

DURCON EPOXY MATERIAL GUIDE

DURCON

A WILSONART COMPANY

EPOXY WORKSURFACES & SINKS INSTALLATION GUIDE

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION & PREP	3
TOOLS & HELPFUL ITEMS [LIST]	3
DRY-CHECKING	4
MIXING ADHESIVE	4
WORKSURFACE INSTALLATION	5
FILLING SEAMS	5
CURB INSTALLATION	6
SINK INSTALLATION	6
DROPIN SINKS	7
CUPSINKS	7
UNDERMOUNT SINKS	7
EPOXY SINK OUTLETS	8
POLYPROPYLENE SINK OUTLETS	8
CARE & MAINTENANCE	9
REGULAR MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES	9
RECOMMENDED CLEANERS [LIST]	9
WORKSURFACE CARE	9
EPOXY SINK CARE	10
MARRING	10
SCRATCHING	10
STAINED SURFACES	11
SPECIAL CASE ISSUES	11

EPOXY WORKSURFACES & SINKS INSTALLATION GUIDE

INTRODUCTION & PREP

This manual provides instruction on general installation, as well as common care & maintenance. For more detailed instruction on specific aspects of the installation process, we encourage a visit online to Durcon's YouTube page to view our library of informative "How-to" video guides.

Once the tops have reached the job site, handle them with great care. If a top is received scratched or damaged, do not install it and contact the vendor immediately.

It is best practice to install epoxy worktops in the final stages of construction, and cover with a cloth for protection. This reduces the risk of damage by tradesmen, who have been known to use tops as workbenches or scaffolding. Be sure to store all worksurfaces flat and protected, do not lean against the wall as they may warp.



Before beginning, you will want to have the following items on-hand and ready in order to make your installation go as smoothly as possible.

- Safety glasses
- Putty knives
- Level
- Multiple C-clamps
- 2 inch wide masking tape
- 2-part (A & B) epoxy adhesive (other sealants such as lab grade silicone are acceptable)
- Multiple applicator sticks
- Lacquer thinner
- Several pieces of hardwood blocking
- Tapered shims made of wood or similar material
- Several pieces of cardboard in varying sizes
- 2 or 3 pieces of lumber, at least 1.5x the width of the cabinet
- Scotchbrite® Light Duty white finishing pads
- Distilled water
- Several clean rags
- Shop drawings or truck drawings

EPOXY WORKSURFACES & SINKS INSTALLATION GUIDE

To avoid problems later in the installation, take the time to check all cabinet runs to ensure they are level.

Dry-checking the worksurfaces, curbs and sinks

Study the worksurface layout included with the shipment and properly place all the pieces. Each piece is labeled to correspond with the layout.

Caution: Epoxy resin worksurfaces are heavy. Always have assistance and use proper lifting techniques when moving worksurfaces.

Place the worksurface pieces on the cabinets and slide them into place. Be cautious to prevent anything abrasive from coming into contact with the worksurfaces.

When installing worksurfaces with undermount sinks, line the sinks up below the proper cutouts with an even overhang on all sides.

Put the curbs in place and ensure they are the correct length.

After you have checked the cabinets and inspected the pieces, you are ready to begin installing.

Note: In the case of damaged, malformed or missing pieces, please notify Durcon immediately. Inspect each section of the worktop before applying adhesive. Durcon will not be responsible for removal of adhered defective tops.

Mixing epoxy adhesive

Two-part epoxy adhesive is the most important material used in installing epoxy resin worksurfaces, and properly mixing it together is a critical step.

Always use a separate stick to scoop each part of the epoxy adhesive, and use the same stick each time to avoid contaminating the unused portion.

Mix only what you need for the number of pieces at hand, using a clean piece of cardboard.

Begin with the dark pigment epoxy and mix the white material in thoroughly.

Spread the mixed epoxy adhesive in a layer about 0.25" thick on the cardboard to prevent it from generating its own heat and drying too quickly.

EPOXY WORKSURFACES & SINKS INSTALLATION GUIDE

WORKSURFACE INSTALLATION

Set the worksurfaces - with two worksurface pieces, form a completely flat surface using a straight edge or level. Use shims to adjust the height of either piece if necessary.

Lift and prop up the first two pieces.

Place small dabs of epoxy adhesive in intervals every 24" [610 mm] along the front and back edges of the cabinet top below the first worksurface piece. Then remove the wood prop and lower the worksurface into place.

Put a few dabs of epoxy adhesive along the lower edge of the first worksurface piece where the next worksurface piece will abut.

Repeat the above steps for the second worksurface piece and carefully lower it into place leaving a 0.125" [3 mm] to 0.0625" [1.5 mm] seam between pieces.

Repeat this process for the remaining worksurface pieces in each run.

Filling Seams

Apply a length of 2" [50 mm] wide masking tape to each side of the seam directly on the edge of the joint.

Using a putty knife, press the epoxy adhesive down and into the seam. Using too much adhesive is better than not using enough.

Beginning at the back of the worksurface, drag the putty knife toward you, holding it at a 45° angle.

Scrape the excess epoxy adhesive off the masking tape approximately 0.0625" [1.5 mm] from the center of the seam on both sides.

Drag a clean putty knife across the masking tape one more time and then remove the tape.

Use lacquer thinner on a clean rag to smooth out the epoxy adhesive for finished seams.

Use a separate clean (damp or dry) rag to wipe away any excess adhesive, and allow adhesive to harden overnight (at +77°F).

Note: Never attempt to sand seams or scratches.

EPOXY WORKSURFACES & SINKS INSTALLATION GUIDE

Curb Installation

Cover the worksurfaces with cardboard to protect the top surfaces from scratching. Place the curbs upside down on the cardboard.

Fill a putty knife with epoxy adhesive and use a smooth stroking motion to run a bead along the bottom of the curb and along the edge that abuts another curb.

Set the curbs in their proper location and press in place. If you have uneven walls you will need to shim the curbs to have an even front. If you have a bow in the wall you can eliminate the problem with a prop and clamp.

Wipe off excess epoxy adhesive at the bottom of the curbs with a rag dipped in lacquer thinner:

To ensure worksurfaces and curbs are secured in place, block and clamp the seams and allow the adhesive to harden overnight (at 77°F).

SINK INSTALLATION

Durcon DropIn® Sinks

Using a rag dipped in lacquer thinner, clean the rim of the Durcon DropIn Sink and area around and inside the rabbeted worksurface cutout.

Lower the sink into the cutout and inspect the fit.

Remove the sink and apply epoxy adhesive around the surface of the rabbeted cutout.

Carefully lower the sink back into the cutout.

Gently press the sink rim until it is level with the bottom of the 0.125" [3 mm] cutout bevel.

Use a rag dipped in lacquer thinner or distilled water to wipe away excess adhesive, and allow epoxy adhesive to harden overnight (at 77°F).

After the dabs of epoxy adhesive harden, fill the seam with epoxy adhesive.

Using a rag dipped in lacquer thinner or distilled water, smooth off the seam. Seams should be 0.06" to 0.12".

EPOXY WORKSURFACES & SINKS INSTALLATION GUIDE

Use a new, clean rag (damp or dry) to wipe away excess adhesive, and allow epoxy adhesive to harden overnight (at 77°F).

Cupsinks

Clean the rim of the Durcon Cupsink and the area around and inside the worksurface or fume hood base cutout with lacquer thinner.

Note: If installing Durcon Polypropylene Cupsinks, scuff the contact surfaces under the sink rim to increase adhesion.

Position the blocking mechanism used to hold the cupsink in place.

Note: Create a blocking mechanism by using wire to connect a large wood block and a smaller wood block through cupsink outlet. Twist smaller block to achieve enough tension to hold cupsink level with worksurface top when in place.

Apply a dab of epoxy adhesive on all four sides of cutout in worksurface.

Position cupsink directly over the worksurface cutout and lower into position.

Center the sink (the blocks will hold it level) and allow the epoxy adhesive to harden overnight (at +77°F).

After the epoxy adhesive has hardened, remove support blocks and carefully fill in the sealant seam with adhesive.

Using a rag dipped in lacquer thinner or distilled water, smooth off the seam. Use a clean rag (damp or dry) to wipe away any excess adhesive. Allow epoxy adhesive to harden overnight (at 77°F).

Undermount Sinks

Note: Check to see that the sink fits properly on sink supports provided by your cabinet supplier. Durcon does not provide sink supports.

Using a level, check to ensure top of undermount sink is flush with top edge of cabinet, and adjust sink supports if necessary from under the sink.

After sink is positioned, be careful not to move it as you set the worksurface.

Wipe rim of sink and contact points on the bottom of worksurface with a rag dipped in lacquer thinner or distilled water.

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Apply a small bead of silicone sealant to the top edge of sink.

Apply a dab of epoxy adhesive at each corner of sink cabinet.

Place a bead of silicone under the inside of the sink cutout and the sink.

Carefully lower sink worksurface into place.

Follow steps outlined on pages 2 and 3 for installing worksurfaces, filling the seams and installing curbs.

Epoxy Sink Outlets

Clean both the outlet and recessed hole in the sink with lacquer thinner.

Apply silicone or epoxy adhesive to the outlet in a 1/4" [6 mm] bead around bottom edge.

Insert outlet directly into recessed hole in the sink.

Give outlet a 1/4 turn after contact is made.

Be sure the outlet is centered in the hole.

From under the sink, thread retaining nut all the way up and hand tighten until upper outlet flange is flush with sink basin.

Note: Do not use tools or over-tighten the plastic retaining nut.

-Wipe off the excess epoxy adhesive in the sink. Using a rag dipped in lacquer thinner or distilled water, smooth out the edges of the sealant seam.

Clean excess sealant with a clean rag (wet or dry).

Polypropylene sink outlet

Scuff the contact surfaces under the outlet flange to increase adhesion.

Follow the procedure shown above using silicone or epoxy resin adhesive.

EPOXY WORKSURFACES & SINKS INSTALLATION GUIDE

CARE & MAINTENANCE FOR EPOXY WORKSURFACES

Epoxy Resin worksurfaces are durable, non-porous, manufactured stone products that are relatively unaffected by most chemicals, heat, flame and moisture. These super-tough surfaces' physical properties are rarely compromised.

However, they do require periodic care and maintenance throughout the life of the lab or schoolroom to keep the surfaces looking like new. Whether you are a facility owner, manager, custodian or lab user, it is helpful to know how to maintain the good appearance of your lab's worksurfaces.

Regular Maintenance Procedures

Durcon recommends instituting a regimen of monthly or quarterly inspections for all surfaces, sinks and joints. Plus, daily or weekly cleanings maintain the epoxy resin's original finish and help ensure a safe, uncontaminated working environment. The following list contains items to have on-hand for regular cleanings, and to handle most problems that may arise.

- Acetone or Paint Thinner
- Crystal Simple Green®
- White Scotch Brite® Pads (always use moist or wet)
- Finish Oil (Mineral Oil)
- Murphy's Oil
- Clean Rags or Sponges
- Chamois Cloth
- Mild Soap or Household Cleaner
- Two-part Smooth-On® Epoxy Grout

Note: Never use wax, or polish containing wax, on epoxy resin worksurfaces or sinks. Never use abrasive pads, powders or liquids (such as Soft Scrub), as this will dull the surface.

Worksurface Care

Promptly wipe up all spills. Acetone is best (where allowed) to thoroughly clean surfaces. Apply and wipe away with a paper towel or a clean rag. As an alternative, Crystal Simple Green® (or comparable household cleaning product) will also work.

EPOXY WORKSURFACES & SINKS INSTALLATION GUIDE

An occasional application of finish oil or Murphy's Oil® can restore the luster to a surface, but keep in mind too much oil will cloud the surface.

- Apply small amount of oil to a clean rag.
- Thoroughly rub oil in using a circular motion.
- Wipe away excess oil with a clean rag.
- A chamois can also be used to buff the surface to its desired sheen.

Epoxy Sink Care

Laboratory sink areas usually present the greatest cleaning and maintenance challenges. Sinks are a collection point for dirty and wet lab ware that leaves liquids, residue and chemicals on the surface for extended periods. Sink areas will require a more thorough cleaning regimen than dry bench tops as well as more frequent inspections. Sink inspections should include all sink surfaces and joints in sink the area including the outlet joint and the sink rim joint above and below the worksurface. Cracked or pitted joints should be filled immediately with two-part Smooth-On® epoxy grout to prevent leaking and damage to the supporting. If there is a more serious cleaning issue it is important to identify the problem before trying to remedy it.

Marring

Most metals are softer than the worksurface and can leave a mar if pulled across the top. Marring is matter left on the surface that appears as a line and remains smooth to the touch. Marring can almost always be removed with acetone or with mild cleaning products and elbow grease.

Always try the softest cloth and the weakest solution (soap and water) first.

If marring persists, progress to a white Light Duty Scotchbrite® Pad moistened with stronger solutions. Never use a dry Scotchbrite pad or a more abrasive pad and always apply the minimum amount of pressure required on the surface to remove the mar.

Scratching

Harder metals, abrasives and heavy or sharp items can dig into the surface resulting in a scratch. Scratches usually appear as a lighter shade of the surface and are rough to the touch. While scratches in epoxy resin are permanent, they do not affect worksurface performance.

An aesthetic remedy for scratches is coloring in the void with a permanent marker. This option will never perfectly match the color and gloss of the surrounding surface.

EPOXY WORKSURFACES & SINKS INSTALLATION GUIDE

Stained Surfaces

Staining is caused by chemicals left to dry on a surface.

Chemical stains usually lighten or bleach the surface, but can also roughen and even crack the top. Like scratches, chemical stains are permanent and, if they have caused too much damage, you may need to replace of the top.

Special Case Issues

Epoxy resin products (especially glued in sinks) are subject to thermal shock and are not warranted against damage from liquid nitrogen or dry ice. Possible effects caused by the improper disposal of these materials include joint failure and/or sink fractures.

By following these simple guidelines your Durcon laboratory worksurfaces will look good for the life of the lab. Please take time to share this document with your lab workers and cleaning personnel and institute a maintenance program to help ensure the safety and beauty of your lab.

If you have further questions, contact our customer service department at 512-595-8000 or send an email to sales@durcon.com.

The image features a black and white grid background. On the right side, there are large, bold, black letters 'UR' stacked vertically. The letters are stylized with rounded corners and a thick, uniform stroke. The 'U' is positioned above the 'R'.

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