

LENOVA

How to Install a Vessel Sink

As the popularity of vessel sinks has grown, so has the number of these beautifully hand-crafted products that practically demand exhibition.

By sitting entirely above-counter, vessel sinks can be displayed for their beauty as well as their functionality. The great thing about vessel sinks is they are not reserved for use in any one type of bathroom. Modern designs, conservative spaces, rustic decor and everything in between can all be enhanced by a vessel sink. Thus, the aesthetic this type of sink accommodates is rather extensive.

A vessel sink can be installed on the countertop (above counter mount) or sunk into the counter at varying heights (drop-in mount). Semi-recessed vessels are a hybrid of drop-in and vessel and are designed to sit so that the bottom of the bowl is below counter height, while the rim is several inches above the counter top.

For an above counter installation, you will need to cut a hole in the counter large enough to accommodate the entire drain assembly, but small enough that it is hidden by the base of the sink.

If the bottom of your vessel is flat, the installation is straightforward. The only thing we would recommend for this type of sink is using a bead of silicone under the vessel and around the edge to prevent water on the countertop from working its way underneath the sink.

If the sink has a rounded bottom, you have two installation options. You can either use a vessel mounting ring, or you will need to cut a custom fit mounting hole directly in the countertop.

Mounting rings are available at most home centers, or online, and come in several finishes to coordinate with your faucet and drain. A ring elevates and helps to stabilize the sink.

Depending on your design you may instead want to mount the vessel into the countertop in a semi-recessed installation, you will need to cut a hole 3" to 4" in diameter in the countertop. Bevel the hole to accommodate the shape of the bowl, if the vessel is larger the hole should be 5" to 6" for greater stability. To lower the level of the sink, simply enlarge the hole.

To help determine the hole size, use a piece of cardboard. Cut a hole 3" in diameter in the cardboard and place it under the sink for a rough visualization of where the sink will sit. Cut progressively larger holes until you find the perfect placement for your sink. Be sure to keep the height of your faucet in mind during this experiment.

Whichever mounting method you use, **you must attach the drain to the vessel before installing the sink in the counter surface.**

Drains for vessel sinks come in two basic configurations - overflow and non-overflow. Does your vessel have an overflow? Then you will need a standard drain. However, most vessels do not have an overflow and require a vessel drain. Vessel drains come in many different styles and finishes. These drains do not have a stopper assembly. Grid drains were designed to let water flow out of the basin while preventing larger objects from heading down the drain. The other main drain style is the pop up. These drains allow you to fill your sink with water and can be used with most vessel sinks. However this drain type is not recommended for glass sinks.

A SPECIAL CAUTION FOR VESSEL SINKS

When installing a vessel there are two special techniques you must follow.

First: be sure to provide a cushion between the sink and the counter. This can be a bead of silicone, or in certain situations you may want to use a specialized rubber liner placed between the hole in your counter and the bottom of your sink. If you choose to use silicone, allow the bead to dry before installing the sink. The bead will act as a cushion between the sink and the countertop material. Once the sink is in place, seal the joint from the top and the bottom with another application of adhesive.

Second: you must not over tighten the drain assembly when you attach it to the sink. **Tighten the drain by hand only, never use a wrench.** Over-tightening will subject your sink to stress and very likely cause cracking, if not immediately, then at some time in the future. The breakage we see with vessels is almost always associated with an improper installation of the drain.