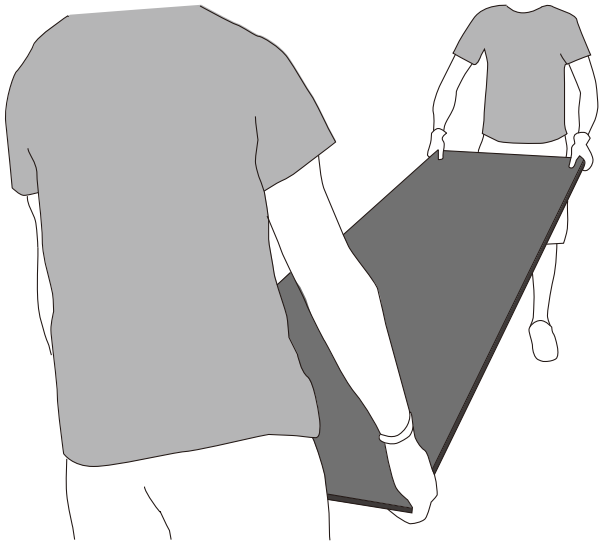
Manually transporting a YDL Stone slab

Moving a YDL Stone Benchtops



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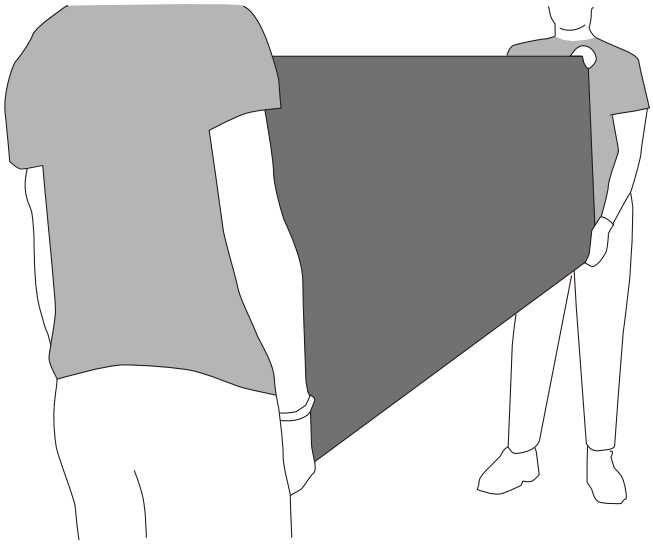

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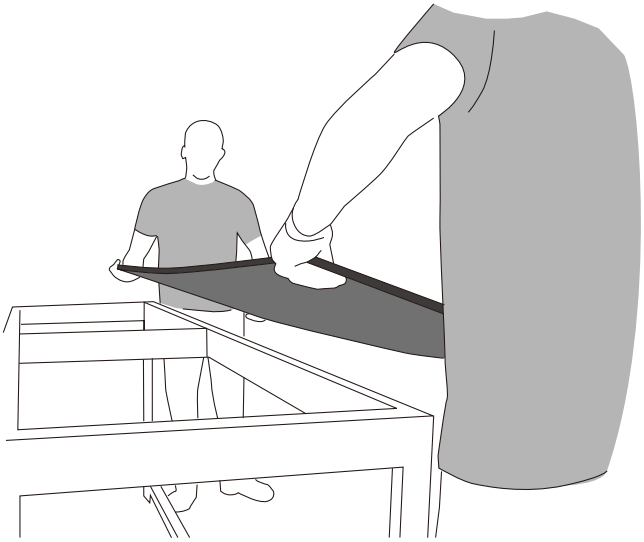
Raising a YDL Stone onto a bench



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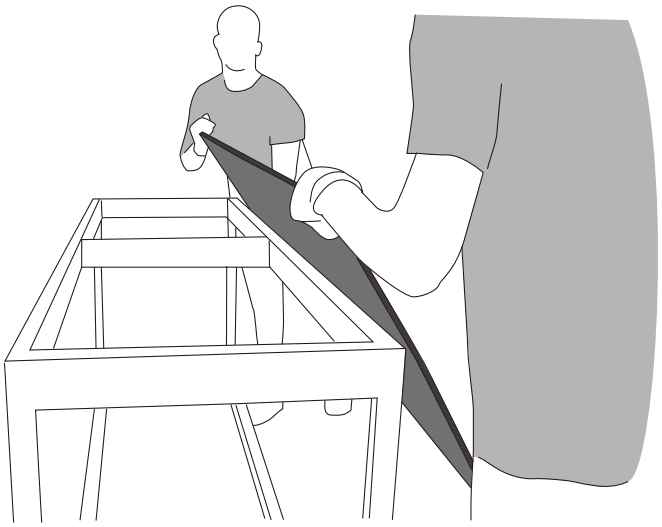

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5. Visual Slab Inspection

5.1 YDL Stone Slab Inspection Process

Pre-Production Inspection

All YDL Stone slabs must be inspected prior to fabrication or installation.

Failure to carry out proper inspection may result in the acceptance of material that is unsuitable for use.

Once a slab has been cut, modified or installed, it is deemed accepted.

Inspection Requirements

Inspection must be carried out under appropriate lighting conditions and from multiple viewing angles to identify any visible defects.

Protective film should be removed where necessary to allow a clear and accurate assessment of the slab surface.

Inspection Checklist

Fabricators must visually inspect each slab for the following:

Surface Condition

- Cracks, chips, holes or visible defects.
- Surface irregularities such as pits, voids or inclusions.

Thickness & Flatness

- Cracks, chips, holes or visible defects.
- Surface irregularities such as pits, voids or inclusions.

Surface Finish

- Consistent gloss and surface quality across the slab

Colour & Shade

- Verify colour consistency between slabs
- Confirm slabs are from the same batch, shade and QC grouping where required

Fabricator Responsibility

- It is the responsibility of the fabricator to determine the suitability of each slab prior to fabrication
- Any defects must be reported to YDL Stone before cutting or modification
- Do not proceed with fabrication if the slab is considered unsuitable

Claims & Acceptance

- Slabs that have been cut, modified or installed are deemed to be accepted
- Claims relating to appearance, colour, shade or surface condition will not be accepted after fabrication
- Only uncut and unmodified slabs may be considered for assessment or replacement
- YDL Stone reserves the right to make the final determination on all claims

Material Variation

YDL Stone surfaces may exhibit slight variations in colour, pattern and texture.
These variations are inherent to the material and are not considered defects.

5.2 Colour Matching

YDL Stone slabs may exhibit variations in colour, pattern and aggregate distribution between production batches.
These variations are inherent to the material and are not considered defects.

Batch Identification

- Each production run is assigned a unique batch number, located on the back and side of the slab
- Slabs from different batches may vary in shade and appearance
- For installations requiring multiple slabs, materials must be selected from the same batch, shade and QC grouping
- A visual colour match must always be performed prior to fabrication

Important Note

- Slabs from different batches should not be mixed for benchtop joins or continuous surfaces
- Inconsistent selection may result in visible variation across the installation
- Such variation is not considered a manufacturing defect

5.3 Comparing Samples to Full Slabs

Samples are intended as a general guide only and may not represent the full appearance of the slab.

Variations in colour, pattern and distribution may occur between samples, images and full slabs.

Client Confirmation

- It is the responsibility of the fabricator to ensure the client has reviewed and approved the material prior to fabrication
- Where possible, clients should inspect full slabs before cutting
- Once fabrication has commenced, the material is deemed accepted

6.Tools,Equipment&Fabrication Requirements

6.1 General Requirements

All fabrication of YDL Stone Mineral Surface must be carried out using appropriate equipment, tools and working conditions designed for stone processing.

Improper equipment or tool selection may result in **edge chipping, surface damage, dimensional inaccuracy or premature material failure.**

Fabrication must be performed by trained and experienced personnel.

6.2 Work Environment

- Ensure adequate general ventilation and local exhaust ventilation where applicable
- Maintain a clean, stable and well-lit work area at all times
- Use appropriate water management systems to control slurry, cooling and dust suppression
- Ensure all work surfaces are level and capable of fully supporting the slab during processing
- Avoid excessive heat buildup during fabrication

6.3 Cutting Equipment

Slabs must be processed using professional stone cutting equipment capable of maintaining precision and surface integrity.

Suitable equipment includes:

- CNC bridge saws
- Waterjet cutting systems
- Automated or precision-controlled cutting machines

Requirements:

- Cutting must be performed using water-fed systems to minimise heat and reduce dust
- Ensure blades are suitable for mineral surfaces
- Maintain steady feed rates to avoid chipping or stress on the slab
- Do not force the material during cutting

6.4 Fabrication Tools

Tools must be suitable for mineral surfaces and maintained in optimal condition.

Typical tools include:

- Variable-speed angle grinders (cutting and shaping)
- Pneumatic or electric polishers
- Diamond blades and core bits
- Diamond grinding wheels and shaping tools
- Edge profiling and routing tools
- Clamps and handling devices

Usage Guidelines:

- Use variable speed settings appropriate to each stage of fabrication
- Avoid excessive pressure during grinding or polishing
- Maintain consistent tool movement to achieve uniform results

6.5 Tooling & Consumables

- Only high-quality diamond tooling designed for stone fabrication should be used
- Ensure correct grit sequence is followed during polishing
- Replace worn or damaged tools immediately
- Incorrect tooling or sequence may result in poor surface finish or visible defects

6.6 Installation & Finishing Accessories

- Seaming clamps and alignment tools
- Adhesives and colour-matching materials
- Cleaning and finishing products
- Dust extraction or vacuum systems (HEPA recommended where applicable)

6.7 Adhesives

Recommended Adhesives:

Use polyester resin adhesive or epoxy-modified acrylic.
Suitable options include:

- Tenax®
- Akemi® (matching YDL Stone's color range)
- Integra® (matching YDL Stone's color range)

Color Matching:

Use polyester resin adhesive or epoxy-modified acrylic.
Suitable options include:

- Color-matched adhesive charts are available at www.ydlstone.com.au.
- Even with color-matched adhesives, shade adjustments may be necessary due to slight variations between different batches of YDL Stone slabs.
- Tip: Adding transparent adhesive to the color-matched adhesive can enhance its properties.
- Important: The adhesive color should match the surface color to achieve a minimally visible seam.
- If pre-colored matching adhesive is unavailable, mix color paste pigments with the adhesive to achieve the desired match.
- Note: The adhesive color may appear slightly lighter after drying.

Safety and Usage

- **Important:**

  Always read and follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions, including safety guidelines, before use.

AKEMI Adhesives

Integra Adhesives

Tenax

7. Fabrication

7.1 Slab Cutting Guidelines

IMPORTANT!

Always use water-cooled tools for cutting, drilling and polishing to control heat and minimise dust generation.

Dry cutting is strictly prohibited.

Dry cutting may compromise the material and lead to cracking, chipping, discolouration or other forms of damage. **Any damage or failure resulting from dry cutting is not covered under the YDL Stone warranty.**

While YDL Stone Mineral Surface contains less than 1% crystalline silica, dust generated during fabrication may still pose health risks. Appropriate dust control measures must always be applied.

7.2 Full Body Cutting Considerations

YDL Mineral Surface slabs are full-bodied materials with multidimensional veining and movement integrated throughout the slab, rather than limited to a surface layer or printed finish.

The veins and movement in YDL slabs are not designed to penetrate the full depth of the slab in all cases. In some cases, veining or movement may extend through the full depth of the slab and continue through exposed edges, however applications should not be planned assuming this will occur consistently.

The reverse side or back face of the slab should not be used as the primary finished decorative surface. Variations in colour, veining, texture and gloss level may occur between the front and back surfaces due to the manufacturing process.

If a finished appearance is required on both exposed faces, we recommend joining two slabs with the finished surfaces facing outwards.

Polishing or exposing the back face of slabs is not recommended, as the factory-finished surface is intended for the visible application.

7.3 Edge Preparation

Before proceeding with cutting, trim a small portion off the outer perimeter of the slab to ensure edges are straight and accurate.
Verify the colour match of all pieces to be joined prior to cutting to ensure consistency in the final installation.

7.4 Slab Layout Optimisation

Proper slab layout planning before cutting is essential to achieve the best fabrication result, minimise wastage and maintain visual consistency.
Templates, measurements, seam positions and cutouts should be checked before cutting begins.

MINIMISE WASTAGE

Plan the arrangement of pieces to maximise slab usage while allowing sufficient trimming of slab edges to achieve straight and accurate fabrication.

CHECK COLOUR & PATTERN MATCH

Before cutting, confirm adjoining pieces are visually compatible in colour, shade and pattern.
Where possible, use slabs from the same batch and maintain consistent slab orientation.

MAINTAIN VISUAL CONSISTENCY

Keep adjoining sections in the same direction to maintain consistency in veining, movement, mineral distribution and surface reflection.
This is especially important in long benchtops, waterfall ends and highly reflective areas.

CHECK FLATNESS & SEAM LOCATIONS

Check slab flatness at planned seam locations before cutting.
Avoid placing seams in narrow, unsupported or high-stress areas where possible.

PLAN CUTOUTS CAREFULLY

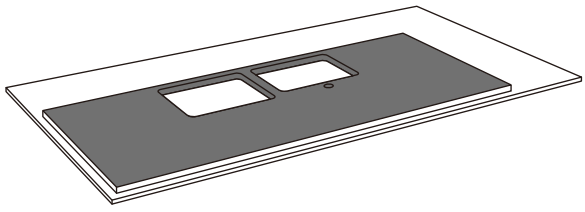
Position sink, cooktop and fixture cutouts with adequate clearance from slab edges, corners and seams.
Ensure all narrow sections are properly supported.

CONFIRM LAYOUT BEFORE FABRICATION

The fabricator must confirm slab layout, seam position, orientation and visual appearance before fabrication begins.
Once a slab has been cut, modified or installed, it is deemed accepted.

7.5 Key Points for Cutouts

To minimize the risk of breakages during fabrication, ensure that the cutouts are planned to be executed at the center of the cutting table rather than near the edge.



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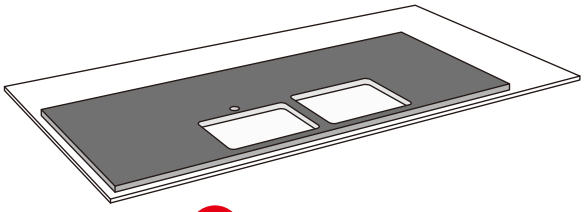


INCORRECT

When creating cutouts in YDL Stone benchtop for sinks, cooktops/hobs, and other fixtures, follow these guidelines to ensure durability and prevent damage:

Fabrication Guidelines

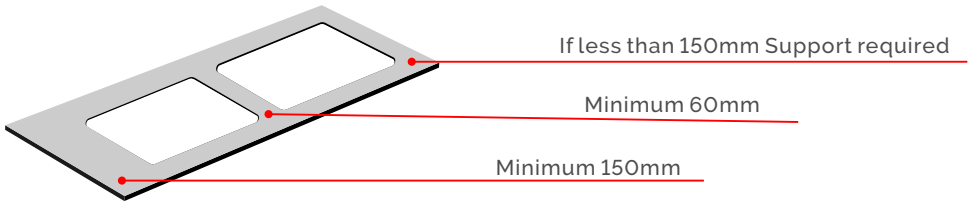
- Radius Corners: Always fabricate a minimum radius of 10 mm for all corners (visible and hidden) using a core bit/cup drill. The larger the radius, the stronger the corner.
- Avoid Over-Cutting: Be careful not to cut beyond the rounded edge , as this may cause hairline cracks.

Prohibited Practices

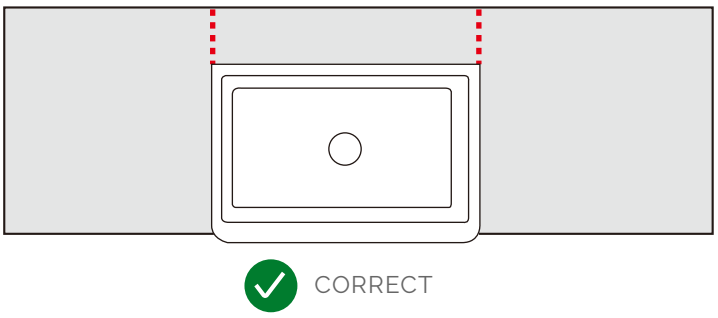
- Square Corners: Do not cut square or cross-cut corners
- Large Radius Sections: Avoid cutting a large radius in sections
- Thickness Reduction: Do not reduce the thickness of the surface when preparing the cutout.

Placement of Cutouts

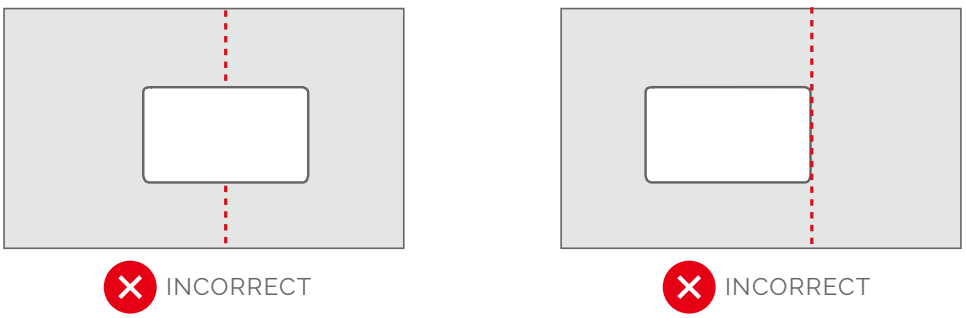
- Distance from Edges/Seams: Ensure that the distance between a cutout and an edge or seam is at least 60 mm. The greater this distance, the stronger the area.
- Support for Narrow Margins: If the distance between a cutout and an edge or seam is less than 150 mm, use a support strip to reinforce the area.



Avoid irregular cuts such as those required for a "farmhouse sink". In such instances, add joints into the benchtop design.



Other types of designs to be avoided,



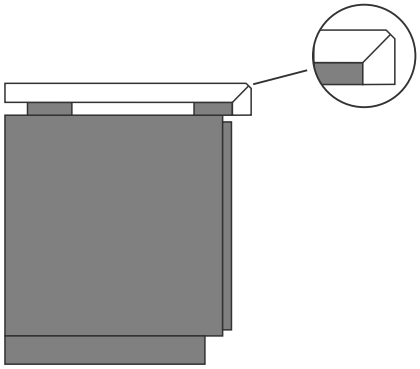
7.6 Support Strip Installation

Purpose

- **Function:** Raise and support the edge where a laminated edge could hinder cabinet door openings.
- **Material:** Use support strips of YDL Stone or solid timber.

Application

- **Whole Length Support:**
  Glue support strips along the entire length of the front and back of the cabinet
- **Height and Width:**
  Minimum of 70mm wide.
  Same height as the protruding part of the lamination strip underneath the slab.
- **Align Joins:**
  Ensure support strips match the length of the surface piece, aligning with surface joins.

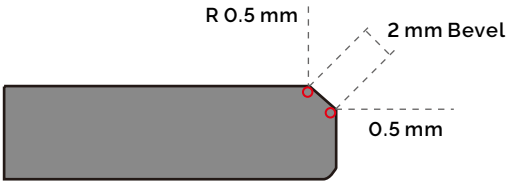


7.7 Fabricating Edges

Single-Thickness Edges

Single-thickness edges retain the slab's original thickness, making them straightforward and quick to fabricate. Most automated edge profiling machinery is specifically designed to create single-thickness edges, offering an affordable fabrication option.

Edge profiles can be created either automatically (using tools such as a CNC, CNC milling machine, or bridge saw) or manually. YDL recommends using the following edge for benchtops. It is the perfect compromise between esthetics and functionality.

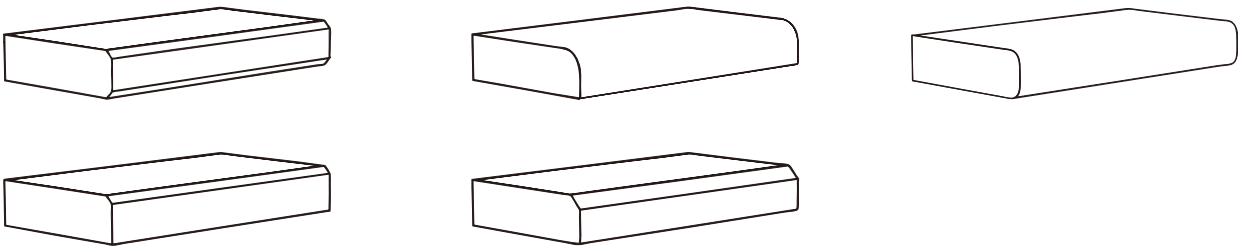


The edge comprises a 2 mm bevel and two rounded edges with a radius of 0.5 mm. While the radius may be visible, enhances the edge's impact resistance. In high impact risk areas in benchtop area, such as sinks and dishwashers, the edges could be as follows:

The larger the radius, the more effectively it can withstand impacts. Keep in mind that a larger bevel results in more of the base colour being visible in the slab.

Common edge profiles

The larger the radius, the more effectively it can withstand impacts. Keep in mind that a larger bevel results in more of the base colour being visible in the slab.



Use these finishes also for undermount sink cutouts.

Laminated Edges

Lamination involves attaching one or more strips of YDL Stone to the bottom edge of another piece, creating the appearance of a thicker edge. Although this process is more complex and time-consuming than fabricating single-thickness edges, it delivers a more luxurious aesthetic.

Miter Edges Key Features

- **Flexible Height:** Miter edges allow for any edge height, independent of slab thickness.
- **Seamless Pattern:** Enables pattern continuation around the edge.
- **Versatile Profiles:** Supports various edge profile depths.
- **No Vertical Polishing Needed:** Only the visible surface requires polishing.

Fabrication Steps

1.Cutting the Strip

- Cut a strip matching the desired miter edge height.
- Cut a strip matching the desired miter edge height.

2.Standard Miter Joint

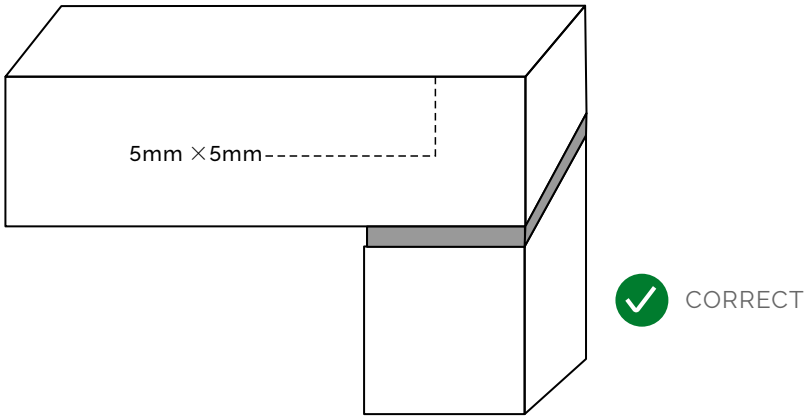
- Cut at a 45˚ angle for strength and a 90˚ final edge.
- Apply adhesive evenly and polish to the desired radius or bevel.
- Use a larger radius to reduce chipping risks.

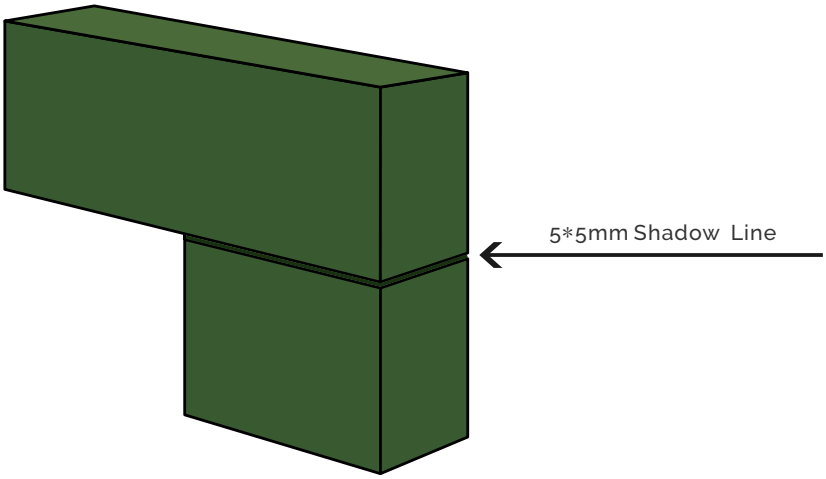
3.High-Strength Miter Joint

- For stress-prone areas, slightly reduce the back angle after the 45˚ cut.
- This creates space for adhesive, ensuring a stronger joint and a flush finish.

Shadow Line

An alternative option is to use a 5mm x 5mm shadow line joint, particularly recommended for waterfall ends that extend to the floor. This joint not only allows for greater flexibility in the cabinets over time but also creates a small gap that casts a shadow, giving the cabinetry a modern and sleek appearance.

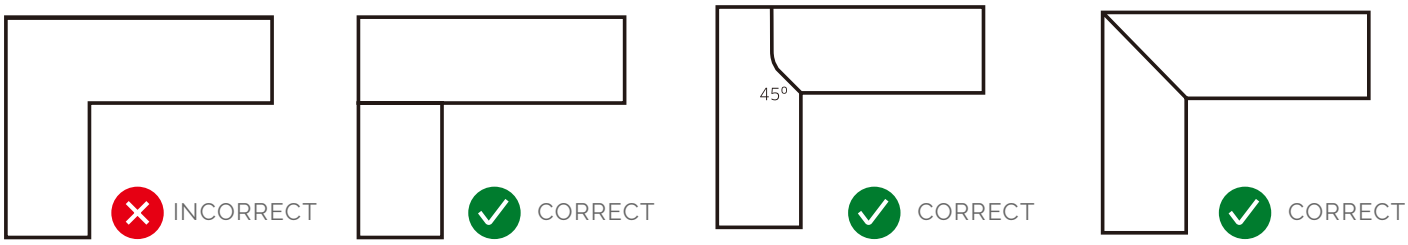




8. L &U-Shaped kitchen and joins

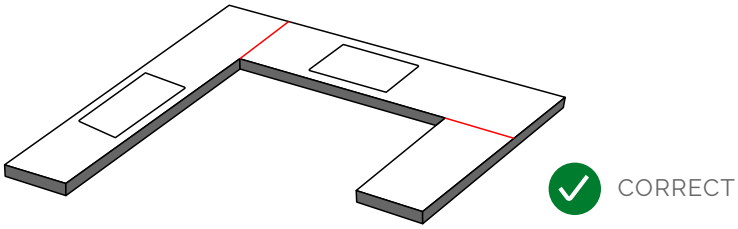
L shape-Shaped kitchen and joins

For "L" shaped kitchen countertops, ensure a generous radius on the internal corner. However, for added durability, we suggest dividing the piece into two sections. In this scenario, carefully consider the most suitable cutting scheme. After each cutting operation, thoroughly rinse the slab with enough water jets to clean debris, dust, or machining abrasives.



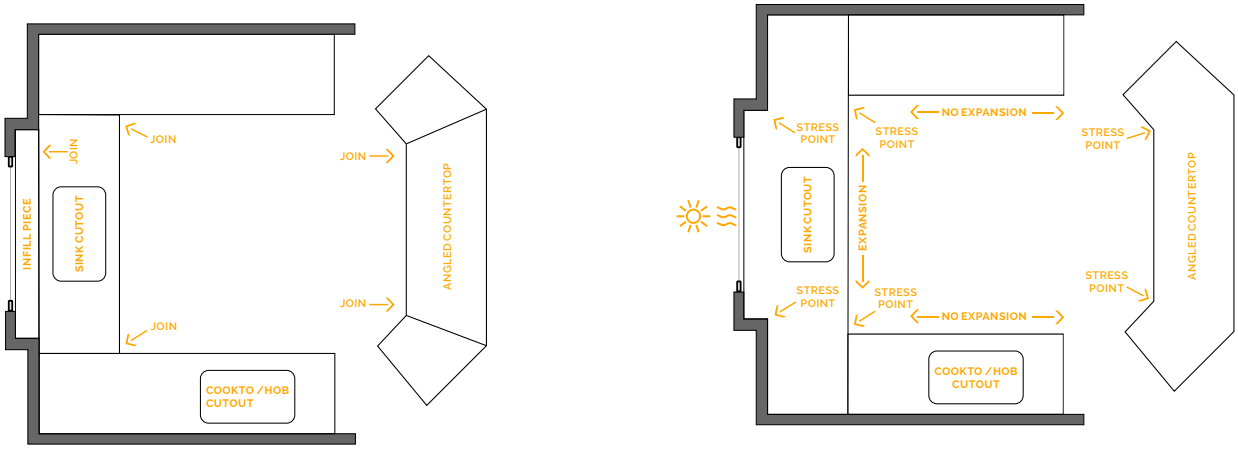
U shape-Shaped kitchen and joins

Always fabricate U-shaped countertops with a join on the inside corner.



It is not recommended to fabricate L- or U-shaped countertops, or any surface changes in direction, without incorporating joints. Doing so increases the risk of cracking after installation. Cracks are not indicative of material faults; rather, they result from externally induced mechanical stress on the countertops. The two most common causes are thermal shock, leading to expansion or contraction, and high point loads. These issues often arise from unintended or accidental actions by the consumer.

For angles less than 90 degrees, discretion is left to the stone fabricator. Customers should be informed that installations without joints are high-risk, and any resulting cracks will not be covered under the YDL Stone warranty.



9. INSTALLING SINKS AND COOKTOPS

YDL Mineral Surface can accommodate a range of sink and cooktop installation methods. Proper fabrication and installation practices are essential to ensure long-term performance, appearance, and safety.
The following guidelines should be followed when fabricating cutouts and installing sinks or cooktops into YDL Mineral surfaces.

GENERAL INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

• Support Requirements

All sinks, cooktops, and fixtures must be independently supported within the cabinet structure using support rails, brackets, frames, or legs where required. Fixtures must not rely solely on the stone surface for structural support.

• Thermal Expansion Gap

Maintain an expansion gap of approximately 2mm between the fixture and the benchtop to allow for thermal movement and reduce stress on the material.

• Sealing Requirements

Seal all joints between the fixture and the benchtop using a suitable flexible silicone sealant or approved adhesive system.

• Manufacturer Specifications

Always follow the sink, cooktop, and appliance manufacturer's fabrication and installation instructions, including minimum corner radii, support requirements, and clearance specifications.

• Cutout Fabrication

All internal cutout corners should be smoothly radiused to reduce stress concentration and minimise the risk of cracking. Sharp internal corners must be avoided.

• Surface Protection During Installation

When applying silicone or adhesives, masking tape is recommended around the cutout area to help prevent staining or residue marks on the benchtop surface.

• Cooktop Installations

Flush-mount installation is generally not recommended for cooktops unless specifically approved by the appliance manufacturer and installer. Heat-generating appliances must be installed with appropriate clearances and ventilation.

• PITT Cooking Systems

PITT cooking systems or open-flame burner systems installed directly through the surface are not compatible with YDL Mineral Surface products.

COMMON INSTALLATION TYPES

UNDERMOUNT SINK REVEAL OPTIONS

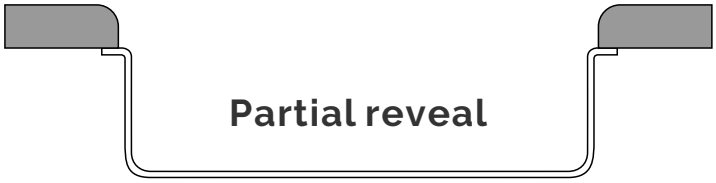
Different undermount sink reveal styles may be selected depending on the desired appearance, sink design, and practical application.

Partial Reveal Undermount Installation

The benchtop cutout is set back slightly from the inside wall of the sink bowl, allowing a small portion of the sink rim, rounded edge, or bevelled edge to remain visible.

Some installations and sink manufacturer templates may require the finished edge of the benchtop to align with the rounded or bevelled upper edge of the sink bowl, minimising the amount of visible flat deck area.

The amount of reveal may vary depending on the desired appearance and the sink manufacturer's recommendations.



Zero Reveal Undermount Installation

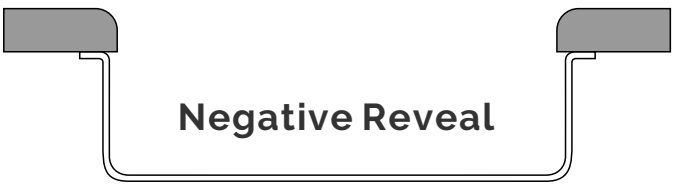
The benchtop cutout aligns flush with the inside wall of the sink bowl, creating a seamless transition between the benchtop and sink.

This installation method reduces the visibility of bonded edges but requires highly accurate fabrication and installation tolerances to precisely match the sink profile.

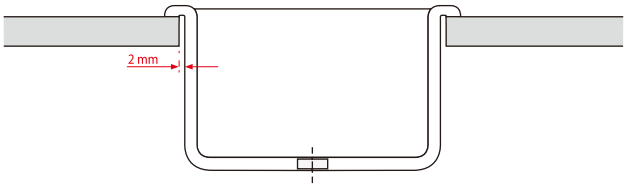
Negative Reveal Undermount Installation

The benchtop slightly overhangs the sink rim, concealing the sink edge beneath the benchtop surface for a cleaner and more integrated appearance.

Cutout edges should be polished and smoothly finished to minimise visible joints and improve visual consistency.



Top-Mount / Overmount Installation



In top-mount installation, the rim or lip of the sink or cooktop extends above the benchtop surface and is supported by the surrounding countertop.

Cutout edges should be smooth and left unpolished, with an appropriate expansion gap maintained between the fixture wall and the benchtop surface to allow for thermal movement and sealing.

Stepped Reveal / Bevel Installation

Some installations may require the benchtop edge to be stepped back, recessed, bevelled, or locally reduced in thickness to match the rounded or bevelled profile of the sink bowl.

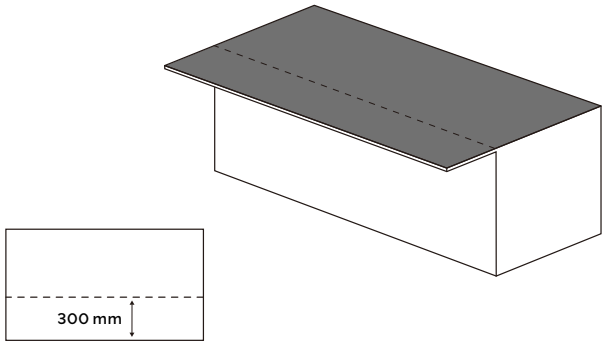
⚠These fabrication methods are aesthetic installation options and may reduce the structural thickness and impact resistance around the cutout area.

Any reduced-thickness areas, bevelled edges, or modified support sections associated with stepped reveal or bevel style installations are considered installation-specific fabrication details and are not covered under warranty against impact damage, edge chipping, or cracking.

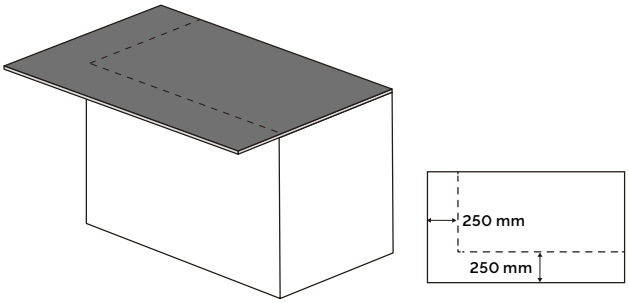
10. Overhang

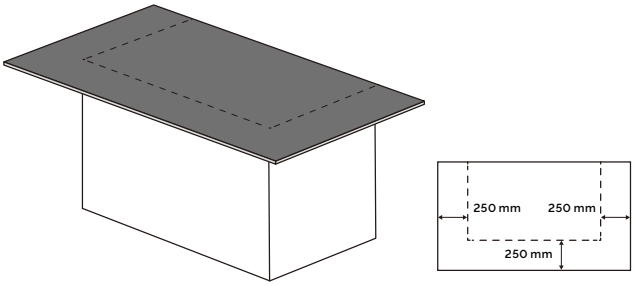
Creating overhangs that extend beyond kitchen cabinets or islands is achievable with Porcelain slabs. Follow the guidelines below for a robust, stable, and long-lasting overhang:

- An unsupported overhang on one side of an island can extend up to 300 mm beyond the supported surface, as long as it does not exceed 1/3 of the complete surface depth.

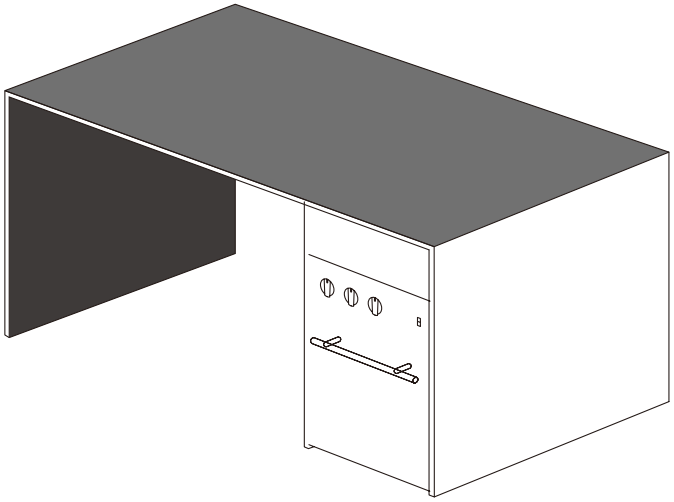


- An unsupported overhang on two or three sides of an island can extend up to 250 mm beyond the supported surface, provided it does not exceed 1/3 of the complete surface depth or width.





- Overhangs longer than 300 mm require additional support. Use non-flexible materials like Wedi, birch, or a support structure.



- The stonemason will determine the necessary support for the overhang.

YDL Stone does not cover an overhang exceeding 300 mm that is unsupported. The contents below provide approximate guidelines for support required for overhangs and must determine by a professional.

Slab Thickness	Overhang Width	Support Required
20mm Thickness Slab	300mm	No additional support required
	300-500mm	Support brackets at 600mm intervals
	500mm	Legs, columns, or panels at 600mm intervals

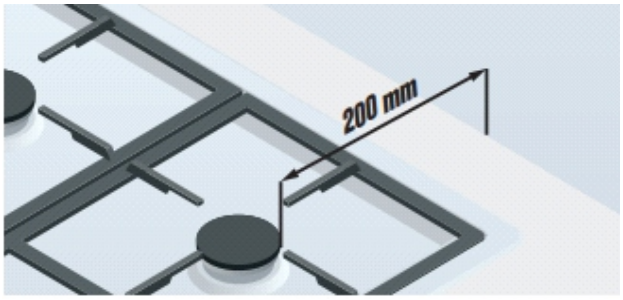
11. Splashback installation guidelines

Gas cooktop

Freestanding or Bench-Mounted

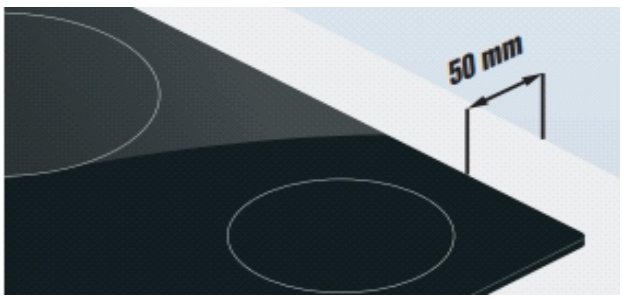
For gas cooktops, we recommend maintaining a minimum clearance of 200mm from the edge of the gas burner to the YDL Stone splashback, in accordance with AS/NZS Standards, specifically AS/NZS 4386.2: 1996.

When installing or designing splashback applications, fabricators and designers should always adhere to the relevant Australian and New Zealand standards regarding clearances, particularly behind cooktops. Following these guidelines ensures safety and compliance with industry regulations.



Electric & Induction Cooktops Freestanding or bench mounted

For both electric and induction cooktops we recommend a minimum 50mm clearance from the back edge of the cooktop to the stone splashback.



12. Benchtop Installation Guidelines

Frame and Leveling

- **Frame:** Install benchtops on a solid, moisture-resistant frame.
- **Leveling Tolerance:** Ensure the frame is level with a maximum tolerance of **1.4mm over 3 meters.**

Substrate Supports

- **Full Perimeter Support:** Use moisture-resistant rails (18mm thick x 90mm wide) along the front, back, and sides.
- **Vertical Placement:** Position rails vertically near cutouts to strengthen and reduce flexibility.
- **Joint Support:** Place full supports from front to back under each joint.

Cabinet Supports

- **Internal Support:** Include internal supports every 600mm using moisture-resistant rails (18mm thick x 90mm wide).
- **Cutout Support:** Ensure cutouts are fully supported around all edges.
- **Optional Underlay:** For added support, use full-width self-supporting underlay made of 18mm thick moisture-resistant MDF or marine plywood.

13. Installing the Benchtop

Pre-Installation Inspection of Kitchen Cabinets

1.Verify Cabinet Stability:

Ensure that both the front and rear legs of the cabinets are robust and firmly in contact with the floor. This is crucial for maintaining stability.

2.Reinforce the Slab:

To minimize the risk of breakage during installation, consider using specialized support accessories to reinforce the slab.

3.Check the Base:

Confirm that the base supporting the benchtop is completely flat, level, sturdy, and stable. This ensures long-term support for the benchtop.

Handling and Installation

- **Transporting the Slab:**

When on-site, handle the slab vertically with the cutouts positioned at the top to prevent damage.

- **Positioning the Slab:**

Carefully lean the slab against the side of the cabinet and slide it into its final position, ensuring it is well-supported by the cabinets.

- **Securing the Surface:**

Secure the benchtop to the cabinets using silicone at multiple points. This will provide a stable and secure attachment.

Important Note

- **Avoiding Cracks:**

Be aware that any cracks resulting from uneven support or cabinet settling are not considered product defects.

INCORRECT

CORRECT

14. Care & Maintenance of YDL Stone (Crystalline Silica-Free Surface)

YDL Stone is designed to offer high performance with very little maintenance to keep the surface looking like new. For every day, routine cleaning of YDL Stone we recommend wiping your bench top with warm soapy water (a pH neutral household liquid detergent, or a mild detergent) and a damp cloth. As YDL Stone is non-porous product, it will keep its glossy and smooth surface without polishing and it never needs sealing or waxing. YDL Stone does not recommend attempting to polish the surface on your own and avoid prolonged rubbing in one spot when cleaning. Rinse well with water. Do not use bleach or gumption on or near a YDL Stone surface.

The Three Ways to Clean Your YDL Stone Surface

- Light Cleaning: Wipe the surface with warm, soapy water using a pH-neutral liquid detergent and a clean, damp cloth.
- Handling Marks and Spills: Use YDL Stone Cleaner or a similar product.
- Removing Stubborn Stains: Apply a specialized stone cleanser like Stonefoam. Purchase it here. https://www.itc.net.au/products/our-brands/stonefoam.html

Express your interest with YDL Stone

We'd like to hear from you. For more product information or to request a product sample,please visit our website. **ydlstone.com.au**

Food & Catering Preparation

YDL Stone always recommend cutting your food on an appropriate chopping board and never directly on the YDL Stone surface to avoid damaging kitchen knives or the surface of your bench top.

How Tough?

YDL Stone can be permanently damaged by exposure to strong chemical reactions and excessive weight. Avoid excessive weight being placed on your bench top, such as trades people standing on the bench top while doing other work. Avoid exposure to products with high alkaline/pH levels such as oven cleaner, paint strippers, paint removers, bleach and nail polish remover, Rinse imme-diately with clean water to neutralize the effect and then follow usual cleaning procedure.

For Interior Applications Only

YDL Stone should not be used outdoors. YDL Stone 10 Year Limited Warranty does not cover exterior applications (where exposure to direct sunlight may result in a discoloration and it is therefore recommended that exposure to direct sunlight is limited).

Heat Resistance

Although YDL Stone has high heat resistance to tolerate brief exposures to moderately hot temperatures, excessive prolonged direct contact with, or radiated heat may result in damage or discoloration to your YDL Stone due to thermal shock. We do not recommend placing any hot kitchen wares (hot oven trays, pans, hot pots, electric frying pans, air fryers etc.) directly from the hotplate or out of the oven onto the surface of YDL Stone. We always recommend the use of a hot pad or trivet to place hot items on.

OUR LOCATIONS

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