

# Roper Rhodes

## Strata Worktops

### Fitting & Aftercare Instructions



Please read carefully through the following instructions before attempting to install the worktop. This leaflet contains aftercare instructions which must be made available to the end user.

Strata bathroom surfaces have all the practicality of hardwood in that, commonly used woodworking tools can be used with Strata solid surface. While the Strata solid surface is harder than wood and laminate, it does not require specialist tools.

## DIY FITTING

### **SEMI RECESSED BOWL CUT OUTS**

Use a good quality jig saw blade or router with a new/sharp tungsten/hard point tipped blade. Use masking tape to prevent scratching/markings on the surface in conjunction with the bowl template. Make 2 cuts, ALWAYS cutting INTO the front edge profile until you are half way round, then repeat from the other side, again cutting into the profile edge.

Do not force the cutting process, apply a slow, even, constant pressure to the cutting tool, let the cutting tool slowly lead the cut.

**NOTE – ALWAYS SUPPORT THE OFF CUT TO STOP IT BREAKING AWAY AS YOU NEAR THE COMPLETION OF THE CUT OUT**

To obtain a smooth finish around the cut out, finish using a 200 grit sand paper. A thin bead of silicon may be applied around the bowl on completion to prevent water seeping through and into the base unit. Water will not affect the Strata surface as it is a solid acrylic based material all the way through and is completely impervious to water ingress.

### **BOWL CUT OUTS AND TAP HOLES**

#### **BOWL CUT OUTS:**

1. Router method – router the bowl template to create a jig, drill the starting point hole, router out using 2 passes, first router cut out to 12mm deep, then complete the cut out with the second pass.
2. Using jig saw method – mark the bowl template to the surface, drill the starting hole and slowly start the cut out, do not force the cut, let the cutting tool lead the cut

**TAP HOLES –** Drill with a flat drill bit, or a hole cutter drill bit

**NOTE – ALWAYS SUPPORT THE OFF CUT TO STOP IT BREAKING AWAY AS YOU NEAR THE COMPLETION OF THE CUT OUT**

### **STRAIGHT CUT / FINISHED ENDS**

Use a good quality circular saw / jig saw blade / router. ALWAYS cut INTO the profile edge.

**DO NOT CUT OUT THROUGH THE PROFILE, OR CHIPPING/BREAKOUT MAY OCCUR. ALWAYS CUT INTO THE FRONT PROFILE EDGE.**

**STRAIGHT CUT FOR A JOINT -** Clamp a straight edge guide to the surface to help keep the cut straight. Do not force the cutting process, apply a low constant, even pressure to the router, and let the router lead the cut, INTO THE FRONT EDGE. With a sharp tool apply a series of scratches to key the edge ready for jointing, being careful not to damage the clean cut straight top edge. Clean the edge with water and allow to dry.

**FINISHED/SHOW END -** Do not force the cutting process, apply a slow constant, even pressure to the router, and let the router lead the cut, INTO THE FRONT EDGE. Router or sand a 3mm top and bottom radius to the show end (to match the front edge top and bottom radius). Start the sanding process with 150 grit, then 220 grit, then a 320 grit, finish off the sanding process with a 500 grit soft finishing pad, restore to the original finish by applying T-cut (or other similar product) and buff with a clean dry cloth.

## **FITTING THE TOP TO THE UNITS AND JOINTING THEM**

**ALL MATERIAL SHOULD BE GIVEN TIME TO MEET ROOM TEMPERATURE PRIOR TO INSTALLATION ( 24 HOURS ). THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR ADHESIVES/SILICONES AS ENVIRONMENTAL TEMPERATURE AFFECTS THE CURING TIME FOR THE ADHESIVE AND ROOM TEMPERATURE ALLOWS FOR CONSISTENT PERFORMANCE.**

**JOINTING** – All straight joints must be straight cut to the above instructions

**Please note when fitting to units; leave a 1mm per metre gap at each end of the surface to allow for expansion when butting up to walls or units.**

**Apply dabs of silicone to the base unit and place the first Strata top onto the base unit and press into place, then manoeuvre into required position.**

**Apply matching silicone to the joint edge of the first Strata piece.**

**Silicone the second Strata piece into place and push up to the first Strata piece, achieving squeeze out of the silicone over all the length of the joint, the more you squeeze out the better the joint will be, wipe away excess silicone, ideally, clamp over the joint to the base unit and leave till completely dry.**

**When the installation has been completed, thoroughly clean the surface and finish with a solid surface cleaner and a clean lint free cloth U and L shaped joints are achieved using the same process, but because you are jointing a straight clean cut edge to a 3mm radius front edge, the joint will be more visible.**

**ALL CUTS, SCRATCHES AND CHIPS CAN BE REPAIRED BY SANDING THE AFFECTED AREAS BY HAND USING THE SAME GRIT PAPERS AS DESCRIBED ABOVE (150, 220, 320, 500). THEN POLISH USING T-CUT (OR OTHER SIMILAR POLISHING PRODUCTS) WITH A CLEAN DRY CLOTH AND FINISH USING 'COUNTERTOP MAGIC.'**

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**Always use a good quality dust mask and eye protection when sanding and cutting your Strata bathroom surface.**

## **CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

**Strata work surfaces are easy to clean and maintain. By following the simple care instructions, the beauty of your worktops can be preserved and your bathroom will retain that 'just installed' look throughout its life.**

**ROUTINE CLEANING** - Wiping your Strata surface with a damp cloth and then buffing with a dry cloth, will keep your surface in pristine condition.

**CARE AND MAINTENANCE** - Avoid exposing Strata surface to strong chemicals such as nail varnish remover, paint removers etc. These should be removed immediately. Any residue and spills from, shampoo, toothpaste, mouthwash etc, should be cleaned immediately with soapy water to ensure no staining occurs, however these stains can easily be removed by applying Strata finishing compound with a clean dry cloth, then buffing with Strata wax free polish with a clean dry cloth. If this fails to remove the stain, the Day to Day scratches and refinishing process will have to be used. Always avoid sliding hard/sharp objects (cups, bottles etc) across the surface as these will result in scratches, but again, these can easily be removed by the Day to Day scratches and refinishing process.

**IMPORTANT: STRATA IS A MAN MADE ACRYLIC AND POLYESTER SURFACE AND WILL SHOW SCRATCHES, IN PARTICULAR A DARK COLOUR SURFACE WILL SHOW SCRATCHES MORE EASILY, BUT ALL SCRATCHES CAN BE SANDED BACK TO THE ORIGINAL FINISH**

**SCRATCHES AND REFINISHING** - Day to day scratches and marks can easily be sanded and buffed out.

**LIGHT SCRATCHES** - Using the Velcro sanding block, attach the 320 grit sandpaper and repeat the process with the 500 grit finishing pad. On all the sanding processes apply with a light smooth circular motion, do not force the action, do not dig in. Wipe clean with a clean damp cloth and allow to dry. Restore to the original finish by applying Strata finishing compound and buffing clean with a dry polishing cloth. Finally apply Strata wax free polish and buff with a clean dry cloth to finish.

**DEEPER SCRATCHES** - Using the Velcro sanding block, attach the 240 grit sandpaper and repeat the process with the 320 grit, completing the sanding with the 500 grit finishing pad, on all the sanding processes apply with a light smooth circular motion, do not force the action, do not dig in. Wipe clean with a clean damp cloth, and allow to dry. Restore to the original finish by applying Strata finishing compound and buffing clean with a dry polishing cloth. Finally apply Strata wax free polish and buff with a clean dry cloth to finish.

**MORE SERIOUS DAMAGES** - As a result of the inherent qualities of solid surface material Strata surfaces are capable of being repaired. This means that the surface can be returned to its original condition even after suffering severe impact, heat or chemical damage. Please contact your Strata supplier for professional advice on the best course of action for the more serious repairs.

# PRO FITTING

## **SEMI RECESSED BOWL CUT OUTS**

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**NOTE – ALWAYS SUPPORT THE OFF CUT TO STOP IT BREAKING AWAY AS YOU NEAR THE COMPLETION OF THE CUT OUT**

To obtain a smooth finish around the cut out, finish using a 200 grit sand paper. A thin bead of silicon may be applied around the bowl on completion to prevent water seeping through and into the base unit. Water will not affect the Strata surface as it is a solid acrylic based material all the way through and is completely impervious to water ingress.

## **BOWL CUT OUTS AND TAP HOLES**

**BOWL CUT OUTS** – Use the bowl template to create a jig, drill the starting point hole, router out using 2 passes, 1st router cut out to 12mm deep, then complete the cut out with the 2nd pass.

**TAP HOLES** – Drill out using a flat drill bit or hole cutter.

**NOTE – ALWAYS SUPPORT THE OFF CUT TO STOP IT BREAKING AWAY AS YOU NEAR THE COMPLETION OF THE CUT OUT**

## **STRAIGHT CUT / FINISHED ENDS**

Use a good quality circular saw / jig saw blade / router. ALWAYS cut INTO the profile edge.

**DO NOT CUT OUT THROUGH THE PROFILE, OR CHIPPING/BREAKOUT MAY OCCUR. ALWAYS CUT INTO THE FRONT PROFILE EDGE.**

**STRAIGHT CUT FOR A JOINT** - Clamp a straight edge guide to the surface to help keep the cut straight. Do not force the cutting process, apply a low constant, even pressure to the router, and let the router lead the cut, INTO THE FRONT EDGE. With a sharp tool apply a series of scratches to key the edge ready for jointing, being careful not to damage the clean cut straight top edge. Clean the edge with Isopropyl Alcohol or similar, and allow to dry.

**FINISHED/SHOW END** - Do not force the cutting process, apply a slow constant, even pressure to the router, and let the router lead the cut, INTO THE FRONT EDGE. Router or sand a 3mm top and bottom radius to the show end (to match the front edge top and bottom radius). Start the sanding process with 150 grit, then 220 grit, then a 320 grit, finish off the sanding process with a 500 grit soft finishing pad, restore to the original finish by applying T-cut (or other similar product) and buff with a clean dry cloth.

## **PROFILE EDGES**

Because the Strata surface is made from a solid modified acrylic, you can give it a unique look by routing a different profile edge, this is very simple, but you must have a 1.75kw power router with a 12.7mm collet and carbide tipped cutters.

**FITTING THE TOP TO THE UNITS AND PRO JOINTING THEM** - When fitting to units apply dabs of silicone to the base unit and place the Strata top into the base unit and press into place. When fitting to units please note, leave a 1mm per metre gap at each end of the surface to allow for expansion when butting up to walls or units.

**ALL MATERIAL SHOULD BE GIVEN TIME TO MEET ROOM TEMPERATURE PRIOR TO INSTALLATION ( 24 HOURS ). THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR ADHESIVES/SILICONES AS ENVIRONMENTAL TEMPERATURE AFFECTS THE CURING TIME FOR THE ADHESIVE AND ROOM TEMPERATURE ALLOWS FOR CONSISTENT PERFORMANCE.**

**PRO JOINTING – All straight joints must be straight cut to the above instructions**

To Pro Joint straight, L and U shaped bathroom solutions you must have:

- Random Orbital sander (minimum speed 10,000 rpm with dust extraction)
- A router with a minimum 1.75kw ( a 2.2kw ideally) power with 12.7mm collet and carbide tipped router cutters
- Jointing bolts
- Jointing biscuits can be used but not crucial
- Spring, 3 way and G – clamps
- Colour matched adhesive cartridge
- Relevant sanding discs and polishing pads

Joint the Strata surfaces using standard butt and mitre bolts (biscuits can also be used, but not crucial), making sure both edges have been keyed, see above). Apply masking tape to both surfaces that are to be jointed, the smaller gap you leave for adhesive squeeze out the better for sanding and cleaning later.

Apply the colour matched adhesives, do not over fill the joint with adhesive, too much adhesive will hinder the joint finishing process and leave a visible line.

Tighten the bolts to bring together the two surfaces. **DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN.**

Wipe away excess adhesive, and leave for 90 minutes until fully cured.

Remove masking tape and start the sanding process:

The Random Orbital sander is used horizontally, then a vertically straight action and not in a circular motion, do not apply too much pressure or sand for too long a period (this could cause heat build up, leaving dull patches).

Keep the pace of the sanding slow and even to ensure a uniform finish.

Use good extraction to keep dust from the surface, and frequently check that sanding pads do not have a build up of dust on them as this will hinder consistent performance.

1. Start the joint sanding process with a 150 grit
2. 220 grit
3. 320 grit
4. 500 grit soft finishing pad
5. To help with the blending process apply the Strata polishing compound with a clean dry cloth
6. Complete the process by polishing with the T-cut (or other similar product) using a dry soft cloth

**SANDING -** Keep the sanding process as narrow as possible to either side of the joint blending in with the rest of the top. It may be necessary to sand the whole top with a 500 grit finishing pad.

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## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Always use a good quality dust mask and eye protection when sanding and cutting your Strata bathroom surface.