

# Installation & maintenance

Thank you for choosing a Bushboard worksurface. We are confident you have made an excellent design choice that will make a real style statement in your home.

The following guide contains useful care & maintenance advice as well as proven installation techniques. Please read and follow the instructions as proper installation and care of the worksurface will help maintain its pristine good looks, whilst giving years of excellent service.

## Quality

Continual investment, combined with a real passion for our business, means we use the latest technologies and manufacturing techniques to keep our products at the forefront of our industry. As a sign of their quality, Bushboard worksurfaces carry the FIRA Gold Award for quality from the Furniture Industry Research Association (Options range pending).

## Environment

All Bushboard worksurfaces are endorsed as environmentally preferred with PEFC certification, guaranteeing that the chipboard used comes from environmentally managed and sustainable sources. In addition, we recycle paper, plastic, cardboard and process waste from our factory to reduce the impact of our business on the environment.

## After Care

### Cleaning

Your Bushboard worksurface is very easy to maintain. For everyday cleaning simply wipe over with your favourite detergent diluted with water. Persistent marks can be removed using a non-abrasive cream cleaner and a gentle circular rubbing action to the affected area. Gloss worksurfaces require a little more care. After cleaning with detergent and water as described above, buff over the surface with a clean, dry soft cloth to maintain its glossy looks. Please never ever use scouring powders or abrasive pads on any worksurface as they can damage the surface.

## Heat

Please take care to protect your worksurface from direct contact with heat. For example, you should never place cooking utensils directly from the oven or hob onto the worksurface. Always use protective mats. Also, please avoid placing electric kettles and deep fat fryers over worksurface joints; certain models can generate excessive heat which may degrade your joint allowing moisture to penetrate.

**Metallic decors:** metallic finishes provide a gorgeous fashion finish, but should be treated with extra care. Due to the reflective nature of the metallic particles, application of heat may result in some movement of the protective overlay. Always use a mat or trivet to protect the surface if your utensil is too hot to handle. Occasionally it may be possible to feel some metallic particles through the clear overlay on the postformed edge. This is normal and will not affect the product in use.

## Scratching

Never cut directly onto any worksurface: a chopping board should always be used to protect the surface from cut marks. Your Bushboard worksurface is remarkably resistant to the every day sliding of crockery and utensils across the worksurface. Glossy and smoother textures require extra care and attention as do very dark decors. Being a highly reflective finish gloss will tend to show scuffs and scratches more readily than more heavily textured finishes. We cannot accept responsibility for scratching.

## Moisture

Bushboard worksurfaces are sealed to protect against water penetration but we advise that you immediately wipe up any water spillages, especially around the front edge and any joints. In addition, take care not to let moisture lie on joints eg from a wet cloth, as this can also lead to water ingress.

## Dishwashers, washing machines, tumble-driers and ovens

Every Bushboard worksurface is supplied factory sealed along the front edge and underside. However, please follow a couple of simple rules to prevent excess moisture causing potential damage to the worksurface and adjacent units. First, make sure any appliance door seals are intact to prevent steam escaping in use. Secondly, don't open your dishwasher until it has cooled down. This prevents steam escaping and condensing on the adjacent units and worksurface.

## Staining

Your Bushboard worksurface is resistant to most common household chemicals or foodstuffs, including alcohol and cosmetics. Some items may cause staining. For good practice, we advise that any spillage is wiped off straight away.

## PVC Aprons

We have found that PVC aprons can cause premature wear to the leading edge of the worksurface. This becomes obvious over a period of time as a shiny area and is most obvious in areas of high use in front of the sink and hob.

## Guarantee

### Omega, Odyssey and Options products Lifetime guarantee

Bushboard Omega, Odyssey and Options worksurfaces are guaranteed for their lifetime. Bushboard will make good by repair and/or replacement (at its discretion) any Omega, Odyssey or Options product of its manufacture which can be shown to have failed by reason of defects in its manufacture, that is subject to fair wear and tear, provided the product has been installed and used in accordance with the manufacturers instructions and that the products are used for their intended purpose/application. Proof of date and place of purchase is required. This guarantee is in addition to your statutory rights as a consumer and does not affect your rights in any way.

### Nuance products 15 year guarantee

Bushboard Nuance worksurfaces are guaranteed for fifteen years. Bushboard will make good, for a period of fifteen years, by repair and/or replacement (at its discretion) any Nuance product of its manufacture which can be shown to have failed by reason of defects in its manufacture, that is subject to fair wear and tear, provided the product has been installed and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and that the products are used for their intended purpose/application. Proof of date and place of purchase is required. This guarantee is in addition to your statutory rights as a consumer and does not affect your rights in any way.



For technical support on Bushboard products, please contact the Customer Support Team on: tel: 01933 232 272 fax: 01933 232 286 email: [help@bushboard.co.uk](mailto:help@bushboard.co.uk) or log onto [www.bushboard.co.uk](http://www.bushboard.co.uk)

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# Installation advice to be read by the installer

Please read carefully before commencing any work. After installation is complete, please ensure this leaflet is handed to the customer for safekeeping as it forms an integral part of Bushboard's product guarantee.

For advice call our Customer Support Team on 01933 232 272 or email us at [help@bushboard.co.uk](mailto:help@bushboard.co.uk)

## Before you start

Please ensure you are satisfied with the product by checking for defects or damage. When installing more than one worksurface in the same kitchen, please also check for compatibility of colour and surface texture as slight variations can occasionally occur.

Problems must always be identified before any work commences. Please contact your supplier immediately who will be happy to deal with any problems before you progress any further with the installation.

## Dimensions and planning

Accurately measure furniture, determining both length and depth using a steel tape measure. Carefully check all angles since rooms are seldom perfectly square. Transfer your new measurements onto the worksurface, mark all cut lines and angles with a pencil and double check dimensions before cutting.

## Cutting Bushboard worksurfaces

When cutting always cut into the postformed front edge. To minimise possible chipping of the face laminate, apply masking tape over the line to be cut. Then score the line prior to cutting it with a sharp blade and straight edge. This advice applies to whichever of the following cutting methods is used:

### Hand sawing (not suitable for metallics)

Work with the surface face up. Use a fine-toothed hand saw (4 per cm/10-12 per inch). Starting at the postformed edge, cut along the waste side of the line that you have previously marked. Hold the saw at approx 70 degrees, until past the postformed edge, then lower the angle to 20 – 30 degrees for a straighter cut. This will help reduce chipping. Apply pressure on the downward stroke only to avoid lifting the laminate surface.

### Power sawing

Work with the surface face down. Bushboard worksurfaces can be rough sized using a circular saw with a good quality, sharp, tungsten carbide tipped blade.

We recommend use of a hand router for all other operations to achieve a finer cut. A good quality jig-saw with a sharp blade can be used for cut-outs. Whichever method you choose, cut along a firmly clamped guide to ensure an accurate straight cut. Always cut final edges of metallic decors with a hand router to ensure a cleaner cut. However on occasion some metallic particles may remain exposed. See 'Assembly and sealing' for further action.

## Cutting joints

When cutting butt & scribe or mason's joints use a good quality jig and carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions for an accurate finish. Always use a good quality hand router that has been well maintained with sharp cutters.

Cut jointing bolt slots using a jig and hand router. They should be no deeper than 25mm from the rear face. (20mm deep on 30mm worksurfaces and 18mm deep on 22mm worksurfaces. Providing you are using Bushboard slimline bolts).

Use good quality worksurface bolts as follows:

Up to 500mm joint length - two bolts  
500 - 750mm joint length - three bolts  
750 - 900mm joint length - four bolts

We recommend the use of jointing biscuits to produce a strong and level joint.

## Jointing

Joints are most vulnerable to moisture ingress. Time spent cutting joints accurately and sealing well with good quality adhesives or sealants will prevent moisture from entering the joint and causing the tell-tale swelling.

## BB complete

We strongly recommend that the installer uses our BB Complete colour matched adhesive to seal joints and edges.

BB Complete is a strong, waterproof adhesive & sealant specially designed from aircraft grade compounds to produce a long lasting and elegant finish to your Bushboard worksurfaces.

Available from your Bushboard supplier in eighteen carefully chosen colourways, BB Complete co-ordinates and blends with Bushboard worksurfaces to bond & seal joints, bond & seam upstands & splashbacks and seal tiling and cut edges.

## Assembly and sealing

We recommend BB Complete adhesive and sealant for butt & scribe joints. Every Bushboard worksurface includes an instruction leaflet detailing its use.

Should you decide not to use BB Complete then it's vital that you ensure that all cut edges are fully sealed against moisture using either waterproof PVA adhesive (D3 or D4) or a high quality polyurethane varnish or lacquer. This may need two coats. Joints should be assembled with either high modulus silicone or waterproof PVA adhesive. Assemble the joint without delay. If using silicone, then care should be taken not to over-tighten the bolts as silicone works best with thickness.

Metallic decors: Any uncut metallic particles will generally not affect a joint and can be removed after the joint adhesive has cured by gentle use of a plastic scraper. Ensure excess adhesive is cleaned off before it cures. Take care not to damage the surface finish when cleaning metallic particles away. We recommend using BB Complete to seal and joint metallic worksurfaces.

## Cut-outs for appliances & sinks

Cut-outs should have a minimum 10mm radius corner to prevent stress cracking. Mark the cut-out position using the template supplied by the manufacturer. Drill a hole in each corner of the template. Cut the worksurface by linking the corner radii together. Bushboard worksurfaces are ideal for inset sinks. They are not suitable for forming drainer surrounds for Belfast or butler-style sinks.

## Sink installation & sealing

Seal the inside of the cut-out with BB Complete. Seal the sink into the worksurface using the method supplied by the sink manufacturer. It is also good practice to apply additional sealant along the underside of the worksurface in front of the sink.

## Hob installation

The hob cut-out requires sealing to protect it against moisture and radiant heat. No metal part of the hob should be in contact with the worksurface. Allow a minimum 3mm gap between the edge of the cut-out and the appliance. The application of a reflective aluminium tape will help deflect any heat. The hob should then be sealed to the surface with the sealing method supplied by its manufacturer. As with all appliances, ensure that a professionally qualified engineer undertakes the installation work.

## Fixing

Ensure that all cabinetry is level and secure before fixing worksurfaces in place. Worksurfaces can be secured to base units using L-shape metal brackets or KD blocks. You may consider screwing the front edge into place through the front tie rail of the unit.

## Sealing

The back edge of the worktop is sealed with a moisture resistant backing paper. It is the installer's responsibility to ensure that all cut edges are properly sealed against moisture. Cut edges should be sealed with BB Complete. Finally, seal the rear edge of the worksurface to the wall with BB Complete.

An additional sealant tape is supplied with all Bushboard curved worksurfaces. This should be applied to seal the worksurface edge under sinks and above dishwashers. Follow sealing advice for dishwashers by installing a baffle plate too.

## Edging

Bushboard postformed worksurfaces are supplied as standard with a full length of matching edging strip in high pressure laminate. This should be glued into place using contact adhesive, observing the manufacturer's instructions.

Edging for Bushboard curved worksurfaces is available as an optional extra. This should be glued in place using contact adhesive, observing the manufacturer's instructions.

Final trimming is best undertaken with a laminate trimming machine. However, careful use of a block plane, fine file and fine sand paper can also produce a good finish.

## Tiling

We recommend leaving a 5mm gap between wall tiles and the worksurface. Fill this gap with BB Complete to give a robust and waterproof bead. Do not use grout between tiling and worksurfaces as it is porous.

## Dishwashers, washing machines, tumble-driers and ovens

Every Bushboard worksurface is supplied factory sealed along the front edge and entire underside. However, given the amount of steam emitted regularly from dishwashers, it is good practice to apply additional sealant on the underside for enhanced protection against water penetration over time.

A baffle plate should always be installed above a dishwasher to protect the worksurface from heat and steam.

## Freestanding cookers

Allow at least a 20mm gap between the worksurface and free-standing cooker. A gap of 50mm should be left between stored heat appliances such as an Aga. Never install the worksurface above the top edge of the cooker. As with all appliances, please ensure the installation is carried out by a professionally qualified engineer.

## Splashbacks and upstands

Both splashbacks and upstands should be cut to size using a good quality circular saw. Cut outs for sockets in splashbacks should be cut with a jigsaw, ensuring that a 10mm drill hole is used at each corner to prevent cracking. When cutting upstands, always cut into the postformed edge: whilst short edges can be finished using either the supplied 1500mm edge strip or by cutting a mitred insert: in both cases bond with waterproof PVA or contact adhesive.

Take special care to seal cut edges of splashbacks and upstands to prevent moisture penetration. Ensure all plaster work is stable and fully dry and that the worksurface is sealed to the wall using BB Complete.

Bond splashbacks and upstands to the wall using BB Complete, fixing down to the worksurface on a generous bed of BB Complete, thereby fully sealing the lower edge to the worksurface. Ensure that plenty of BB Complete squeezes out below before wiping down with white spirit. BB Complete comes in a range of eighteen colourways and is ideal for seaming the juncture above the worksurface or around edges to protect against excess moisture.

Splashbacks and upstands must be installed a minimum of 130mm from any heat source.