

PRODUCT INFORMATION

ALKE CULTURED MINERAL MARBLE AND TOP SOLID WASHBASINS

COMPOSITION

The cultured mineral marble and Top Solid washbasins are hard and non-porous and offer a high resistance against dirt and stain penetration. With normal use and minimal maintenance, the surface of these tops will retain its beauty. These high-quality washbasin countertops consist mainly of a combination of high-grade minerals (including dolomite-quartz and glass beads) with polyester, and are categorised as stone products. Dyed through and through, the top layer consists of a gel-coating which is moulded together with the supporting mineral structure, allowing the seamless connection of washbasin and countertop. Following moulding, the top layer of cultured mineral marble is polished to a high gloss. Air bubbles and imprints on the underside of these sheets are a result of the moulding process and do not affect the quality.

SCRATCH/WEAR RESISTANCE

Extensive tests have shown that the gelcoat top layer is very resistant to scratches and wear. On the Mohs scale of mineral hardness, it rates between 3 and 4 (for the purpose of comparison: stainless steel has a hardness of 3 and diamond of 9). DO NOT place on the countertop any tools that can damage the surface.

RESISTANCE TO DYES, ACIDS AND THE LIKE

According to US standard ANSI Z 124.1 - 1974, the following dyes can still be removed after 2 hours and 16 hours of exposure time for Top Solid and cultured mineral marble respectively: pencil, black liquid shoe polish, lipstick, blue washable ink, hair dye, hair spray and gentian blue solutions. Do not expose this product to acids, ammonia or chlorine containing products. Mineral marble is also resistant to most household chemicals, but it is best to remove any stains immediately.

SIZE TOLERANCES

The curing process of the polyester binder causes a shrinkage of the material. A dimensional tolerance of +3 to 0mm must therefore be taken into account.



ASSEMBLY

Before assembly, check the washbasin countertop for transport damage or other visible quality defects. The base unit must be level-mounted in all directions (see assembly description) to make sure the countertop and the base unit are parallel. When installing, place a silicone strip on the top of the base unit. Then position the washbasin countertop carefully on it. There is no need for other fasteners. Be sure to remove any silicone residues to avoid staining, as these may damage the surface. Protect the countertop during assembly against tools, stone grit, cement and the like. **THE COUNTERTOP IS NOT A WORK BENCH!** Making your own tap holes and recesses in the countertop supplied will invalidate the warranty. Don't forget to place the brackets under the washbasin countertop (without screwing them in the top!) In some countries, the hot water temperature exceeds 60°C. The surface may burst if this hot water is used continuously. By installing a control valve, you prevent the water from exceeding 60°C.

MAINTENANCE

We advise you to regularly clean the countertop surfaces with a mild soap and water. Remove dust and dry dirt with a soft damp cloth. Grease marks, oil, mildew, paint and ink stains should be removed with isopropyl alcohol. Dry afterwards with a soft dry cloth.

Do not use harsh chemicals, such as hydrochloric acid, sodium hydroxide, paint thinner, chloride-based solvents, descalers and drain unblockers, or any strong acid or alkali products, as these can permanently damage the surface.

Also avoid the use of bath products containing natural or artificial colours. Test the product before use on an inconspicuous area of the washbasin countertop.

Specific instructions for the maintenance of cultured mineral marble:

- Avoid products containing abrasives, including liquid abrasive powder or similar products.
- If you regularly treat the washbasin countertop with a car wax, you improve the water repellency of the top layer. You can also easily remove small scratches or matt spots in this way.
- If, despite everything, the washbasin countertop loses some of its lustre after a few years, you can easily restore it and bring back the high gloss. Here's what you should do:
 - a) Wet sand the entire surface with waterproof sandpaper in 600, 800 and 1200 grit successively;
 - b) Finish off with a white (car) polishing paste.To remove small scratches or scrapes, you should proceed as follows: mask along the sides of the scratch using masking tape. Smooth sand with wet sandpaper (1200 to 1500 grit) with a sanding block. Remove masking tape and polish the sanded part with a white polishing paste.

Specific instructions for the maintenance of Top Solid:

- Stubborn stains can usually be removed with a mild abrasive such as CIF.
- Small scratches can be removed by sanding them with (waterproof) sandpaper in 180 grit, followed by cleaning with a detergent such as Soft Scrub.

For more extensive repairs, please contact our service department (service@alke.be).

ACCEPTED TOLERANCE AS TO THE APPEARANCE AND DIMENSIONS OF ENGINEERED STONE WASHBASIN COUNTERTOPS

Viewed from a distance of 0.6 metre by the naked eye of a trained observer, the surface of washbasins may not show more dents or other flaws than those listed in the table below. The natural or artificial light used to help examine the washbasin countertops undergoing visual inspection should be 300 lx at the surface of the washbasin countertop (check with a light meter). Artificial light must be supplied in the form of one or more fluorescent lamps with a light colour of 6,500 K, placed at least 2 metres above the washbasin countertop. The washbasin countertop should be placed between the light source and the observer

Location	Defect or marking	Definition	Maximum tolerance
GENERAL	Gelcoat application		The gelcoat should be firmly fused to the “body” of the washbasin countertop. All visible parts must be finished with a gelcoat layer. The underside of the drain pipe does not have to be finished with gelcoat. Washbasin countertops may contain parts that are not protected with a gelcoat when expressly requested as such by the buyer. However, these parts should not be visible when assembled in the normal manner.
	Tolerance		Concerning the dimensions of the washbasin countertop: unless otherwise specified, the tolerance is: +3 to +0 mm (no negative deviation permitted).
	Cloudy appearance	A defect in the top finish manifesting itself as multiple undulations in the glaze. An irregular or mottled finish.	None on all visible sides.
	Curving / warping		Curving or warping of the washbasin countertop is permitted up to a maximum of 3 mm along each of the sides (curving or warping of front and rear side of the washbasin which is mounted against the wall is permitted up to a maximum of 1 mm - no curving or warping of the underside of the drainage pipe allowed)
	Discoloration	A coloured spot or a concentrated number of dots that have the effect of a colour defect.	None on all visible sides.
	Crackled pattern	Fine cracks in the gelcoat.	None on all visible sides.
	Matt spots/finish	Poorly polished parts, slightly matt appearance or non-glossy finish on a visible side.	None on all visible sides.
	Eggshell pattern	A uniform semi-matt gelcoat layer.	None on all visible sides.
	Cracks	A hairline fracture extending through the washbasin body.	None on all visible sides.
	Polishing trace	A spot where small blisters were sanded down and the surface was polished.	None on all visible sides.
	Resistance to cracking		Cracking is not accepted when tested according to the method described in ANSI Z 124.1 - 1974.
WORK SURFACE, TOP OF WASHBASIN COUNTERTOP, INSIDE THE WASHBASIN, FRONT + ALL OTHER VISIBLE SIDES OF THE WASHBASIN COUNTERTOP	Spots, bumps and blisters	A spot = an area with a contrasting colour greater than 1 mm and less than 3 mm (maximum size); A bump = raised sections in the washbasin countertop surface with a diameter smaller than 1 mm; A blister = a raised section in the surface smaller than 1 mm	None on all visible sides.
	Spots and pinholes	A spot = an area with a contrasting colour smaller than 1 mm (spots smaller than 0.25 mm are not considered as defects unless in sufficient concentration to cause a “discoloration”); A pinhole = a small hole in the surface of less than 2 mm (maximum size).	No more than four in total; no grouping
	Large holes, scratches, visually visible repairs		None on all visible sides.
DEFINITIONS	Visible side	The sides/parts of the washbasin countertop which, once installed, are visible to the user in a normal standing position.	