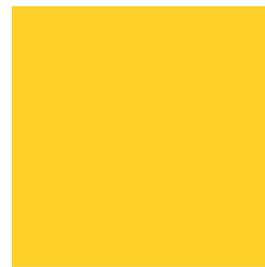
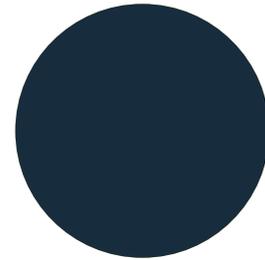


# IMPROVEMENT CENTER



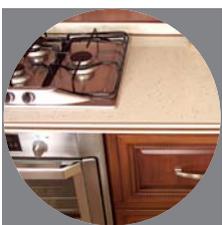
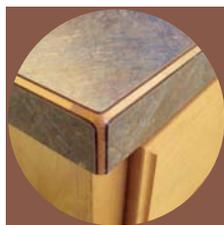
## Kitchen Countertop Installation Guide

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Countertop installation varies based on the materials you use and the shape of your kitchen. This guide goes over how to install custom laminate countertops into a kitchen that has one inside corner.

### Tools You'll Need

- Drill and bit set
- Tape measure
- Jigsaw and handsaw
- Caulk gun and caulk
- Screwdriver
- Dust mask and safety glasses
- Level
- Build-up strips or scrap lumber and shims



### 1. Before You Begin

- Measure your kitchen carefully and talk with your supplier to be sure you're offering the proper measurements.
- Your manufacturer can fabricate your countertop however you'd like for easy handling.
- If you don't want to bother with the hassle of fitting difficult edges, you can have them preassemble some pieces, though you'll need a way to transport them home.
- Support the countertop above the cabinets with build-up strips. These can easily be made from scrap lumber. Install the strips under the sink's backsplash and on each side of the base cabinet.

### Cost

Custom laminate countertops cost about \$30-\$40 per linear foot. Build-up strips should come with the counter, or you can make them from scrap lumber.



## 2. Keep Things Level

- Carefully lift the countertop into place, check that your lower cabinets are level and shim open spots where necessary.
- Replace the screws in your mounting brackets. Drilling pilot holes for your screws and jigsaw blade can be a big help, but be sure not to cut through to the surface for pilot holes for screws.
- Measure your sink and mark its location, then use a jigsaw with a medium-cut blade to cut the hole from the bottom of the countertop.

### Cost

Jigsaws cost between \$40-\$180. Shims cost between \$3-\$10 for a full set.



## 3. Trim & Caulk

- Insert the sink and reconnect the water and drain lines.
- If the hole for the sink doesn't quite match, do a bit of trimming with the handsaw. Use the caulk gun to apply caulk where the countertop or backsplash meets the wall.
- Countertops can be glued down with construction adhesive or secured with 1-1/2" steel angles for a tighter grip.
- Finally, install iron-on end caps supplied with custom countertops.

### Cost

Handsaws range from \$6-\$20. Laminate countertop end-caps can cost between \$12 and \$18.