

Under Mount — Bath Sink Details — Silicone Bonding Vessel & Rimmed Style

Under Mount Sinks – are designed for mounting beneath a counter surface concentric with a counter top cut-out. Although the installation of an under mount sink is not difficult – it does require careful planning & measurement and precise positioning & application of adhesive sealant and hardware - if specified.



Adhesive Bonding – Our sinks are easily under mounted by directly bonding the sink rim to the under side of your counter surface. This highly recommended method uses - Clear GE Silicone II - adhesive to both seal and bond the sink bowl below your counter cut-out. GE silicone adhesive has a life time guarantee and in our thirty five years of experience has never failed in this application. We have bonded hundreds of our bowls to our tile tops and have never had a separation or failure of this counter to bowl joint. The live silicone rubber cure of this product provides the additional positive quality of allowing the bowl to expand when filled and used with hot water.



Silicone not only forms a water tight seal for the bowl to counter joint but is a tenacious adhesive that is virtually impossible to part from the joint. Cutting the cured silicone rubber or destroying the sink is the only way to remove a sink joined by this method. The only real drawback to silicone bonding is its permanence. If you have future plans to remove or remount your sink - you should not use silicone adhesive for your under mount installation. Mechanical clips are quite appropriate for take apart installations.

Silicone Bonding – is accomplished by running a very small adhesive bead (spaghetti sized) just outside the center line of the sink rim top. The sink is then raised beneath your counter top and centered below the counter cut-out. While supported in this position - the sink bowl is temporarily secured with threaded rod and wings nuts to the plywood disc (shown below) beneath the drain opening and the wooden bar on top of the counter cut-out. We use wing nuts and wooden blocks for this positioning kit to limit the potential for damaging the sink or counter top by over tightening the positioning block. The wings nuts should only be finger tight to draw the sink firmly against your counter material. Excess tightening increases the potential of damaging sink and counter.

Silicone Application – All counter surfaces to be bonded should be clean and dry prior to adhesive application. An oil, grease or water film is the only thing in our experience that will prevent the adhesion of silicone. Any excess silicone should be promptly removed with mineral spirits.



Under Mount Orders – Our Vessel Sinks, Rimmed Sinks and Oval Sinks can all be under mounted using the same materials and process. When ordering - please indicate if your sinks will be under mounted. Understanding your under mount plan - we will include mounting instructions, silicone adhesive and our positioning block kit when we ship your order.

If specified and requested - we will also ship a set of sink clips as illustrated. We can also provide lead insert anchors if you are not able to source these through your installer.

Counter Cut-Out Dimensions – Rimmed Style Sinks have a slightly smaller inside diameter compared to our Vessel Style because of the difference in top rim width for each respective style.

Our 16 inch OD Rimmed Sink - used as an under mount
- will require a 13.75 inch dia. counter top cut-out.

Our 16 inch OD Vessel Style Sink - used as an under mount
- will accommodate a 14.75 inch dia. counter top cut-out.

The above suggested under mount cut-out diameters will create a counter top overhang of approximately one half inch.

Our Rimmed Style Sinks – have a wide rim which will reduce clearance (relative to our Vessel clearance) beneath your counter top. This will only present a problem if your installation space is very limited. Careful planning and measurement for plumbing and hardware clearance is always necessary.

Our Vessel Style Sinks – have a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch bull nose rim with more than adequate surface area for silicone bonding. The narrower Vessel rim - relative to our Rimmed Sink - creates a larger interior bowl volume & diameter while reducing the outside bowl diameter to minimize beneath counter clearance issues.

Under Mount — Bath Sink Details — Sink Clip Mounting Instructions

Silicone + Sink Clip Mounting – Prior to the development of silicones and epoxies - under mounted sinks were hung beneath counter surfaces with mechanical fastenings or sink clips which screw fastened into prepared holes in the under counter surface. Sink clips are commonly attached to hard surface counter materials by threading fasteners into lead inserts (10-24 fastener shown below) which are compressed into holes drilled in the under counter surface.



Lead anchor sized for 10 - 24 screw



Sink Clip fastener offset 3/4 inch

With the development of composite acrylic counter materials - like Corian - epoxies compatible with the composite material are used to mount threaded studs which provide an anchor for the sink clips.

Sink Clips Are Typically Not Needed - Sink clips are not needed to securely fasten our sinks to the typical range of counter materials. Silicone adhesive alone is more than adequate for long term bonding to granite, marble, tile and glass as well as Corian & other acrylic or resin composite materials.

More porous counter surfaces such as wood & composite wood products as well as limestones & soapstones may benefit from combining silicone adhesive with mechanical fasteners - even though silicone bonds very readily to the clean surfaces of all these materials.

Sink Clip Installation - We are often asked to describe the use of mechanical fasteners for under mounting our sinks. If you do want to specify sink clips for your installation - the following description will illustrate the process. I strongly suggest that you carefully consider the specific needs of your installation to determine whether clips are either necessary or a needless expense.



Rimmed Style Sink secured to the under side of a granite counter with six sink clips fastened to lead inserts with 10-24 machine screws. Silicone adhesive additionally bonds and seals the sink rim. The plywood disc positions the sink while the silicone cures and the clips are installed.

Sink Clip Planning & Mounting – When planning a sink clip installation careful measurement and layout is essential. Our sink clips are designed to mount on a center line 1.5 inches larger in diameter than the actual measured diameter of the shipped sink (our Rimmed, Vessel and Oval sinks all use the same clips and the same clip mounting circle). The mounting hole for each individual clip is positioned 3/4 inch from the outer sink edge. A sink measuring 16 inch OD would require a 17.5 inch sink clip fastener center line circle concentric to the counter cut-out. Since each sink is hand formed - you will need to carefully measure your actual sink diameter and add 1.5 inches to compute your clip fastener center line circle. Holes sized to your choice of fasteners (inserts or epoxied studs) would then be bored at 60 degree intervals for this pattern of six sink clips.



Vessel Style Sink secured to the under side of a mahogany counter with six sink clips fastened with wing nuts to 1/4 - 20 studs. Silicone adhesive additionally bonds and seals the sink rim to the carefully waterproofed wooden counter top.



Detail showing 1/4 - 20 stud epoxied into mahogany counter top.



Detail with wing nut securing sink clip to Vessel Style Basin.

A Word of Caution – In some cases - home owners have the skill, patience and tools to complete an under mount installation. In most instances it is advisable to employ artisans who have experience installing under mount sinks to either do this work or offer advice or access to appropriate hardware and tools.

Plumbing Contractors – are not always able to do this type of work. This is not a fault of the plumbing trade but an installation chore that falls outside the training of plumbing professionals. Cabinet installers, stone finishing workshops, kitchen and bath specialists and skilled finish carpenters and builders are frequently able to complete this type of installation. Plumbers - as a general rule - are not. Asking the average plumber to install your under mount sink may work very well and it may be a costly, expensive and frustrating mistake. Please call or have your installer call @ 207 963 5819 if you have additional questions - ask for Dan.