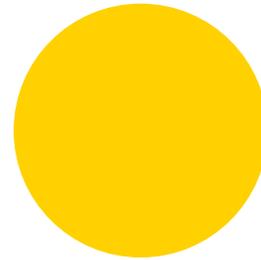


IMPROVEMENT CENTER



Vanity Top Installation Guide

Bathroom vanity tops: DIY installation tips

The type of vanity top you choose can determine whether installation is a DIY-friendly project. While granite and marble tops often require an expert's touch, a cultured marble top with built-in bowls can be installed by just about any homeowner. This guide takes you through the process that should only take about an hour.



Tools needed for the project

Installing a cultured marble vanity top requires very few tools and materials. It can often be done with just the following:

- Hammer
- Shims
- Portable jigsaw
- Clear silicone construction adhesive
- Level

A caulking gun for dispensing the adhesive can make the task much easier. The shims and adhesive can usually be purchased at a home improvement store, and the total cost should be less than \$20.

Tackling the project

Cultured marble tops are normally shipped in protective cardboard boxes. Unpack your top carefully and perform a thorough inspection to ensure the top is undamaged. It's not out of the ordinary to discover that a top has been cracked

or chipped during the shipping process. If everything seems okay, double check that the color and dimensions are also correct. You're now ready to move on to the installation:

Vanity cabinet prep

- Hold the top over the vanity cabinet and check to see if there are any obstructions that may interfere with the bowl sitting down into the designed opening. Many cabinet manufacturers install shipping braces in the top of their vanity sink bases that must be notched or removed before the top can be set in place. Mark any modifications that are needed and put the top aside.
- Tops that are 25 or 31 inches wide can normally be handled by one person. However, if your top is 37 inches or larger, using a helper can make it easier on your back and reduce the chance of damage to the top or cabinet.
- Use the jigsaw to trim or remove the cabinet braces as needed. Note the location of the power cord and your fingers before pulling the saw trigger.



Tackling the project – cont'd

Adjustments

- Set the vanity top in place on the cabinet and push it tight against the rear and any side walls if applicable. Proper placement at the rear wall is more important than any side wall gaps, because those can normally be covered with vanity side splashes.
- Use your level to check the top's alignment from front to back and side to side. Don't assume that if the cabinet is level the top will be, too. Cultured marble tops are made in molds that allow deviations in the bottom surface -- very few tops are completely level when first set in place.
- Gently tap shims into place as needed between the top and cabinet to adjust level and account for variations in the top's bottom surface.
- Remove the top, taking care that the shims remain in place on the cabinet.



Final installation

- Secure the shims with construction adhesive or by using a small finish nail, being careful to avoid puncturing the cabinet face.
- Place a bead of construction adhesive around the top edge of the vanity cabinet box. Use just enough so that it does not ooze out onto the cabinet face when the top is installed.
- Set the top in place. Ensure it's tight against the rear wall; small gaps can be taken care of with painter's caulk.
- Follow manufacturer recommendations, but in most cases the adhesive should be allowed to dry for about 24 hours before hooking up any plumbing.

While individual situations may vary slightly, these instructions should allow you to install just about any cultured marble vanity top.