

## STAINLESS STEEL COUNTERTOP SUPPORT BRACKETS INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Every successful countertop installation begins with good planning and action. Do not wait until the last minute to order your countertop supports, fasteners, or adhesives for installation. Make sure that all aspects of the support substructure are considered and discussed to insure that your countertop installation will be smooth and that your countertop support products will be sufficient.

When ordering a bracket or corbel for your countertop installation, keep in mind that a supporting bracket must be sufficiently supported by an adequate fastening system and structure such as a stud wall or reinforced cabinet backing. Installation of a heavy duty countertop corbel on a weak support structure will result in failure of the total system. This is why it is important to consider and consult with a design engineer when necessary, all aspects of the countertop installation.

**Choice of Fastener System** - When choosing a fastener system for your countertop bracket installation make sure that the diameter of the screw or bolts selected will fit with the hole diameters placed in the bracket for installation (example: a ¼" diameter lag screw will require a hole diameter greater than .25"). We suggest that you use a screw size that is one "step" down in measurement from the hole size on your countertop brackets. The length of the fasteners used in installation is not standardized. We suggest using a screw or bolt that is 2" to 2.5" long.

Another aspect of the installation fastener system is the adhesive used to bind the brackets to the base of the countertop. There are a number of great products in the market and they can be found at your local hardware or large hardware retailers. Use an adhesive that is formulated for the heavy duty countertop application for best results.

Outwater's brackets come standard with holes in the top flange of the bracket that will go under the counter. In instances where the brackets will be adhered directly to a granite counter we suggest only using adhesives and not drilling in the countertop.

Drilling during installation can weaken the stone or possibly crack the counter. If you will be installing into a substructure or a "drillable" counter material, use of the holes in the top flange will strengthen the installation mount.

Outwater provides a fastener system.

**Mounting of Countertop Brackets** - in installations of granite countertops supported on islands and bar tops the countertop supports should extend to 4" from the end or edge of the counter. Each span should be supported at every stud location available and not to exceed 18" for a New Jersey Countertop Style Bracket and 30" on a gusseted style (Idaho Countertop Support) with granite up to 2" thick.

**For example:** a 16" wide x 96" long x 1" thick open granite bar top will use the following Outwater brackets: 6 pieces of 12" New Jersey Brackets or a like sized gusseted bracket. The brackets will each be mounted to a stud (stud mounted from shelf to floor) with three ¼" diameter lag screws. If the installation is mounted into concrete masonry then it is important to use concrete bolt anchors or stud anchors. Adhesive may be used on the vertical support flange of the bracket to provide added strength to the fastener system in the installation.

**As a general guideline countertops that are mounted to the wall or have no support other than the brackets are a heavy loading installation for brackets. In instances where the bracket is supporting the entire load of the countertop, gusset brackets must be used.**

**\* Non-gusset brackets have a 750 lb. load rating.**

**\* Finishing of Countertop Supports** - in some instances a raw steel countertop bracket is purchased for an installation. Brackets made of raw steel (cold rolled steel or CRS) will rust over time. It is important to finish off these brackets with a paint coating. You can choose to prime and paint the bracket on location. Most hardware stores or paint retailers will have paint that can be used on metals in their selection. If you desire to have pre-finished brackets for your installation Outwater can provide these services for a charge. **(Minimums apply, please inquire).**

