

# **Titan Installation Instructions**

## **Introduction:**

This manual was written to cover the fabrication and installation of sink bowls and tub and shower surrounds in residential and commercial applications. As an experienced fabricator, you may have a different method of installation that you use. Interlam acknowledges that other techniques achieve the goals in proper fabricating and installing of our product.

## **Tub & Shower Wall Installation:**

This manual will give you basic instructions for the installation of tub & shower walls in a step by step sequence that will work in most types of installations. If you have an installation that is not covered in this manual please call your local Transolid distributor or contact Titan directly for additional information to cover your application.

## **Tool:**

1 ¾ h.p. router for any cutouts  
Circular Saw with carbide tip blade  
Random Orbital Sander  
Belt Sander  
Sandpaper or Micron  
Hot Melt Gun & glue sticks  
Drill & Hole Saw  
Level  
Square  
Caulk Gun & Silicone Caulk

## **Preparation of Installation Site:**

Replace regular dry wall or plywood with moisture resistant dry wall, or marine grade plywood.

When installing over ceramic tile, check for loose tiles, if you find any correct the problem. Make sure that the area to be covered is uniform in support. If not, build up the areas without tile. Remove the bottom row of tile and cut a ventilation gap in the substraight.

On every installation make sure that there is a ½” clearance between the top of the shower pan or tub deck and the bottom of the substraight. This will allow for ventilation and keep any water leaks from wicking up the substraight.

### **Preparation for Accessories:**

Make sure the accessories will fit near, but not in a stud and closer to the center of the sheet. Make sure no electrical wiring or plumbing is present before cutting out for the accessories. Make the cutout in the substraight to receive the accessory. The cutout size for Titan’s soap dish is 6” x 6” and the shower caddy is 10” x 21”.

If a surface mounted accessory such as a grab bar is going to be installed make sure that build up blocks are installed behind the substraight where the surface mounted accessory will be located so that you will have solid backing for any screws that need to be installed.

### **Installation:**

When installing a wet wall there are two important factors to remember:

- (1) Find the lowest point on the surface that the Titan panels are going to rest.
- (2) Establish level and plumb lines as an index for all measurements to be made.

Use the following directions for measuring:

Draw Installation Reference Line:

- Use a carpenter’s level and draw a line around the wall area to be covered by panels.
- From the level line, measure down to the tub finding the lowest point that the wet wall will reach.
- From the lowest point mark the height of the Titan panel plus 1/16”. For example, if the panel is 84” measure and mark 84 1/16” from the lowest point.
- Using your carpenter’s level, mark this second level line. This line will be used as the guide to match the height of each sheet of Titan to be installed on the walls.

Now that a level line has been established you need to mark plumb lines. Plumb lines are used to find out of square corners. You can mark a plumb line by drawing a line at a 90° angle to the level lines.

### **Measuring the Panels:**

When measuring for the installation, remember to get the length and width of all of the walls as well as locations of any cutouts to be made for accessories. As a general rule, measure to the longest and widest points of each section.

- Measure the maximum height of each panel and locate the accessory cutouts.
- Measure the width of each panel. This way you can determine if any of the sheets need to be ripped to reduce the width or scribed for out of square corners.
- Mark all of the panels, check the measurements and make your cuts. Make all of your cuts using a circular saw or a router.
- Finish the edges. Ease all of the edges on each panel using an orbital sander.

## Mounting the Panels:

When you start the installation of the panels do so in the following order:

1. Ceiling
2. Back walls
3. Side wall without plumbing
4. Plumbing wall

Use the following steps for installing the panels:

1. **Shim:** Place shims at the base of where the sheets will rest. This allows for better flow of the silicone. Laminate chips make great shims.
2. **Trial fit & scribe the panels as needed:** Place the panel on the shims where it will be installed & check the fit. Be sure the panel lines up with the level line you made earlier so that all panels end up the same height. If necessary, scribe the panel using a compass. Trim the scribe with a belt sander.
3. **Clean the sheets and installation area.**
4. **Apply Silicone:** Using a silicone base adhesive, apply a solid bead of adhesive around the perimeter of the panel. Also apply a solid bead of silicone around any cutouts. The bead of silicone should be applied about 1" from the edges. Apply adhesive diagonally across the sheet with the beads being 10"-12" apart. Place the panel where it will be installed and press firmly along the edges. Pull the panel back to allow the adhesive to vent. Apply hot melt to the sheet or substraight and press the panel back in place. The hot melt will hold the panel in place until the silicone cures.
5. **Titan Installation Kit:** If you are using a Titan Installation Kit, apply the pressure sensitive tape to all four edges on the back of the panel. Be sure to keep the tape 1" from the edges. Apply a bead of adhesive to the back of the panel. Be sure to keep the adhesive at least 1" from the edge of the tape. Remove the backing from the tape, take the panel and carefully position it in the corner. Press the panel firmly to the wall with hand pressure, making sure that the panel is making complete contact with the wall.

6. **Side Wall Panels:** To cut plumbing holes in side panels use a hole saw and cut the holes ½” larger than the diameter of the pipes. After trial fitting, install the side panels using the same steps you used when you installed the back wall panels.

## **Installing Trim Kits:**

Trim kits not only enhance the looks of a wet wall installation but also provide extra protection against water. Trim kits can also be used to better fit panels when walls are not standard sizes.

**TTK72:** 72” Tub Trim Kit fits 60” & 72” high tub and shower kits and include the following: 3-1/2 x 4 x 72 strips and 2-1/2 x 4 x 30 strips.

**STK4896:** 96” Shower Trim Kit fits 72”-96” high shower kits and includes the following: 2-1/2 x 4 x 96 strips & 4-1/2 x 4 x 48 strips.

**STK4296N:** 96” Shower Trim Kit- Neo fits the neo angle shower kits and double threshold shower kits up to 96” high and includes the following:  
2-1/2 x 4 x 96 strips & 2-1/2 x 4 x 42 strips.

Also available at an additional cost are contrasting color 5/8” corner cove strips for both tub and shower wall installations.

## **Finishing & Polishing:**

There are many different ways to finish Titan Solid-Surface and as many different products to do the finishing with. The procedures listed should be used as guidelines when finishing, understand that your taste in finishes may vary from the steps in this manual.

## **Equipment:**

### **Electric Sanders**

A random orbital sander with either a 5” or 6” pad is used throughout the industry. Below are some of the major manufactures of electric sanders.

*Porter-Cable*

*Bosch*

*Dewalt*

*Fein Power Tools* (Fein has an excellent dust extraction system)

## **Air Sanders**

This is the choice of sanders for many shops. Air sanders are more durable than most electric sanders and in many cases can give a better overall finish on solid surface. Manufactures of air sanders are listed below.

*Aro*  
*Dynabrade*

## **Polishers**

Polishers are used when you want a gloss finish on Titan. You should use a polisher with 8 to 10 AMPS and can maintain 2500 RPM's. Polishers that meet these requirements are listed below.

*Porter-Cable*  
*Fein Power Tools*  
*Black & Decker*

## **Abrasives**

Abrasives have evolved greatly over the last few years for the solid surface industry. The industry now offers everything from aluminum oxide to the film backed products micron and trizact from 3M. Major manufactures of abrasives include:

*3M*  
*Mirka*  
*Norton*

## **Equivalency Chart**

<u>Conventional</u>	<u>Micron</u>
80	150
150	100
180	80
220	60
280	50
320	40
400	30
600	15
1200	9

Trizact is an abrasive introduced to the solid surface industry by 3M. They offer literature to help you in finishing solid surface. Consult a 3M distributor for more information on finishing solid surface with Trizact.

## **Finishing Procedures**

### **Matte finish for solid, matrix, and granite light colors:**

Option #1- 100 micron-60 micron-7447 (burgundy) scotch brite

Option #2 - 80 micron-medium abralon (Mirka finishing pad)

Option #3 - 150 grit-220 grit-7447 scotch brite

Option #4 - 180 grit-medium abralon

### **Matte finish for all dark colors:**

Option #1 - 100 micron-60 micron-30 micron-7448 (gray) scotch brite

Option #2 - 150 grit-220 grit-320 grit-7448 scotch brite

### **Satin finish all colors:**

Option #1 - 100 micron-60 micron-30 micron-15 micron-white scotch brite

Option #2 - 150 grit-220 grit-320 grit-600 grit-white scotch brite

### **Gloss finish all colors:**

Option #1 - 100 micron-60 micron-30 micron-15 micron-9 micron

Option #2 - 150 grit-220 grit-320 grit-600 grit-1200 grit

For gloss finish follow the above sanding steps with a polishing procedure that includes using 3M's Marine Paste Compound™ with a Super Duty 2 + 2™ pad. Complete the gloss finish with 3M's Finesse-It and a yellow lambs wool pad.

**Note:** Between each sanding step clean off the dust created by the previous sanding step.

## **Care & Cleaning Instructions**

Titan Solid-Surface is a homogenous, thermoset polymer compound comprised of polyester and acrylic components and filled with aluminum trihydrate. All surfaces are nonporous, and the color and pattern run throughout the entire thickness.

While Titan Solid-Surface is extremely tough and durable, like any other fine material it can be damaged if abused or mistreated. Reviewing these care and cleaning instructions can assist you in understanding how easy it is to care for your new Titan surface and how you can prevent severe damage that may require special repairs.

## **Everyday Cleaning**

- Wipe clean with a damp cloth or sponge
- Basic stains: Clean with mild detergents or general purpose cleaners

## **Persistent Stains**

- To remove persistent stains, cigarette burns or scratches: Scrub with an abrasive cleanser and green Scotch Brite pad. Use Mirka 2000 or 4000 grit Abralon pads for dark colors. If they are not available use a 3M gray or white Scotch Brite pad.
- Periodically go over entire surface with an abrasive cleanser or wet Scotch Brite pad to maintain a uniform appearance.

## **Simple steps to avoid damage:**

- Avoid cutting in sink or on countertop, use a cutting board.
- It is not recommended to place hot pans directly in sink. Even though Titan can withstand temperatures up to 356°, prolonged or extreme heat could cause yellowing.
- Strong acids, such as those found in drain cleaners should be wiped up at once. Some of these items, when left on the surface may cause whitening, which can be difficult to remove.

**Note:** Deep scratches can be removed by carefully sanding lightly with 120 grit (100 micron) sandpaper, followed by 220 grit (60 micron) and finishing with 320 grit (30 micron) sandpaper. Complete by rubbing the surface with a wet green Scotch Brite pad in a circular motion to restore the finish. For dark colors, complete the repair process with a wet abralon pad or gray Scotch Brite in place of the green Scotch Brite.