



# Outdoor Application Guide

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Purpose of this guide is to help all of our trade partners to ensure their outdoor applications are installed using the best practices that will support the integrity of their outdoor applications.

Outdoor applications apply to all outdoor applications including, but not limited to countertops, floors, boathouses and 3-season (unheated) rooms.



# What Products Can Be Used Outdoors

Dekton and Porcelain are ideal materials for outdoor applications because they are non-porous making them resistant to extreme weather conditions, water absorption, thermal shock and UV rays.



Granite can also be used, though it will require re-sealing and is more likely to fade from UV rays. Only non polished or non-glossy finishes should be used outdoors.



## What Makes Outdoor Application Different

Our climate in Canada experiences drastic changes in temperature and humidity. These changes cause contraction and expansion of materials used for cabinetry, stonework and countertop materials.

Due to the rigidity of Dekton and Porcelain, shifts due to contraction and expansion in the cabinetry and improper application can result in cracking over time.

Extra steps are recommended to protect the longevity of outdoor kitchen projects



# Outdoor Limitations

## Waterfall Edges

- Cannot be a mitred edge
- Must be a butt joint with a soft seam
- Requires bracket at base or silicone to the ground
- Panel/gabel must be in place to fully adhere the waterfall to



## Mitre Edges

See image on page 6

- Not recommended for outdoors (special requests only)
- High risk of cracking if exposed to moisture
- Underlay material (ie. Schluter or similar) will be attached to the underside of the surface & mitre resulting in no drop over the cabinets

## Temperature

- Steady outdoor temperature of 10 degrees Celsius or higher required for template and installation
- Limited to installations in May to October
- During cold winter months, plumbing should be disconnected, and countertop should be covered to avoid damage



# Installation Guide

## Base

- Base structures should be made of non-combustible materials and be installed completely level
- Wood cannot be used as a foundation, supports or frame. Manufacturer warranties do not cover wood bases
- A solid and level foundation, ideally poured concrete 2 ft down

## Substrate

See image on page 6

- Concrete board substrate is strongly recommended for outdoor applications - installed prior to template
- Added protection for the countertop when there is contraction and expansion
- A substrate will significantly lower the chances of cracking or opening up

## Seams

- Seams are done using silicone, not epoxy
- Silicone allows for movement and minimizes the risk of cracking and seams opening up
- Latitude's one year seam warranty does not apply to outdoor applications due to the movement from contraction and expansion in the Canadian climate

## Overhangs

- Manufacturer specifications apply for any requests over the standard overhangs
- Joints for any sized overhang beyond a standard overhang may require additional supports (ie. brackets)
- Without brackets, there is risk of the seam opening due to the lack of support. Contraction and expansion which can cause water damage and void warranty can weaken the seams

## BBQ or Grills

See image on page 6

- BBQ and Grills should sit above countertop by a min of 1/8". They should never sit directly on the counter, this can cause cracking
- Metal beams should be installed from gable to gable to support the grill if there is no supportive insert
- Heat tape will be applied to the inside cutout of the opening
- Always review your BBQ or Grill manufacturer specifications to ensure proper installation and maintenance

# Image References

## Substrate Installation



## BBQ Placement & Support



## Mitred Edge

Notice the underlay creates a flush application and cannot drop down with cabinetry/base structure



# Post Installation Care & Warranty

- You should inform your customers to cover their outdoor structures during the winter. Fluctuating temperatures will cause moisture to freeze and melt which can weaken materials used in outdoor applications
- Stone warranties do not cover for damage caused by improper use or by weather, so proper installation and post installation care is strongly recommended for maximum durability
- Base structures that are not level and not made of solid concrete or metal require a substrate in order to be covered by warranty
- Mitred edges have a high risk of breaking down if exposed to freezing and melting moisture. Covers are required and countertops should be covered during inclement weather to prolong the life of the mitre.
- Repairs on mitres are not covered under warranty and will have applicable service charges applied