



LOADING AND HANDLING



CONTENTS

1. ITOP PACKAGING DETAILS	01
2. LOADING AND HANDLING	03
3. CARRYING ITOP SLABS BY HAND	04



1. ITOP PACKAGING DETAILS

ITOP countertops are compact heavy slabs that need to be properly handled, taking all necessary safety precautions including the use of safety gloves at all times. The following table shows their weight per slab, A-frame and number of slabs.

PACKING				
Thickness	Weight of whole slab	Weight per m²	Slabs per A Frame	Weight per A Frame
20 mm	250 kg	52 kg	12	3178 kg
12 mm*	150 kg	32 kg	20	3171 kg
6 mm**	71,5 kg	14,9 kg	40	2851 kg
4 mm***	38 kg	7,9 kg	80	3196,50 kg

The slabs are loaded vertically onto pallets, fastened to an A-frame, to ensure their safe transportation and storage. Red strip is placed lengthwise between the slabs, along their 1500 m side, to keep them separate.



1. ITOP PACKAGING DETAILS

Once all slabs have been loaded onto the A-frame, the corners are protected with 4 cork corner protectors. The slabs are also secured to the pallets with 3 slings, tied around wood strips to prevent them from coming into direct contact with the slabs. The whole pallet is then shrink wrapped to protect it from the rain and the elements.

Each A-frame bears a label with the name of the series, colour, finish and shade of the product, together with the batch number and quality rating to ensure its full identification. The label also lists packing details such as the weight, m² per A-frame and number of slabs per A-frame.



2. LOADING & HANDLING

To load, unload and transport the slabs, use a forklift truck, overhead crane or other similar lifting equipment, following the manufacturer's instructions at all times, complying with the maximum permitted loads, and making sure that the equipment is kept in good working order.

During the handling and transportation processes, the slabs should be kept in a balanced position, bearing in mind their centre of gravity, to prevent them from bending or breaking.

Before proceeding to load the pallets, check that the fork-lift truck meets the following requirements:

1. The highest point of the fork-lift truck must be less than 2250 mm, because the entrance to the container is 2270 mm high.
2. It must have a triplex mast, with a retracted height of less than 2200 mm. The forks must be able to lift the load 1440 mm without the extended mast reaching a height of over 2270 mm.
3. Inalco recommends the use of fork-lift trucks with a loading capacity of 5000 kg (a 600mm load centre).

When proceeding to unload the A-frames, secure the slabs with vulcanized alligator clips or conventional ones to prevent them from moving or falling off, never exceeding the maximum permitted load. Then remove the slabs one by one from alternate sides of the A-frame so as to keep it balanced and prevent it from tipping over.

If slings are used or any other handling equipment with metallic parts, make sure that the metal does not come into contact with the surface of the slabs, particularly in the case of those with a polished finish.



2. LOADING & HANDLING

TRUCK LOADING



2. LOADING & HANDLING

CONTAINER LOADING

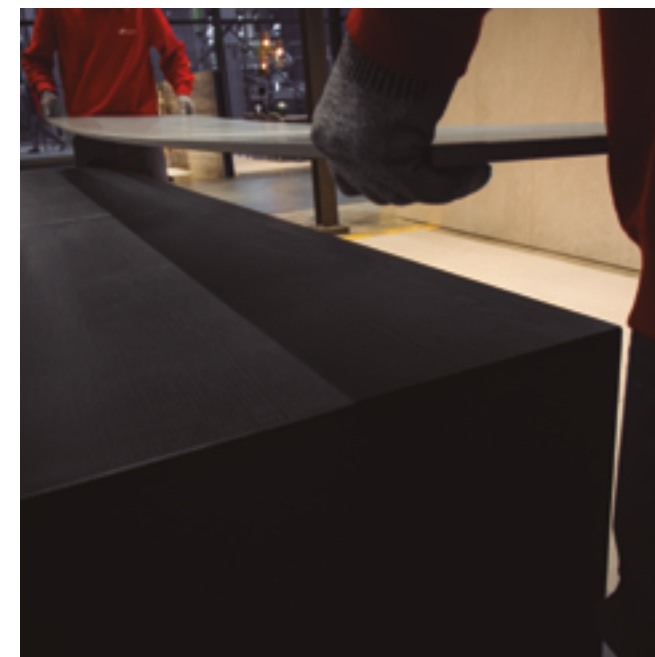


3. LOADING & HANDLING

Carrying ITOP slabs by hand.



Lifting an ITOP slab onto the cutting table.



3. CARRYING ITOP SLABS BY HAND

Long thin slabs (for instance skirting panels) should be clamped to an aluminium bar when carried to prevent them from sagging in the middle.





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