Installing Your Bartops

Follow these instructions to install your bar top

This guide should provide a good understanding of the basics of La Bastille bartop installation. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact our office.

Items needed for installation:

- Gloves for handling tops
- Level
- Drill or driver
- #2 square drive bit (needed to open crate and remove supports, provided on outside of crate)
- #8 (minimum diameter) wood screws
- Clean moving blankets
- Nylon rope or chalk line (for aligning subtops)
- 2” blue tape (if project has seams or needs faucet holes cut)
- Caulk (provided in crate if project has seams)
- Rubbing caulking tool or putty knife (to caulk seams)
- Holesaw if cutting faucet holes or openings (needs to be new and sharp)
- Material to cover and protect tops after installation (see details later in this guide)
- Signed drawings (provided in folder in crate)
- Top coat and sealant (provided in crate, to provide extra seal and protection)

Shipping

When first receiving the shipping crate, **carefully inspect** the box for any holes that could have been caused by misplacement of forklift forks, major scrapes, scuffs, or anything odd that may have happened while the crate was in the process of shipping.

Important: **If there is any notable damage to your shipment, the crate should be refused, and you should contact our office immediately at 888.303.9462.** La Bastille is here to assist you in any way that we can, but we cannot help unless you note the damage at the time of receiving. If not reported immediately, you may be solely liable for the damages to your project, which could cause you to incur substantial cost to remake and ship. While shipping damage is rare, it does occasionally happen. For this reason, we meticulously document each piece before, during, and after the crating process through digital photography. We archive these photos with your project for the rare instance that they might be needed, and to assure you that your project left our facility in perfect condition.

DO NOT leave the crate outside. Our crates are not made to be weatherproof. Upon receipt, move the crate inside to a safe and protected location.

Site preparation and handling

The Most Important Rule: ALWAYS WEAR GLOVES WHEN HANDLING THE TOPS

Everyone should wear gloves when handling the tops. Any moisture, including sweat, that makes contact should be gently wiped away with a clean cloth as soon as possible.

NOTE: While handprints can be easily blended and removed, you will have to expend far less effort if you limit this activity by clearly warning all those on site to refrain from touching the project without gloves.

Before uncrating your project, make sure you have enough room to maneuver, and make sure you have enough manpower to complete the installation safely. The site should be clear from debris, and you should have an unobstructed path to the work area. Think about how you will get the tops from the crate to the point of final installation. Do you have enough clearance to turn corners? Will the tops fit through all the doorways? Will you need to reposition while moving? Think through how you will execute your plan, and always have a backup plan for where you will rest the tops in case your first one doesn't quite work out.

Opening Your Crate

Your project has been shipped with a #2 square drive bit attached to the outside of your crate. Locate the plastic sleeve and use this bit to open the crate and remove the pieces (with supports still on) from the crate. A Phillips bit **will not** work, and will only strip out the heads. Any #2 square drive bit will work.

Locate the bag and folder

Immediately after opening the crate and before you complete any other tasks, you should locate the bag and folder within your crate.

The bag will contain a bottle of top coat sealant with carnauba wax to help preserve the projects for years to come. If needed, more sealant can be purchased from Amazon or

many local stores. If the project has required seams, the black bag will also contain color matched caulk. The guide for seams is towards the end of this document.

The folder will contain signed drawings and completion documents. Please carefully review our warranty within these documents.

Unpacking the crate

As you start to unpack the crate, be aware that some components rest on top of other components. Never walk on any of the pieces during the uncrating process.

If your project has pieces that are similar, such as sections that are symmetrical, they may have number stickers on them to help you differentiate between the like sections. These pieces are meant to be installed in numerical order.

Removing the shipping supports

Before placing your tops on the cabinetry, you will need to remove the shipping supports from underneath each piece. The supports are meant only to safely secure the load inside the crate. **Sometimes, the shipping supports make good feet to rest your tops on before the install, and should not be removed immediately after uncrating but left until the components arrive next to the install site.**

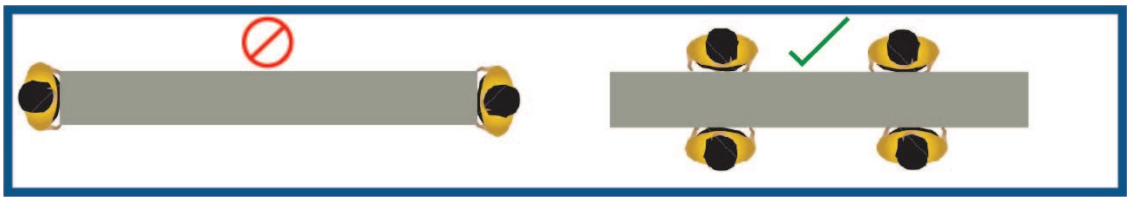
To remove the supports, rest the pieces on several saw horses, and remove the supports from the underside. Make sure you provide enough support, approximately one sawhorse every four feet, to safely support the piece.

As an alternative, you can remove these supports by gently rolling the tops over (with the aid of a team of helpers) onto a moving blanket and carefully reverse the screws out of the supports. Placing the top surface directly on the ground may result in damage to the finish. Also take care to make sure that no debris or fasteners are between the padding surface and the top; screws leave a lasting and noticeable impression. Do not rest the weight of the top on the edge profile.

Occasionally, screws may break off in the substrate. While this is frustrating, gently pry the support off after removing the remaining screws, and use vise-grips to back the screw out, or use a pair of dikes to cut the fastener close to the base. Keep its location in mind so that you don't scratch any other finishes while transporting the piece on site.

Moving Your Tops

Our metal is soft and pliable. This means that, although the tops are metal, they are not indestructible. Avoid bumping the corners into objects on site, and pay particular attention to the vulnerable trim edges. Do not slide the trim over surfaces, including the lip of the die wall, as this can damage or scar the metal. When moving the pieces, pick the tops straight up, move them, and lower them straight back down. Do not rest the counter top on hard edges, such as the deck of a truck or the edge of the crate, without placing padding between as this can also damage your project.



Never pick pieces up from the ends. Always support pieces from the sides with an adequate number of hands. **As a rule of thumb, the piece needs to be supported once every four linear feet.**

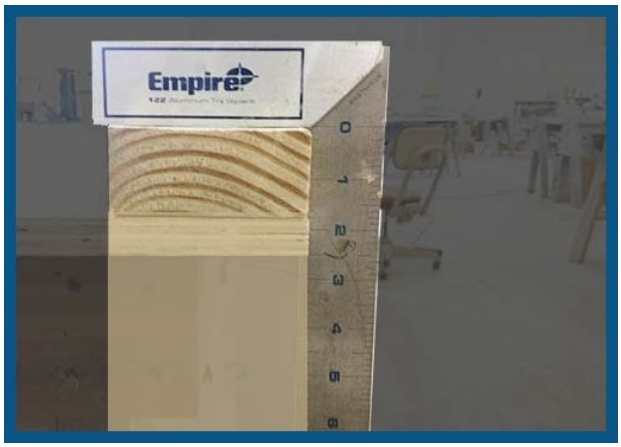
Secondly, for pieces longer than 8 feet, never lift them only from the ends with two people; this places great stress on the material. A minimum of four people is recommended to transport each piece, and the tops should be transported parallel to the ground, just as they will be installed. Occasionally, you may have to rotate the tops on their side to fit through smaller cased openings. This should be done with much care, and the tops should be returned to a horizontal orientation as soon as possible.

DO NOT move your project from the crate to your site with plywood or drywall carts, other dollies, or moving rollers. This places the piece in the wrong orientation, introduces undue stresses on the trim and internal seams, and provides no cushion when going over bumps in the transit.

Preparing the die wall for the subtops

As with most construction tasks, the prep work you must complete before the actual bar tops are installed can have a greater impact on the quality of the final installation of the tops than any other step.

WRONG
(top plate not level)



CORRECT
(top plate level)

Before installing the subtop, ensure that the top plate doesn't slope significantly towards the patron side or the working side. Make sure that the die wall construction matches the approval drawings that were signed off on for your particular project. Shims can be used to address minor corrections that need to be made under the subtop.

Align the Subtops

WRONG
(not aligned)

CORRECT
(front aligned along guide line)

Begin with the first two pieces, subtop 1 and subtop 2 from your packet, and use the "signed and approved" drawings to locate their position in relation to the die wall, noting in particular the front overhang distance. Make sure that the subtop pieces are square and that the overhang is consistent. This can be achieved by pulling a nylon line or chalk line from one end to the other and ensuring that all the pieces touch this evenly along the front edge. Work your way around the bar with the remaining subtops.. Temporarily fasten the pieces until you can be sure that everything fits nicely. Check the overhang and make

sure the measurements match the dimensions that were signed off on in the approval drawing.

Once you are certain of the location, make sure the subtop is securely fastened to the die wall or cabinetry below using a minimum #8 fastener installed in a staggered pattern at minimum of every sixteen inches. Make sure the subtop is level across both major axes. Again, you may use shims to make any necessary adjustments to achieve a level reading.

If your metal tops include seams, make sure the subtop seams and the bartops seams are staggered, as shown in the approved drawings. This will minimize movement at this seam location as much as possible.

Bartops that are not installed over full base cabinetry with a minimal overhang of three inches or less **must be installed over a subtop**. This is to protect your investment and to ensure the safety and stability of your project for years to come. Projects not installed with a subtop void the warranty as there is no way to ensure that the components stay stationary.

Fastening the tops

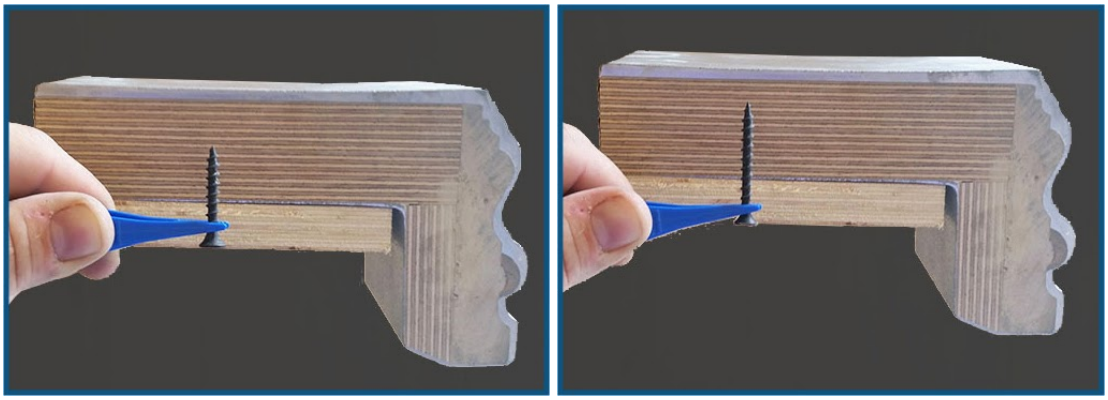
For all aspects of the installation, we recommend the use of a #8 (minimum diameter) wood fastener driven from underneath the subtop into the bottom of the bartop. You do not have to predrill for these fasteners. Drive fasteners through the subtop from below into the tops above

When choosing a fastener, measure the combined thickness from the bottom of your subtop and bartop (and any space in

between), and select a fastener that is at least ½" shorter than this. Our most common installation requires a ¾" thick subtop under a bartop that is 1-½" thick. With a total thickness of 2-¼", your maximum fastener length should not exceed 1-½" or 1-⅝". If a fastener is driven within ⅛" of the top surface, it may cause an unwanted bump beneath the metal surface Please take tremendous care when fastening your tops.

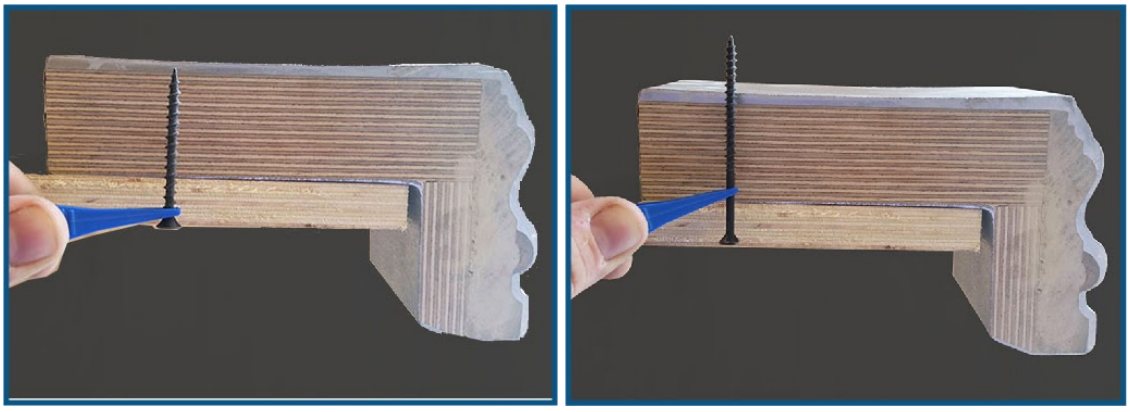
CORRECT OPTIONS

(1-½" and 1-⅝" screws)



INCORRECT OPTIONS

(2" screw makes dimpling possible and 3" screw fully breaches surface)



NOTE: We **ARE NOT** responsible for fasteners run through the tops. Double check the length of each fastener.

Fasteners should be used along each side of seams (if applicable). Shims where needed to make sure each seam is even. Make sure that shimming one area doesn't adversely affect another seam. Also, make sure that the decorative trim is not blocking anything essential from opening. If slight shimming is needed, please provide that adjustment at this stage.

DO NOT use construction to bond your bartops to the subtop or die wall. There is likely a chance you will have to move or reposition your bartop throughout the installation process, and if you fasten them permanently in place, you cannot adjust them.

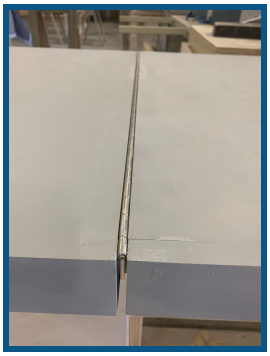
We **DO NOT** suggest cutting across the width of your tops to achieve a proper fit. Our design process is intended to eliminate this need. Should you feel the need to do this, please note that you are voiding the warranty. If you still feel cutting the tops is necessary, please call us directly at 888.303.9462 for proper instructions.

Installing the flip gate

Some projects require the use of a flip gate. Installing the flip gate is best completed with several sets of hands to help. First, test fit the flip gate to make sure there is just enough room. Usually, one end of the flip gate will be beveled to match the beveled end of the bartop. The other end of the flip gate will have a square end so it can be anchored to the die wall and bartop. There will be a tolerance to accommodate the piano hinge, as shown in the approved drawings placed in the crate.

Once the flip gate is test fitted, the flip gate can start to be secured to the bartop using the provided piano hinge. Lay the flip gate upside down on a clean, padded surface. Screw the piano hinge into the square end of the flip gate so that the hinge is flush with what will be the top surface of the bartop.

Two people should then hold the flip gate up over the square end of the bartop while a third screws the other half of the piano hinge into the bartop. The flip gate should remain supported, as there is nothing yet to bear its weight. Close the flip gate to check the placement of the piano hinge, which should appear as shown.



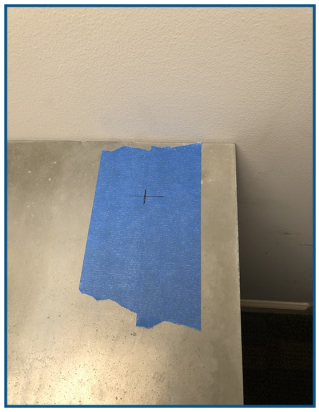
If the piano hinge is properly placed, the hardware can now be secured to the die wall. Most flip gates require either two or three sets of hardware, based on their size. There is a plate provided to mount the hardware if the die wall is not wide enough to accommodate it. If needed, screw the mounting plate into the die wall. The top of the mounting plate should be just below the bottom of the flip gate when closed. Then secure the hardware (with the front cover removed) to the mounting plate.

Have two people hold the flip gate at a 95° angle, using the paper angle provided as a guide. If not already placed, slide the plate onto the end of the hardware leg and screw the plate into the bottom of the flip gate, ensuring it is level. Still supporting the weight of the flip gate, close and open the gate and adjust the placement of the leg as needed.

Adjust the tension, found at the bottom of the hardware, until the hardware is the correct strength to keep the flip gate up when fully open and softly close the flip gate to prevent injury. When the correct tension is reached, place the

front cover on the hardware. Repeat these steps with the second and third hardware set, if applicable.

Drilling for openings

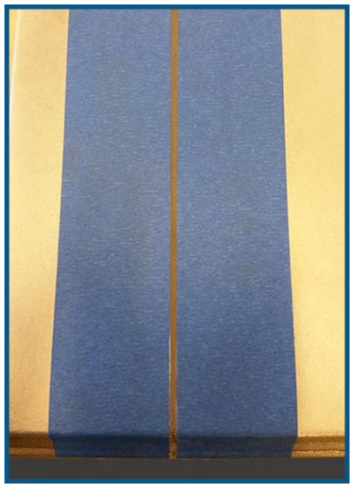


We **DO** recommend drilling holes for faucet sets and beer taps, etc. on site. La Bastille understands that these placement locations often change up to the last minute, and small, self-contained openings do not present an issue. Tape off the area with blue painter's tape before beginning. The tape will help to protect the area and reduce metal burrs around the cut. Gently apply the tape immediately before cutting and remove promptly afterwards.

Use a new and sharp hole saw blade to carefully drill through the metal and the substrate. Holesaws that are intended for use with wood are fine. It can help to establish a pilot hole and then drill through the metal on the back side before finishing completely on the front.

Openings need to be sealed after cutting, to help prevent moisture being absorbed into the substrate. Gaskets should be used for equipment lines, and equipment should be checked for leaks. La Bastille is not responsible for damage caused by leaking equipment.

Caulk the seams



If your product has seams, you will have to caulk these with the material provided in the crate. Mask off approximately 1/8" on each side of the seam (keep this margin the same from seam to seam).

Carefully apply the caulk provided and trowel with a rubber caulking tool or putty

knife if necessary. Take care to ensure the product is dry before covering with paper to protect the tops or waxing. A caulked seam accommodates the slight movement that occurs at this seam and can also be maintained over time.

Protecting your tops during construction

Once your tops are in place and the seams are caulked, you need to protect the project if there is ongoing construction. We recommend the use of clean moving blankets, at a minimum, to provide additional protection. The best method is to encase your project with ram board, masonite, or half-inch plywood to ensure that no other trades affect the tops. This will help prevent paint, adhesive, etc. from spilling onto and damaging the tops.

You should not walk, stand, or otherwise climb onto the tops for any reason. Although covered, they still aren't immune to damage from other trades on site. It's always recommended to be overly cautious, because accidents do occasionally happen.

Do not stand on tops!

Caring for the tops

For instructions on applying more wax (the tops will arrive with some already applied) or general care and cleaning, please see our care guide. This is provided in the black folder and is also available in the FAQs section on our website.

Congratulations on your new La Bastille project!

If you have any questions during the installation process, please do not hesitate to call us at 888.303.9462.