

CERDDOMUS

TERRAZZO
FABRICATOR GUIDE
SLABS 



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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide aims to share our knowledge and expertise with our valued customers regarding our products and their usage. It provides recommendations and technical information to assist you in the fabrication and installation of our slabs. However, it is essential to note that this guide does not replace the skills or experience of a qualified stonemason.

The processes and recommendations outlined in this guide should be viewed as general guidance. The fabrication and installation of our slabs are typically carried out by independent stonemasons. It is important to recognize that each stonemason may employ different procedures and select fabrication and installation methods that best suit the specific application of the slabs.

All fabrication and installation methods should adhere to the latest applicable standards and industry best practices. This guide's information should be read and understood in conjunction with relevant industry codes and standards to ensure compliance and optimal outcomes.

If there are conflicting recommendations between this guide and a specific code or standard, we encourage you to contact Cerdomus for further clarification and assistance. It is important to note that we do not dictate how a qualified stonemason should utilise our slabs. However, following our recommendations can help minimise issues both during and after installation.

Please be aware of the following regarding this guide:

It should not be utilized for any purposes other than those intended. It does not hold any legal binding authority.

It is not meant to resolve disputes between Cerdomus, stonemasons, or any other parties. It is not intended for use by unqualified or unskilled workers.

It assumes that the reader possesses the necessary skills and expertise, as it does not cover basic stonemasonry skills and knowledge.

Always refer to the latest version of the guide and feel free to contact us for further support.



ABOUT THE PRODUCT

Slab Data

The slab data provided in this document is nominal and intended solely for storage and transportation purposes. The actual usable surface area of the slab is reduced on each side due to the presence of raw edges or an unfinished perimeter. It is crucial to carefully inspect the slabs before cutting, as the condition of the perimeter can vary for each individual slab.

When measuring or placing an order, we strongly recommend factoring in a reduction of 100mm from the slab's perimeter to account for potential variations in size. If you intend to utilize the maximum width and length of the slab, it is necessary to thoroughly examine the slab perimeter for factors such as color, polish, aggregate dispersion, transportation damage, or any other visible defects before proceeding with cutting.

LENGTH 2530 mm +/- 10 mm

WIDTH 1420 mm +/- 5 mm

THICKNESS 20 mm +/- 2 mm

WEIGHT 20 mm = 280 kg; (78 kg/m²)

Slab Composition and Appearance

Slabs consist of natural stone and cement, and the inherent variations in these raw materials are noticeable in the final product, adding to the unique design of each slab. The honed finish is specifically crafted to withstand wear, and over time, the surface will develop a natural patina, influenced by the surrounding environment.

It is the intentional inclusion of balanced imperfections that contribute to the individuality of each Cerdomus Slab, even though they may share a common structure, color, and overall appearance. While not identical, they are carefully matched to ensure harmonious integration within their intended application.

Batching is employed to group slabs from the same production batch. However, it is important to note that this process is subjective, and caution should be exercised when inspecting slabs, even if they originate from the same batch.



HANDLING, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE

Handling and Transportation of Slabs

Extreme care must be exercised during all stages of handling, transportation, and storage of slabs. Slabs should be loaded, unloaded, and transported using appropriate lifting equipment such as a forklift, overhead crane, or similar devices that can balance the slab at its center of gravity. It is essential to ensure that all lifting tools and equipment are in good working condition, suitable for the intended purpose, and capable of handling the weight of the load.

When multiple slabs are being lifted together, they should be arranged face-to-face and/or back-to-back without any gaps. During unloading and transportation, strict adherence to relevant safety regulations concerning equipment and personnel is necessary. Cerdomus slabs are characterized by their large size and substantial weight. It is crucial to transport them safely and appropriately, securely attaching them to a truck with a suitable frame for loading. A-Frames used for transportation should have a continuous bottom plate and backing board. For interstate or long-distance transportation, it is recommended to stack the slabs in bundles of at least five slabs.

Prior to leaving the premises, it is imperative to ensure that the load is fully supported and securely fastened to the vehicle. In the interest of safety, Cerdomus reserves the right to refuse loading a truck if it is deemed overloaded or poses a safety risk.

Receiving Your Slabs

It is essential to perform a visual inspection for imperfections on the front and back of all slabs, including the perimeter, before cutting. Allow to climatise for 48 - 72 hours. The presence of impurities, pinholes, pit marks shall be deemed as being part of the natural stone/cement and variations may occur with particular types of aggregates that show a lot of texture and patterns.

Pinholes need to be filled using colour matched epoxy. Remove the protective film from all slabs

When receiving your slabs you will notice:

- Moisture from production is still present in the slab and will dissipate during the fabrication process. However as the slab dries it can alter the surface tension which can temporarily increase warpage.
- Cement residue on the surface which is easily removed using steel wool either by hand or as a pad on a buffing machine.

Perform the following visual inspection checks for imperfections:

- Cracks or voids
- Slab-to-slab colour match * Even if its noted by same batch
- Colour inconsistency within the slab
- Irregular spots
- Inconsistent gloss levels
- Thickness tolerance $\pm 2\text{mm}$
- Ensure that you are able to inspect the slab under appropriate lighting, either natural or artificial.
- Check the surface of the slab from various angles to pick up any issues that are not apparent when viewing the slab top down.
- Warping up to 5mm length and 3mm width when the slab is horizontal and fully supported. Check length warp using a full-length straight edge with the slab in a horizontal position.

Storing Your Slabs

- Store slabs face to face and on a suitable A-Frame or Slab Rack.
- Store slabs in a dry secure warehouse protected from rain or wet conditions.
- Do not store slabs in direct sunlight or in high temperatures.
- Protect from high levels of dust.
- Stack slabs face to face.



FABRICATING

Cerdomus Slabs are fabricated and installed by independent stonemasons. It is important to note that the specific procedures employed may vary among different stonemasons.

To ensure quality and compliance, the fabrication and installation methods should align with the relevant standards and industry best practices. Following these guidelines helps to achieve optimal results and ensures that the fabrication and installation processes meet the industry's accepted standards.

Keep Your Material Dry

Slabs contain residual moisture from their production, but are also porous and will absorb moisture when cutting. Air-dry the slab and cut pieces during the fabrication process. During cold weather, heating the workspace using a gas flame heater may be necessary however strict care must be taken not to heat the slab directly which may cause cracking. Fabricating, joining, laminating, transporting and installing must only be carried out when the material is dry.

Fixing Materials

It is important to select the right materials for the fabrication/installation, ensure you are using proprietary materials and check their compatibility in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. The final selection is up to the stonemason based on their experience and supplier relationships.

Plan Your Cutting

Consider the final outcome when planning your cutting, each slab will vary and extra care is needed to ensure the cut pieces used from the slab are suitable. Optimising your cutting to maximum efficiency should not override the aim to achieve the best possible outcome for the project. If you need to use the maximum width and length of the slab you must inspect the entire slab for colour, polish, transportation damage or any other defect that may be visible before cutting. We recommend planning your cuts to set in 100mm from the slab edge.

Colour Matching

Slabs are made up of approximately 75% natural stone and 25% cement. This may result in slight colour variations between production cycles. Use slabs from the same batch for each individual job – this should ensure the best possible colour match however always perform a visual colour match before cutting to confirm consistency in shading. Variations can show considerable difference in joins and careful planning of join locations and which section of the slab will be used is needed to avoid large contrasts. When cutting slabs, try to keep ends cut from adjoining sections of the same slab butted up together and position in the same orientation to achieve best match for aggregate distribution and colour pigmentation.

Placement of Joins

It is recommended that there are joins at every change of direction in the countertop. Although these countertops can be cut as one piece from a slab, it is important to consider the risks of cracking that can happen after installation. Cracking does not indicate a material fault or even a fault with the fabrication or installation. It is the result of externally induced, mechanical stress on the countertops.



FABRICATING

Cutouts

Cutouts are usually created in countertops for the installation of sinks, cooktops and other accessories. Fabricate cutouts according to the instructions of the manufacturer of the item to be installed and allow room for expansion. Fabricate a minimum radius of 15 mm for all corners in cutouts. The larger the radius, the stronger the corner. Square or cross cut corners are not advised in any case. Damage to the area may lead to the formation of hairline cracks which can grow over time.

The distance between a cutout and an edge or join must be no less than 150mm. The greater the distance, the stronger the area, using fibre glass rods or similar. All cutouts must be reinforced and supported. If a cutout will leave front and back rails of less than 150mm, consideration should be given to making these rails from separate pieces to avoid problems with cracking. Where this is likely to occur, the joinery should be made with extra depth, but if this design consideration has not been implemented then you have limited options.

Either take the risk with the smaller rails or advise the joinery manufacturer and/or customer that separate rails should be used. The installation is dependent on the quality of the structure that the countertops are being placed onto. If the structure is not adequate this should be discussed with the other parties involved. This is really an issue for the joinery manufacturer to consider, however the stonemason installing the tops and in these situations could be held responsible if a crack does occur.

Edges

All exposed edges should be fabricated to the same finish as the surface. The top and bottom of edges must be rounded or bevelled. Do not create square aris edges. All edges should have a minimum aris/bevel of 3mm for the edge more resistant to chipping.

Filling and Finishing

Slabs will contain small holes created during the production process which should be filled with a suitable coloured epoxy. Polish the entire surface using a steel wool buffing pad to remove any residue and to even out the surface finish blending any tonal variations for a more uniform appearance.

Remove or repair any scratches using an appropriate polishing disk. Clean the surface with a PH Neutral Cleaner using a variable speed polishing machine fitted with a cleaning pad/brush suitable for the surface finish of the slab.

For typical situations we recommend Lithofin

Following cleaning, allow the surface to dry thoroughly and conduct a final check by placing all the pieces in the layout as they will be installed on site and perform a visual inspection to ensure that the surface is to your satisfaction Any major variations may need to be re-cut.

Sealing

Apply a sealer to the surface in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. For typical installations we recommend using a high performance penetrating sealer which is available from the following leading industry specialists.

Lithofin
Rockstar Sealing

<https://www.cerdomus.com.au/product-category/sealers/>



INSTALLATION

Before transporting the finished slabs to site, inspect the site to ensure access and storage conditions are suitable for delivery. Fabricated slabs are fragile and can easily be damaged so extra care needs to be taken at all times during handling and installing.

Substrate, Base Units /Joinery Adequacy

Fabricated slabs are installed on a continuous level substrate support made from a stable material to the perimeter of the slab. Verify that the slab is sufficiently supported and reinforced in areas of joins, cutouts and over spaces for accessories, appliances such as dishwashers, ovens, washing machines, etc.

Transportation of Fabricated Surfaces

Correct racking is essential for transporting fabricated pieces to the site in good condition. Ensure that there is a backing board with a protective layer between the rack and the fabricated pieces to prevent scratching or other surface damage during storage or transit. Load the fabricated pieces onto a vehicle fitted with an A-frame rack with bottom plate and cross-braces suitable for the size and weight of the slab. Each piece must be fully supported by the adjacent piece. Place pieces with cutouts in the centre of the stack for protection by solid pieces. Strap the pieces securely to the rack to prevent movement during transportation. All pieces should always be transported vertically.

Installation

Place all the fabricated pieces of the surface in their final position on the cabinets without adhesive. Check that all the pieces are the correct size, shape and direction in relation to the cabinets and the walls. Perform a final visual inspection to ensure that the surface is to your satisfaction.

Joins

Ensure that the join is clean of debris and is filled with a suitable coloured adhesive. Close, secure and straighten the join with a professional joining clamp to create a smooth, flush surface.

Adhesive Application

To fix the tops to the carcasses, apply enough flexible silicone adhesive to secure the tops. Do not over-glue the tops, as even silicone, when used in abundance, is extremely strong and will restrict the slabs from moving due to expansion and contraction. Use the minimum amount required to do the job. Large pieces will not move easily due to their weight, as such minimal adhesive is required.

Wall Joints – Clean the space between the surface and the wall. Fill the space generously with a flexible adhesive such as neutral 100% neutral cure silicone. maxisil.com

Overhangs

Unsupported/Reinforced overhangs are not advised in any case. Where an overhang is requested, the dimension must be determined by a professional. It is dependent on a number of factors, such as:

- The complete length to width ratio of the surface relative to the length and width ratio of the overhang.
 - How the overhang will be supported.
- Protection

During and following installation protect the surfaces from damage, acids, alkaline and contaminants that may cause staining.

Following trades must take care, particularly plumbers when installing sinks. Quite often, clamps are used to hold sinks in place whilst adhesives/sealants cure which can cause cracking.



CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Cerdomus recommends using water and a PH Neutral cleaner on a microfiber cloth or nonabrasive sponge for routine cleaning of slab surfaces.

For care and maintenance products and services we recommend using on PH Neutral products which are available from the following leading industry specialists:

Lithofin
Rockstar Sealing

Routine Daily

- Clean spills ASAP and avoid contact with acidic foods or liquids.
- Remove large grit particles that may scratch the surface.
- Clean surface with a PH Neutral Detergent using a microfiber cloth.
- Do not use cleaning products that contain acid or alkaline as this will etch the surface.

Most marks can be easily removed with a little effort and a recommended cleaning product. For tough stains, gently rub the area with the cleaner and a mildly abrasive pad.

Heat Resistance

Cerdomus slabs are non-flammable however surfaces can tolerate moderately hot temperatures for brief periods of time. Prolonged exposure may result in discolouring or other types of damage. Excessive localised heat may damage the surface or cause hairline cracks.

Extended Life

Due to the fact that the materials contained in our slabs are somewhat more sensitive to dirt and damage, surfaces can be repolished and rejuvenated. For best results we recommend a reputable stone restoration contractor mechanically clean the surface, removing stubborn stains and repairing any scratches or blemishes returning the surface back to its original condition.

<https://www.cerdomus.com.au/product-category/cleaners/>