

Timber Worktops - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Are timber worktops an appropriate material for a kitchen worktop?

A: Timber worktops have gained an unfair and unjustified reputation with some people as being an inappropriate material for a kitchen worktop.

Some people view them as unstable, high maintenance and liable to be damaged by water.

The reality is that a timber worktop properly constructed and correctly installed will give a lifetime of service with very little maintenance.

Q: Are timber worktops difficult to install?

A: No, timber worktops are relatively easy to install and are very forgiving in that slight damage and breakout can be sanded away.

You will need some basic knowledge of machining timber and you should follow our basic installation instructions carefully using the correct materials.

If you are in any doubt about your installation then you should consult with a joiner or contact MAK Distributors Ltd.

Q: Are timber worktops hygienic?

A: It is always surprising how frequently we are asked this.

Why do you suppose that butchers always use timber blocks for cutting up meat? It has been scientifically proven, for example, that salmonella will be "killed off" by a timber worktop within 48 hrs whilst it will live indefinitely on a worktop made from, granite, laminate or stainless steel.

The fact of the matter is that timber worktops are extremely hygienic!

Q: How long will a timber worktop last for?

A: A timber worktop which has been properly constructed and correctly installed and maintained appropriately will last for a lifetime. Quite literally, it will outlive you!

Q: Are timber worktops really so high maintenance?

A: No! This is a total falsity. After installation, you should oil the worktops perhaps once a month for the 1st 3 months, maybe once more in the next 6 months and then maybe once a year after that.

There are some vagueness in this answer because it varies from species to species and according to use and personal taste. The more you oil your worktop, the more it will take on a beautiful sheen and of course it will become even more water resistant.

Some people who like the beauty of wood look upon the oiling process as a therapeutic pleasure rather than a laborious chore!

Q: Will a timber worktop change colour over time?

A: Yes, all timber will change over a period of time. How quickly it changes, and in what way it changes will vary from species to species and the conditions which it is exposed to.

For example, Iroko will start to darken as soon as it is exposed to light. If you install a worktop and then place your ornaments on it afterwards then go and have a look under these ornaments after a few days.

You will see the lighter patches which have not been exposed to light.

You will need to rectify this by moving the ornaments around for a while until a balance has been reached.

This may take a few months.

Eventually, all worktops take on a beautiful matured look.

Note, this does not mean weathered!

Q: Are timber worktops environmentally sound?

A: This is a big question! The answer depends on where you buy your timber worktop from and what species it is.

Some people will tell you that African species such as Iroko and Wenge are (I quote) "damaging rain forests". All timber worktops supplied are from Beach oak and Walnut forests in Europe and Iroko and Wenge forests in Africa. We guarantee that the source is sustainable. For every tree felled 10 are replanted, hence causing zero environmental impact