

Liberty Countertop Plate



Installation Considerations

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.

Note that this installation document should not be considered a specific recommendation for your particular application. Federal Brace cannot provide installation guidelines to meet the particulars of every application. This document should be considered a help sheet that provides considerations about the general characteristics of a particular type of support and installation.

Characteristics of the Liberty Plate Countertop Support Plate

Our Liberty Support Plates are designed to allow the maximum amount of leg room possible under a countertop extension or serving bar. The plate is designed with no down flange. The material thickness of the Liberty Plate is $\frac{1}{4}$ " for standard lengths up to 12" long. Once you go over the 12" sizing the material thickness increases to resist deflection.

Without a gusset a plate will tend to deflect (top flange "bending" toward the down flange) more easily than a gusseted plate. For this reason the Liberty Support Plate is only suggested for use in applications where sufficient mounting substructure is available, the plate is not the sole carrier of the weight of the counter and the plate mounted under the counter is not required to be longer than 20". All applications where the Liberty Plate will be useful involve a stud wall that has an exposed top of at least 3.75" wide that can be fastened into.

Preparations for the Liberty Plates

If you have ordered your Liberty Plates unfinished (without paint) you will need to finish them before installation. Make sure you clean the plate of any machine oil or rust preventative before painting. Once clean and dry apply a metal compatible paint to the plate completely. Let the first coat dry and do at least 1 more coat. Before installing the plates the paint should be allowed to dry completely.



Installation Considerations Continued

Considerations when Installing Liberty Countertop Support Plates

Whenever installing the Liberty Plates make sure that you are tying into a minimum of a 2" x 4" board. You will want to the fasteners to have as much "biting" material as possible. This will provide with a secure fastening of the plates. Also, the substructure must be tied into the floor. Remember, a weak substructure makes for a weak installation.

With the substructure in place and sturdy, measure out your plate pattern. We suggest that you space the Liberty Plate no greater than 18" apart on a standard application. Once you have your plate support pattern set up you can attach your first plate to the substructure. Make sure that when you fasten the Liberty Plate that you check for level in all directions. The plate should be straight and level across the top flange as well as down the top flange. This will give the best possible support result to your countertop.

You will need to route out the top of your support structure to allow for the ¼" material thickness of the Liberty Plate. The top of your plate should not extend over the top of your support structure but should meet flush with the top. In the Liberty Plate design we have allow of the additional 3.75" for the plate to extend over the substructure and out the desired distance under the counter.

Once your first plate is in place you can now add the additional plate making sure that you check the additional plates the same way you checked the first. Also, use a level to test each successive plate installed to make sure that the whole installation is level. Placing the level from plate to plate will help you read this aspect of the installation.

Once all the Liberty Plates are in place you will want to wipe them down to get rid of any handprints or other debris. Just before installation of your counter you may want to apply adhesive or silicone to the top of the plate to adhere it to the counter. Once the counter is in place you can caulk around the edge of the plates if you choose. This will give greater adherence to the countertop and cover any gap between the plates and counter.

Final step is to enjoy your work and your new kitchen counter! We are thankful that you chose to support your beautiful counters with Federal Brace brackets. We would be thankful if you would send us images of your new kitchen and our plates under your counters. We enjoy seeing Federal Brace supports at work.

Also, know that the highest compliment Federal Brace can be given is a reference from our customers to friends and family. If you have enjoyed your buying experience with Federal Brace please let someone know.