

Adhesive for Polymer Cabinets ◀ ▶ My Opinion

Have a technical question? Check MIA's Dimension Stone Design Manual VII first. If you can't find the answer there, contact MIA's Technical Director, Chuck Muehlbauer, at technical@marble-institute.com. This FREE service is for MIA members only! (Non-member charge: \$85/hour) As a courtesy to other members, please limit phone conversations to ten minutes per call. All opinions and advice provided by Chuck Muehlbauer or anyone else from MIA are provided as general information only. MIA assumes no responsibility and shall not be liable for any damages resulting from your use of this information. Any information provided by the MIA is the exclusive property of MIA and shall not be disseminated, republished, or reproduced in any manner without the prior written consent of MIA.

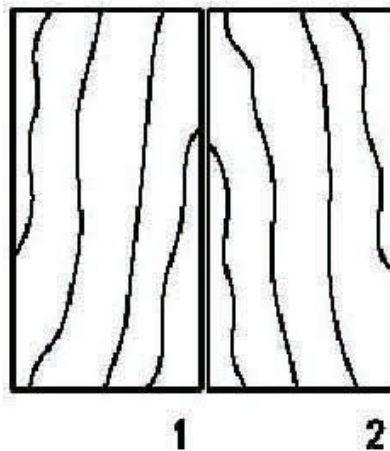
Q: We've received an order to provide granite countertops that are to be installed over polymer cabinets. The cabinet provider has advised us they will not stick to the cabinets. How should we secure the tops?

A: The mass of the stone tops will generally hold them in place, but there should be some restraint of them, particularly if there are any unsupported overhangs. I would recommend using a couple of back anchors in each piece, and then adding a member or clip to the cabinet frame to which the back anchors can be fastened. I'm not normally a big fan of epoxied threaded inserts, but in a controlled climate condition such as this they would probably be acceptable as well, and give the advantage of a little less protrusion inside the cabinet. Leaving it without any restraint would be ill advised, as should someone sit on the overhanging portion and cause it to tip, there could be some serious occupant safety issues.

Q: We're doing shop drawings on an interior marble facing job. The architect says the panels should be book-matched, as in his opinion, that's the way marble is always done. There was nothing in the drawings or specs calling for bookmatching. Is there a standard that would make book-matching mandatory for interior marble walls?

A: No, there is no such standard, and pending the design intent, some architects might not want them book-matched. Bookmatching is an expensive procedure, particularly when a slab is lost to breakage, as one lost slab automatically means the loss of

its mirror image slab as well. If this is the requirement, it needs to be clearly indicated on the bid documents. Since it was not detailed or specified in this case, it would not be a contractual requirement for you to supply the stone in bookmatched patterns.



Bookmatch Pattern

The adjacent faces of panels 1 & 2 are finished. Panel 2 is placed next to Panel 1 as the pages of book are opened.

Q: We're about to start the installation of an exterior stone plaza. The design calls for a slope of 1/8" per foot. I think it needs to be at least 1/4" per foot to drain properly, but I'm unable to find any documentation to back up my opinion. Where would this be specified?

A: I thought this was a pretty easy question, until I tried to find it myself.

The default minimum is 1/4" per foot (20 mm per meter, or 2%), but I had difficulty finding this documented as well. I started searching in the Great Big Book of Everything (aka the Marble Institute's *Dimension Stone Design Manual*), but I was unable to find an actual value. All references are dimensionless notations such as "adequate slope", "proper slope", or "sufficiently sloped".

I then searched in the Indiana Limestone Institute's Handbook and also the National Build Granite Quarries Architectural Specifications, but neither document provided a dimension. The 2009 IBC (International Building Code) was actually the only place I found a value for surface slope, where it states in section 1804.3 (Site grading) that "Impervious surfaces within 10 feet (3048 mm) of the building foundation shall be sloped a minimum of 2 percent away from the building." So at least for the first 10 feet from the building, it is a code requirement to maintain 2% minimum slope. Since this is a minimum, I would prefer to see the designed slope slightly greater, so that the minimum slope will be achieved after allowing for setting tolerances and slab warpage.

