

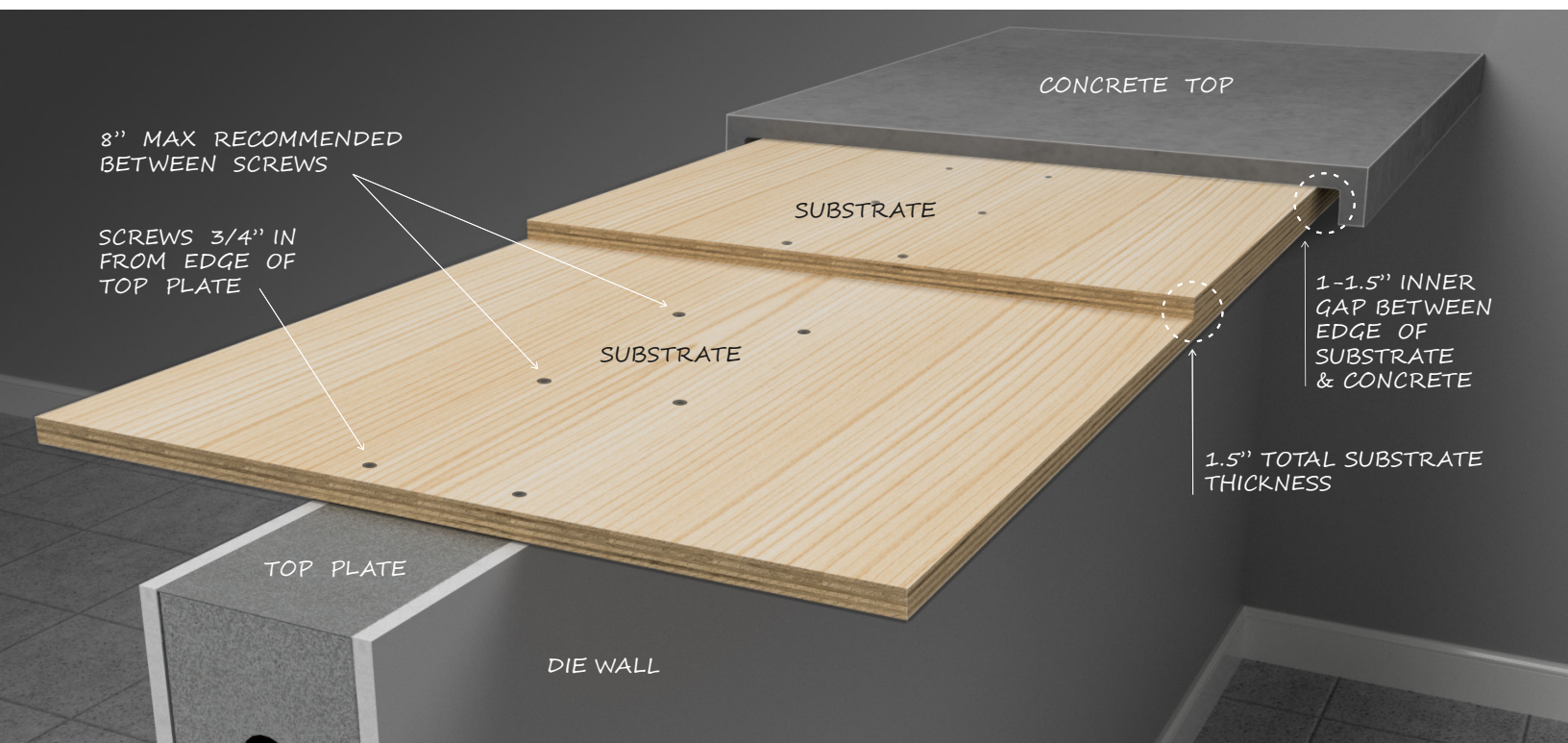
CONCRETE COUNTERTOP INSTALLATION: DIE WALL PREPARATION

When installing Trueform Concrete countertops on a die wall or similar application, there are certain requirements in the preparation of the die wall and substrate. The installation typically involves **adhering the countertop to a wood substrate** which is secured to the die wall. Due to the narrow support of the die wall, the substrate needs to be built up to increase its rigidity. A **total substrate thickness of 1 ½" is recommended**. Multiple layers of wood may be used to achieve this thickness; for example, 2 layers at ¾" ply. If multiple substrate layers are used, the **seams need to be staggered**. The substrate should be secured to the framing with screws within ¾" of each edge of the top plate and a maximum distance of 8" between the screws.

Substrate width: Trueform Concrete recommends the edge of the substrate be held back at minimum of 2" and a maximum of 3" from each edge of the countertop which is not against a wall or similar building finish*. For example, the optimal width of the substrate for a 30" wide countertop would be 26". This leaves room for the 1" wide concrete apron and an additional 1" of play on each side.

To achieve the desired finished height, factor in the thickness of the concrete countertop. The thickness is typically 1" — despite the appearance given by the apron. For example, if the desired finished height of the countertop is 42", subtract 1" for the countertop and 1 ½" for the substrate (total of 2 ½") to give you 39 ½" as the correct height of the die wall framing from the finished floor. Remember the floor may not be level. It is much more beneficial to level the top plate of the die wall and substrate than to attempt to level the countertop against a substrate which is out of level.

Please note that the quality of the substrate installation has a major impact on the end result of the countertop installation. If the substrate is not level or if it moves when force is applied on the edges, the concrete countertop will act similarly.



Substrate / Wood Considerations:

- Cabinet -grade plywood is recommended since the material is less likely to warp
- The B side of the plywood should face up to achieve optimum adhesion with the concrete
- The A side of the plywood facing down is also beneficial since any potential hand/clothing contact will be against the smoother side

**Details for incorporating drink and speed rails must be discussed with our project manager and technical team*