

Engineered Stone Countertop Application Guidelines, Care & Maintenance Instructions

Application Guidelines:

Engineered stone tops made using 2cm engineered stone material are suitable for most applications in a convenience store.

Choose them for:

- The ultimate in upscale, high image counters.
- Numerous available colors and patterns to meet your image requirements.
- A durable surface that is also NSF® * approved and GreenGuard®* certified.
(*CaesarStone only. Other manufacturers may or may not be)

Engineered stone tops are *not* suitable for:

- Outdoor use
- Areas exposed to UV radiation, heat over 300° F, or localized heat (see below)

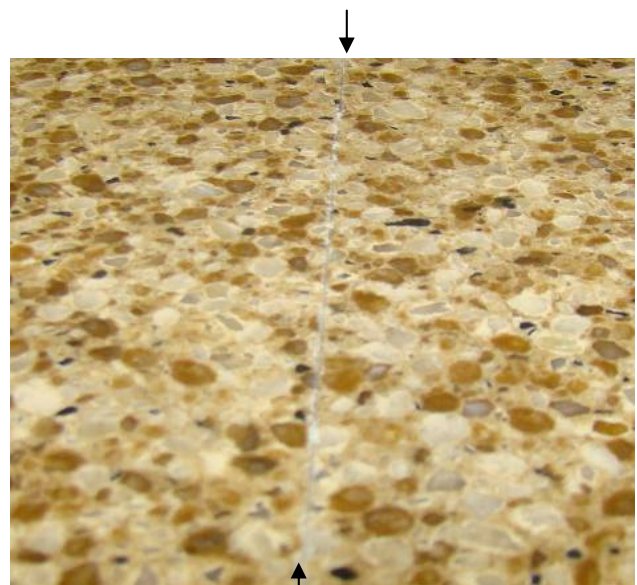
Royston works with CaesarStone® and other fine manufacturers of engineered stone material.

Factory Seams:

Due to material sizes, tops beyond 54" may require factory seaming. Factory seams are performed in controlled conditions to minimize the visibility of seams. Great care is taken to ensure tops are level, flush and that an appropriate color seaming material is used. Please be aware, however, that with engineered stone materials, **seams will NOT be invisible.**



Stone Top with Factory Seam



Close-up of factory seam



Field Seams:

There will be some layouts that require field seams to keep top sizes safe and manageable for handling. A field seam is a flush butt joint that will need to be sealed with silicon adhesive. Great care will need to be taken to ensure the cabinets and tops are completely level (Royston cabinets come standard with levelers) to minimize the visibility of field seams. Field seams will not be invisible, and will be more prominent in appearance than factory seams. Royston will avoid placing any seams where transaction areas are noted on store layout drawings*.

* If there are any other areas that will be featured and should not have seams, you must discuss this with your Royston customer service team before your project is quoted.

Colors:

Engineered stone tops are comprised of natural materials, various resins and pigments. As such, all colors are subject to variations in shade and particulate structure and there may be identifiable variations in separate batch lots. Original orders will be processed from a single batch lot*. However, any subsequent or future orders for the same store will likely need to be processed from a newer, different batch lot and an exact color match cannot be guaranteed.

* Countertops in areas that do not adjoin one another may be processed from multiple batch lots at the manufacturer's discretion.

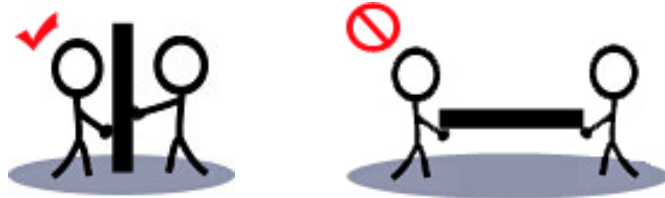
Cautions and Restrictions:

Heat

- Extreme care should be taken around heat and heat producing equipment.
- **It is the purchaser's responsibility to identify high heat areas.**
- Repeated hot/cold cycles can cause discoloration, damage to the surface finish, and may cause hairline cracks to appear.
- Coffee makers, hot doggers, and other heat producing equipment must be on 2"-3" high legs and adequate air movement must be provided to prevent heat from building up under the equipment. Equipment placed directly on the top is a cause of top failure.
- Large volumes of hot liquids poured on the tops can cause damage or cracking. A trivet should be used to ensure the tops are protected from hot liquids or materials, and trivets provide a convenient surface to accept this abuse and can be readily replaced as needed.
- **Usage in heat producing areas without taking the above precautions voids the Royston warranty and the engineered stone manufacturer's material warranty.**
- See the stone material manufacturer's warranty for additional information.

Handling

- Lifting tops will require a minimum of two people, and ***tops should only be handled one at a time***
- Tops should always be carried vertically – never horizontally - to prevent damage.



- Engineered stone tops (2 cm thick) weigh approximately 10 lbs./sq. ft. Therefore, an 8' long by 3' deep countertop weighs roughly 240 lbs.
- Proper safety equipment should be worn at all times.

Installation

- Cabinets should be fully installed, leveled and secure before installing tops
- 1/8" should be allowed at each wall for expansion and contraction
- When affixing top to the cabinetry support surfaces, use only dabs of flexible silicone 8-12" apart.
- Extra silicone must be placed along all joints and cutouts
- Mechanical fasteners (screws, nails, etc) must never be affixed directly onto stone tops

Care and Maintenance:

- With its hard, nonporous surface, engineered stone is an easy material to clean and maintain.
- In many cases, just soap and water or a mild detergent is all you need to clean your stone tops and maintain their original finish.
- If necessary, non-abrasive cleansers can be used. CaesarStone recommends Soft Scrub Liquid Gel with Bleach or Comet Soft Cleanser Cream with Bleach.
- Adhered materials such as food or gum can be gently scraped off with a plastic putty knife; any blade marks can be removed with a non-abrasive cleaner. Thoroughly rinse the surface with clean water to remove any residue.
- Engineered stone does not require sealants or waxes to maintain its finish. However, occasional polishing with Soft Scrub Bleach Gel or Comet Gel will keep the surface looking its best.
- Engineered stone provides you with a low maintenance surface, but as with any product, excessive abuse can harm its finish. With a small amount of care, your engineered stone tops will look as great as the day you bought them for years to come.