

# ULTRACERA

## INSTALLATION GUIDE

Ultracera® is a revolutionary new countertop material made from a unique blend of ceramic and decorative aggregates that provides a high-performance surface while maintaining the look and feel of materials well known in the countertop market. There are only a few noticeable differences that an installer may notice; 1) The raw materials used in Ultracera® are typically harder than those found in quartz and engineered glass/marble materials and 2) Due to slightly higher levels of resin, Ultracera® is typically more flexible than quartz, glass stone, and natural stone. The hardness is within cutting performance limits of diamond blade saws, and the flexibility occasionally requires the use of seam-setters tools with height adjustment capability.

Ultracera® is fabricated and installed using many of the same techniques and tools as other common countertop materials such as natural granite, engineered quartz, cultured marble, and others. No specialty tools are required beyond what is commonly carried by professional countertop installers. Most professional countertop installers will already possess the skills required to successfully install Ultracera® countertops.

### REQUIRED TOOLS

- Dust control PPE – we recommend utilizing wet saws when possible. Fabricators should wear respirators to prevent dust inhalation
- Diamond blade cutting equipment
  - 4.5" Angle Grinder
  - 7" Circular Saw
- Seam Puller(s) – with vertical adjustments for the seam height
- Level
- Adhesives
  - Silicone for sinks and wet areas
  - Granite and Quartz specific construction adhesive to attach to cabinets
  - Two-part (Methacrylate Adhesives) stone and quartz specific adhesive
- Color pigments to match the Ultracera® tops
- Razor blades to remove excess adhesive
- Painters tape
- Ledger boards
- Wooden shims
- Clamps for unusual seaming and sink installation

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### NOTES

Every Ultracera® piece comes with a QR code sticker placed on the backside/underside of the material. This code can be read with your smartphone camera, or by using a QR code reader APP. The reader device must be connected to WiFi or cellular data service. Ultracera® utilizes synthetic raw materials to limit color and pattern variability, but due to manufacturing processes, natural variability can exist between slabs and individual pieces. Because of this, the slab production and fabrication teams label material as part of a set, and it is highly recommended to keep set material together – such as kitchen countertop material that is shipped in multiple pieces and seamed together onsite. For jobs that require multiple slabs or have seams we highly recommend the fabricator conduct a visual inspection of the slabs to confirm color consistency prior to final installation.

### INSTALLATION PRECAUTIONS

- Take extra care to protect the material from damage before, during, and after installation. Ultracera® is a hard surface, but harder metals, knives, or sharp objects can scratch the surface.
- Tops of cabinets (or surface receiving the Ultracera®) must be flat and true to within 1/16" per 12" length prior to installation.
- Allow a minimum clearance of 1/8" between walls and Ultracera®.
- Never insert mechanical fasteners, such as nails and screws, into the Ultracera® material.
- Ultracera® must be supported at least every 30" (larger spans up to 40" are allowable if supported by front or back cabinet carcasses).
- Small grooves should be made on the edges of seams in order to provide space for the adhesive.
- If exposed edges are fabricated onsite, we recommend a minimum of a 1/8" EP bevel. This prevents chipping at the corners.
- Differences in storage temperature, especially cold temperatures can cause slight warping in the material. To remedy slightly warped material lay the Ultracera® flat in a warm setting (or briefly in the sun if necessary).
- Take extra precautions fabricating, cutting, and handling the material in low temperatures, as this can cause cracking. Use of wet saws or other dust control mitigation is required, as with any natural or engineered stone fabrication. Dry cutting can burn the resin and cause discoloration in the finished appearance.

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### INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

#### *Preparation*

After unpacking the Ultracera® pieces and gathering all the tools and materials you need, take some time to prepare the area where you'll be installing the countertops. First, remove any existing countertops or surfaces, so only the cabinets remain. Then use the level to check how the cabinet tops line up. Ensure the cabinets or receiving material meets the level requirement of 1/16" per 12". To achieve a sufficiently level surface across the entire countertop area, add wooden shims as necessary. Finally, paint, stain, or seal the cabinets before installing the countertops and allow the cabinet faces to dry.

#### *Dry Fit Mockup*

Before placing the Ultracera® on the cabinets, carefully measure the receiving cabinets and the Ultracera® pieces to determine if any modifications are necessary. Next, dry fit the countertop by carefully placing the individual pieces on top of the cabinets, right where you plan to install them. Consult the shop drawings or QR codes to determine the intended placement of the material. Movement of Ultracera® pieces typically requires at least 2 workers to handle.

For installations with only a single piece of Ultracera®, make sure it fits neatly in the space without leaving large gaps. If there are multiple pieces of Ultracera® for a more complex countertop, make sure they fit together correctly. Lower the sink into place to ensure it fits properly and doesn't conflict with any cabinets or ledgers.

You can begin the installation process if the Ultracera® pieces fit correctly. If the pieces need any adjustments, however, use painter's tape and a pencil to mark where you need to cut. Then use a circular saw fitted with a diamond blade to make any necessary adjustments.

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### *Installation*

Install the Ultracera® pieces one at a time, usually starting with the section surrounding the sink. To secure the countertops, apply beads of silicone or granite/marble-specific construction adhesive to the tops of the cabinet's underneath. Apply adhesive beads 6 to 12 inches apart to ensure the silicone will hold the counter in place securely.

While the adhesive is still wet, ask a helper or two to assist you with lowering the slab into place. Press the slab gently to ensure it's completely adhered to the cabinets below and repeat the process for each slab.

While the adhesive is still wet, join any necessary seams. The use of a seam setter with height adjustments is required to ensure a smooth seam. Occasionally multiple seam setters are required to ensure the height of each piece closely matches the opposite piece. The use of granite and quartz seam adhesives is recommended, and each manufacturer supplies color additives to blend the adhesive to the Ultracera® color and pattern. Apply sufficient adhesive to completely cover the thickness of the Ultracera® material once the seam is pulled. Take caution to not over tighten the seam with the puller. Make height adjustments with the seam-setter device. After the seam adhesive cures, remove excess CAREFULLY with a razor blade, and avoid scratching the Ultracera® surface.

### **POST INSTALLATION**

Ultracera® is an engineered material that is virtually non-porous, and therefore does not require any special sealing. However, the material can stain if exposed to harsh liquids for extended amounts of time. Keep the countertop free of tools, sharp or hard objects, and clean spills or messes as soon as possible. Keep hot objects away from the countertop material as this can damage the resin and cause discoloration.