



# ALPHA

Premium Natural Quartz  
A Gemini Brand

## **Installation Guidelines:**

It is strongly recommend that ALPHA Quartz slabs are stored indoors and allowed to acclimate for a minimum of 48 hours before fabrication. There is a higher risk of breakage during winter months if slabs are not acclimated and exposed to the stresses from cutting.

**Inspection.** Remove the plastic sheet from the slab before cutting. Clean and examine the slab in direct light for:

- Chips, cracks, and voids
- Variance in Gloss levels
- Manufacturing flaws/defects
- Color match/Shade Variation
- Foreign objects such as metals, wood, etc.

DO NOT CUT THE MATERIAL if you cannot cut around the problematic area. Instead, return the slab to your distributor or save it for a future project.

## **Color Consistency:**

ALPHA Quartz is made from pure, natural Quartz. Variation in quartz, color, shape, shade, pattern and size are unique attributes of ALPHA Quartz. Although ALPHA Quartz colors may be more consistent than granite, color variance is an inherent trait expected of ALPHA Quartz. In addition small botches or random distribution of particulates are an inherent part of the overall design and composition and are not considered to be defects or product nonconformity. Our Residential lifetime warranty and Commercial 10 year warranty does not cover color variance and ALPHA Quartz will not be replaced for the unique, inherent traits of ALPHA Quartz.

Further design samples are a small select cut from the slab and they do not full exhibit all the design characteristics of the final installed product.

In addition to this ALPHA Quartz is not a seamless product; seams are visible. Where there are seams the product pattern and shade will change.

To avoid color inconsistency, it is essential to check for color match during visual slab inspection. It is very normal for Quartz slabs to have slight color variation between production cycles due to the complex lending of natural minerals. Gemini recommends to follow the strict guidelines below to ensure color consistency:

## **Slab Size**

Every ALPHA Quartz slab comes with the Lot# and Bundle# sticker applied on the slab edge at the time of shipment to the fabricator. Color consistency will be most accurate for slabs with both the same lot# and the same bundle#. Typically a bundle has approximately 10 slabs. While ALPHA Premium Natural Quartz is manufactured using modern technology, given natural variation in both quartz and the pigments mixed within the resin, there is no guarantee that slabs with both the same lot and bundle # will match in color. For jobs that require multiple slabs or have seams we highly recommend the fabricator conduct a visual inspection of the slabs to confirm color consistency prior to fabrication. Absolutely no credits, warranty, or liability will be accepted for slabs not matching, even if they are from the same lot and bundle.

## **Fabrication:**

- All corners on the countertop must be rounded to a minimum 3/8" radius. This includes sinks, cooktops, L-shaped counters, window ledges, etc. It is not necessary to round on L-Shaped counters where the seams fall at the corners.
- Include an allowance of an extra 1/8" between the cooktop/sink and the edge of the cutout for expansion.
- Avoid cross-cutting. Use a core bit when preparing a cutout. Avoid damaging the drilled area with a cutting disk
- Damage to the drilled area can result in stress points that may lead to hairline cracks
- Avoid generating excessive heat, all cuts should be done using only wet diamond cutting tools.

## **Lamination:**

Grind away any waves or indentations to an even finish on lamination areas for edge detail. Then make grooves and notches on each piece of the build-up. The notches give space for the glue. (ALPHA is non-porous and will not absorb the glue) Clean the material with alcohol and air compressors before gluing it together.

To achieve a minimally visible seam, the adhesive being used must be pigmented to a color that is similar to that of the material that is being installed. When using color paste pigments mixed with the adhesive, add extra colors/pigments to the glue to avoid dark seam lines in limestone and other lighter colors. The higher concentrations of pigments will keep the glue from changing colors once it is completely dry.

## **Polishing:**

- Use diamond pads only
- ALPHA is made with polymer resins, so you can only wet polish. If you dry polish, the material will burn.
- Only polish the edge details, not the top surface.

**Profile Polishing** any quartz edge profile should be done in a progressive manner using granite or marble diamond polishing pads. The quality of the pads being used will affect the time required to complete polishing and the quality of the finish. Polishing quartz

should be done by starting with a surface that is smooth, clean, and free from any residual adhesive.

NOTE: Care must be taken not to over polish edges in excess of the factory surface polish.

Recommended polishing process for quartz:

- Honed finish 100, 200, 400-grit diamond pad
- Polished finish 100, 200, 400, 500–800, 1500–2000, 2000–3000-grit diamond pad

These recommendations are a guideline for achieving a polish equal to the factory surface polish. The type of tools, diamond pads, and fabrication techniques will affect actual polishing results. When polishing the edge profile, use water-cooled tools. Dry-polishing the edge profile may cause overheating, leaving the edge prone to chipping. Excessive heat undermines the physical structure of the slab, and although not visible to the naked eye, micro-fissures are formed, leading to chipping upon impact, discoloration and an uneven polish.

- Use lower RPM to be used on polishers when using 1000-grit or higher diamond polishing pads.
- Do not use stone “buff” pads on quartz.

### **Installation Mandatory procedures:**

- Tops of cabinets must be flat and true to within 1/16” per 18” length prior to installation.
- Allow a minimum clearance of 1/8” between walls and ALPHA.
- Never insert mechanical fasteners, such as nails and screws, into ALPHA.
- Provide perimeter support of full deck. Front to back support must be given every 24”. Use only dabs of flexible 100% silicone 8-12” apart to fasten tops of ALPHA to the perimeter support.
- Grooves must be made on the edges of seams in order to provide space for the adhesive.
- Radius all inside corners for U-shaped and L-shaped tops in order to lessen corner stresses to a minimum diameter of 3/8”.
- The recommended minimum edge profile is a 1/8” bevel. The preferred minimum edge profile is a 1/8” Pencil Round edge.
- Extra adhesive should be placed on all corners along all joints.
- Support is needed for overhangs of ALPHA that extend more than 3/4” material, 16” in 1-1/4” material.

**Fireplace application:** ALPHA Quartz under the Standard Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials (is classified as Class A).

## **Fireplace Installation Guidelines:**

- 1) Quartz surfaces can be affected and damaged by sudden and rapid change of temperature and may not withstand the transfer of heat.
- 2) Quartz material should never be used as structural support in an installation. Installer must confirm that adequate structural support exists.
- 3) All the designs must allow for thermal expansion and contraction
- 4) Applicable local building code requirements for all applications should be followed for building materials and surface finish
- 5) Check fireplace manufacturer requirements for all applications to verify any specific or special requirements
- 6) Appropriate clearance between quartz and surrounding walls, cabinets and structure should be maintained; Minimum of 1/8" clearance
- 7) Quartz should **never** be in direct contact with the firebox or any surface that may exceed 250° F

## **Overhangs**

As a general guideline, support is required for overhangs. The following guidelines are for standard cabinets 24" in depth:

<b>MATERIAL SUPPORT REQUIRED</b>	<b>2CM (3/4")</b>	<b>2CM (3/4") with 5/8" sub-top 3CM (1 1/4")</b>	
<b>No additional support required.</b>	<b>Under 8"</b>	<b>Under 12"</b>	<b>Under 16"</b>
<b>Brackets required at 24" (600mm) intervals.</b>	<b>Between 8–16"</b>	<b>Between 12–20"</b>	<b>Between 16–24"</b>
<b>Legs, Columns or Panels required at 24" (600mm) intervals.</b>	<b>Over 16"</b>	<b>Over 24"</b>	<b>Over 24"</b>

## **Sinks and Basins**

- For under mount installations, follow the minimum edge profile recommendations around the cutout to reduce risk of chipping.
- It is recommended that all sink installations be fully supported, independent of the ALPHA top. Be sure to use a professional sink setter or support rail system. All sinks must be sealed to the countertop using 100% silicone.

***Disclaimer: This information is intended to be used by qualified individuals who have a working knowledge and skill of a technical application and well versed with fabrication and are responsible for Quality, workmanship, safety and reliability of their work. GEMINI International does not assume any responsibility for design, safety or workmanship of the installation.***