



## How to Measure for Your Countertop

Measuring, while not difficult, does require some special care. Custom countertops are one of a kind. If they don't fit, re-work is very expensive or could be impossible.

Measuring should be done by the person who will be installing the countertop. Customers who provide their own measurements are more tolerant of small errors.

### A. How to Measure for the Proper Fit

If new cabinets are being installed, always measure after the base cabinets are set. If the countertop only is being replaced, simply measure the old countertop (unless changing the configuration).

Measure the cabinets that will be covered with the countertop. When measuring the countertop, you should always measure the wall where the countertop will sit up against for the most accurate measurements.

Where the countertop does not butt up to a wall or an appliance, add an extra 1" to the total length of the countertop for the overhang on the exposed edges.

### B. How to Decide Depth

A standard kitchen base cabinet is 24" deep. A standard 25¼" top will give about 1-1¼" of overhang at the front.

For an island top (not against a wall), you will want that 1¼" overhang on each side or, if you want an island with seating, specify the size that will provide adequate overhang on one side for knee space.

Mark the length of each counter in your drawings. Be sure to mark the depth of each leg (each portion of the countertop) so we know whether it's a kitchen (25¼"), vanity (19" or 22½"), or bar top (26" and up). See specification sheets for details.

To determine the length of each countertop section, measure along the wall directly behind the existing countertop or new cabinet.

#### Rules for figuring countertop overhang to be added to cabinet measurements:

1. For a countertop end that is open and capped, allow 1" overhang.
2. For a countertop that butts to an appliance, allow 1/8" to ¼" overhang.
3. For a countertop that butts to a wall/cabinet, allow no overhang.

Note: Each finished applied end cap adds 1/16" to top length. Each butt splash (butts up against the end of the countertop) adds approximately 3/4" to the top length. (The actual amount is 13/16".)

### C. How to Determine Irregular Walls/Out-of-square Miter Corners

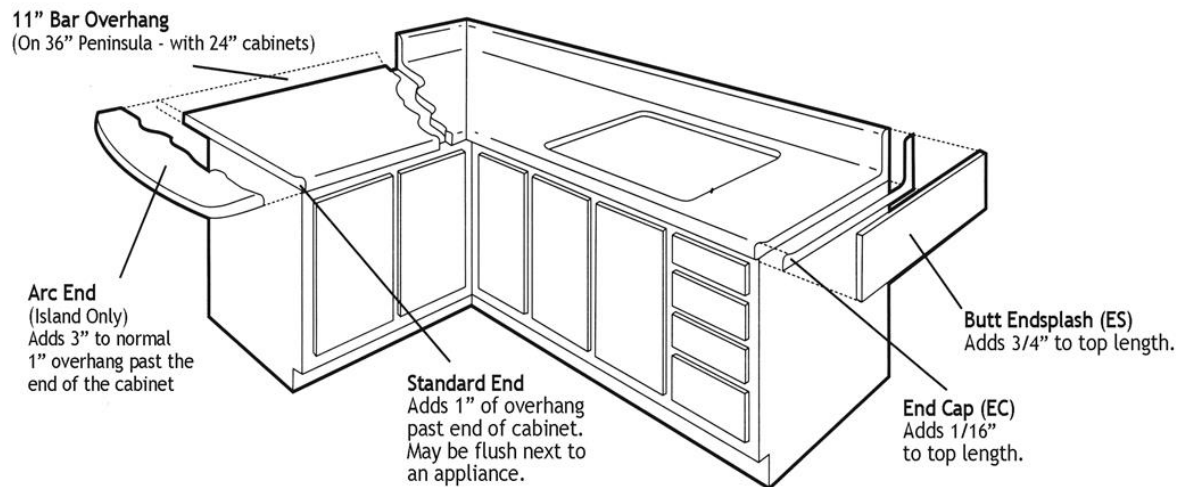
Hartson-Kennedy countertops have a 3/8" scribe on the backsplash that can be sanded to fit slightly irregular (bowed or cupped) walls. Waterfall and No-Drip custom tops have a 5/8" scribe on the backsplash.

To determine if a corner wall is not square:

1. Place a mark on one wall 36" from the corner.
2. Place a mark on the opposite wall 48" from the corner.
3. Measure the diagonal between the two marks, being sure to hold both ends of the tape measure exactly on each mark and eliminate any "bow" or "slack" in the tape (which has the effect of artificially increasing the measurement of the diagonal). This procedure is known as taking a "3-4-5" and is a good method to insure the countertop fits into the corner. The diagonal measurement will always be exactly 60" if the wall is 90 degrees and there are no cups or bows in the walls.

### D. How to Specify Countertop Ends

Mark the desired end treatment. On all tops, designate whether ends are finished (capped) or unfinished (raw).



More detailed instructions can be found on our website [www.hartson-kennedy.com](http://www.hartson-kennedy.com).

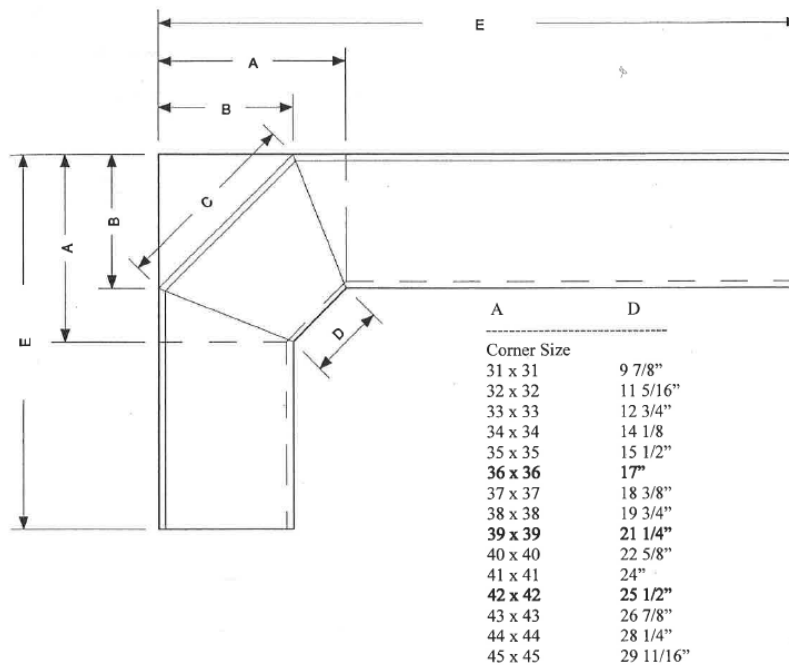
## E. How to Mark Cutouts (e.g. Sinks, Cooktops, Etc.)

Measuring for cutouts is not difficult and requires adherence to two fundamental rules:

- Always measure to and specify the centerline of the cutout. (Specify which side, left-hand or right-hand, you are measuring from.)
- Always refer to and specify the bowl or cooktop manufacturer's brand name, model number, and cutout specifications.
- When a sink cutout falls on a seam in a postform countertop, the seam should be relocated. It is almost certain that a serious water damage problem will result in the seam if this is not done.

**Note:** Moisture (water) damage is not covered under warranty.

### Diagonal Corners – Based on 24" Deep Cabinets



**When ordering a countertop with a diagonal corner, always specify by dimension A on the chart above.**

Dimension A - These must always be alike. Lazy Susan cabinets are designed 36" x 36", etc. When using a sink-front or regular cabinet instead of a Lazy Susan, the cabinets on both sides must be spaced the same from wall.

**Note:** 32" x 21" bowl requires a minimum of 44" x 44" space with 30" sink-front cut down to 28 1/4".

Dimension B- Size of shelf is always 10" smaller than dimension A.

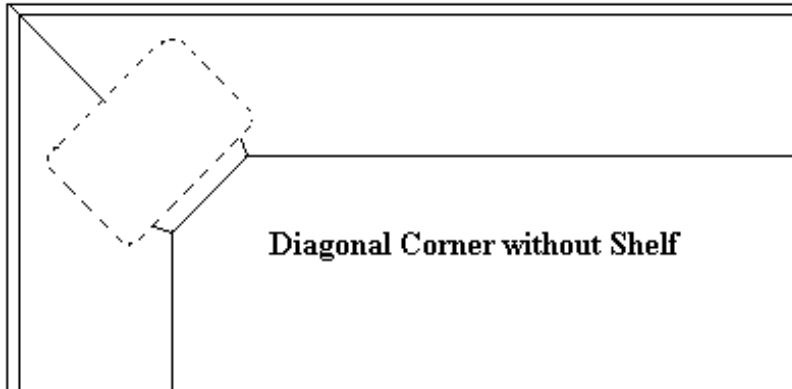
Dimension C- Length of center countertop at backsplash. The surface on which "C" appears is a triangular shelf at top of backsplash height.

Dimension D- Represents the cabinet front.

Dimension E- Always give these **overall** dimensions as the size of your countertop.

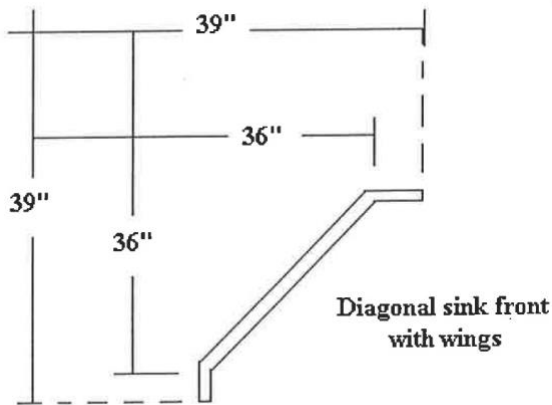
**Diagonal corner countertops without the raised shelf (see drawing below).**

The diagonal corner without shelf is often requested when a sink is being used in the corner. This is a more difficult construction and is not available everywhere.



**Professional Tip:**

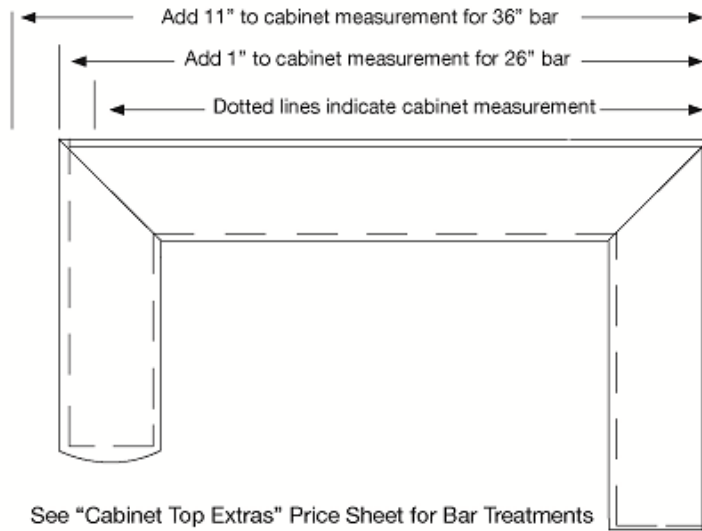
Some corner sink fronts designed for diagonal corners have "wings" (see drawing below). These fronts are often identified by the amount of wall space required for installation, such as 39"x 39" - where the diagonal front has two 3" wings attached. The countertop should be cut for a 36"x 36" diagonal. Always reference when a corner sink front has "wings" by providing the overall size of the front and the length of the "wings."



**U-Shape and L-Shape Kitchens with Bars:**

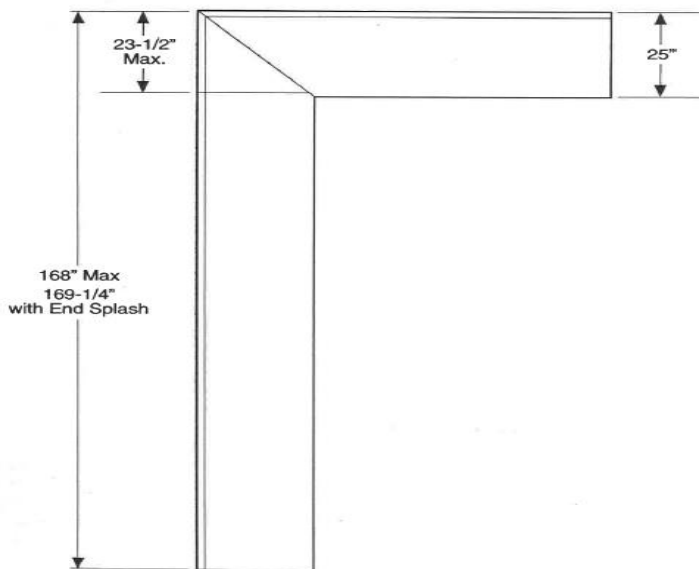
Based on 24" Deep Cabinets and 25" deep tops\*

- \* For 25 $\frac{1}{4}$ " tops, add 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ " to cabinet measurement for 36" bar.
- \* Add 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " to cabinet measurement for standard 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ " bar.



### Extended Counter Tops over 12 Feet

For tops over 12 feet, a "Y" seam is used for strength, better front-to-back match, and to keep the joint away from the heavy traffic in the sink area.



### F. How to Create a Cardboard Template for Non-square Wall Applications

A slightly irregular, bowed wall can be accepted as Hartson-Kennedy countertops have a 3/8" scribe which can be sanded or planed to fit bowed walls. (Waterfall and No-Drop custom tops have a 5/8" scribe on the backsplash.)

Countertop templates are required in certain situations, such as:

1. An unusual shape with several angles and/or radius corners.
2. A large L-shaped or U-shaped top that is badly out of square.
3. A countertop that follows angled walls.

In such situations, a properly made template will allow Hartson-Kennedy Cabinet Top Co., Inc. to cut the top right the first time, saving you and your customer additional time, cost, and aggravation.

Many installers will perform this service for an additional fee.

### **Making an accurate template:**

**NOTE: Do not make templates out of paper**

They are likely to get torn, rolled up, folded or have smashed corners where sharp angles are needed. Example of paper template below:



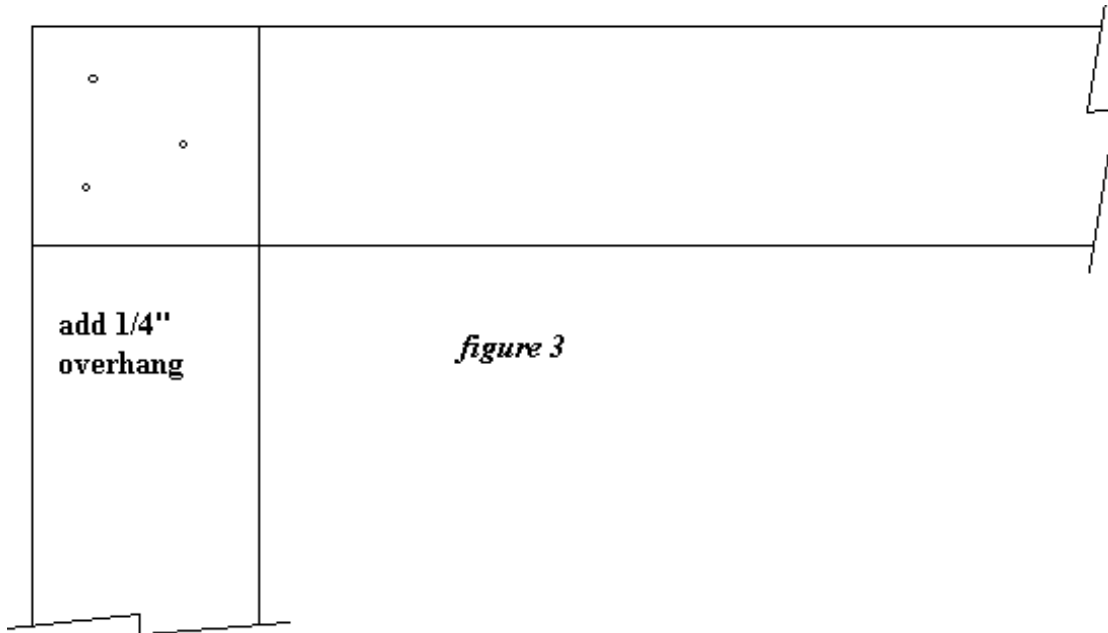
### **TEMPLATE MATERIAL:**

For best results, countertop templates should be assembled using heavy corrugated cardboard.

### **FULL SIZE TEMPLATES:**

Make template of the actual cabinets; do not attempt to make a template of the countertop itself. Send a separate drawing of the countertop with all dimensions and mark the drawing: "SEE TEMPLATE."

1. Mark the correct overall dimension on each section.
2. Indicate the amount of overhang desired at open ends (see *figure 3*).



3. Show the centerline location of any cutouts required.
4. Any template larger than 8' x 6' should be split in the middle of one wall. Mark the joint as in #3 – just as if it were assembled.
5. **Mark the template** with your **account name**, **purchase order number**, and **customer name**.

**CORNER or ANGLE TEMPLATES** – Construct a triangular template as follows:

1. Lay cardboard at least 72" along each wall, making sure they meet in a well-defined angle (see *figure 4*).

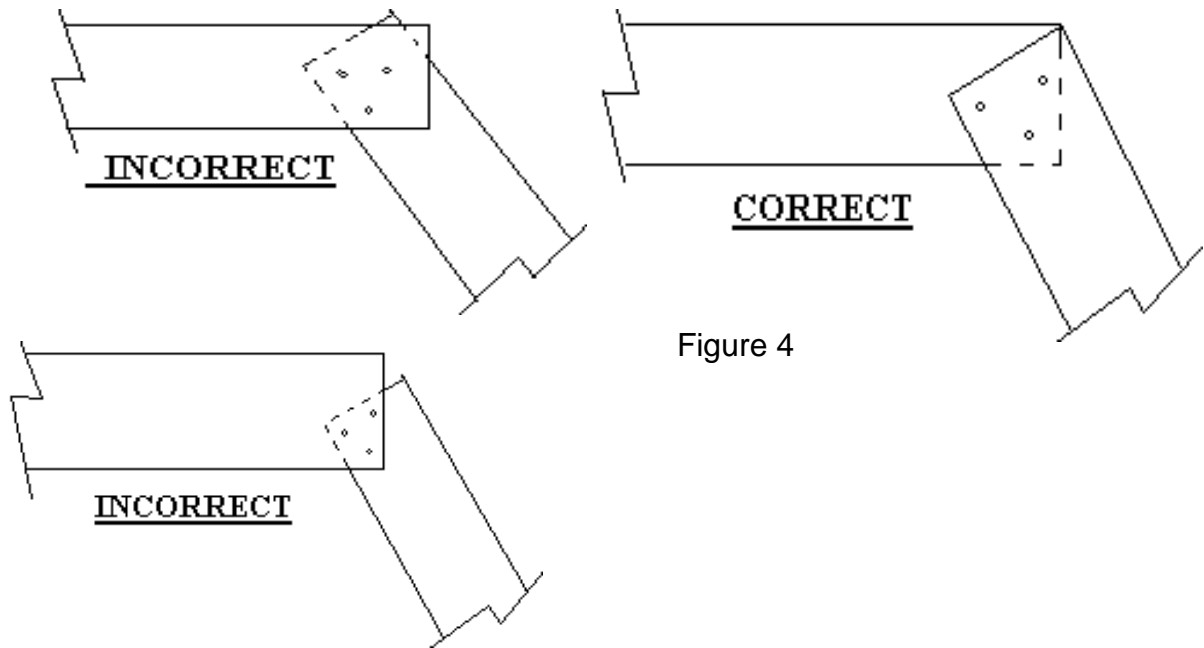


Figure 4

2. Send a separate drawing of the countertop with all dimensions and mark the drawing: "SEE TEMPLATE."
3. **Mark the template** with your **account name**, **purchase order number**, and **customer name**.

#### **Overhang rules for allowing overhang on the ends of countertops:**

1. On a countertop end that is open and capped: Allow ¼" to 1" overhang.
2. When a countertop butts to an appliance. Allow 0" to 1/8" overhang.
3. When a countertop butts to a wall or cabinet – allow no overhang.

For best results, countertop templates should be assembled using heavy corrugated cardboard. Mark the overall dimensions on each section. Indicate the amount of overhang desired at open ends. Show locations of any cutouts required. Example of properly submitted template below:



