



HELPFUL HINTS: PREMIUM CONCRETE COUNTERTOP MIX



FORM CONSTRUCTION:

- Use melamine coated particle board, not white painted particle board. Melamine is a particle board that has been treated with a plastic coating on both sides. Make sure the melamine surface is free from any scratches, smears or cracking. Remove any stickers from the melamine form and make sure all adhesive residue is removed. When forming the mold ensure screws don't protrude from the surface of the melamine mold.
- Put clear packing tape over all of the screw heads to avoid concrete spillage in the screw heads which will make mold removal very difficult.
- It is best to vacuum and wipe down the inside of the form with a clean rag and warm water or acetone. Use of other cleaning products can leave streaks and residue on the form that you may not be able to see until the top is removed from the mold. Thoroughly dry the inside of the form prior to pouring the mix.
- Do not apply a form release agent to the melamine.

CAULKING OF FORMS

- Use 100% silicone black caulk. All forms must be caulked in the corners to avoid having razorsharp edges.
- Make sure that the caulk is smooth as any imperfections in the caulk surface will be reflected in the edge of the concrete countertop. Be careful that sawdust residue does not get into the caulk or it will show up on the countertop. Any sawdust residue that gets on the melamine mold can be simply vacuumed up with a shop vacuum.
- Use a razor blade to remove excess silicone caulk. Excess caulk that is not cleaned up prior to pouring the mix will leave a mark in the concrete.

POURING INTO FORM

- For longer sections and large countertops, don't mix material that you will not be able to lay in 20 minutes. Always try to have sufficient material to fill the bottom surface of the mold in one pour to minimize pour lines from showing on the surface.
- Make sure forms are tapped with a rubber mallet or lightly vibrated with a palm sander (without pad). This helps to consolidate the mixture.



REMOVAL OF FORMS

- Be sure to wait at least 18 hours before de-molding.
- After de-molding, it is desirable to allow the countertop a few hours of drying time before applying sealers. It is important to follow the sealer manufacturer's instructions as to timing of sealing and temperature considerations.
- Be sure to lightly sand and smooth the bottom edges of the countertop to eliminate sharp edges. Be careful sanding corners, always sand lightly towards the top/piece to avoid chipping the edges.

MIXING

- Plan out your mixing procedure. A 50# bag of Concrete Countertop Mix with proper water addition can fit and be mixed in a five gallon bucket. It may be advisable, depending on the size of your pour, to have multiple five gallon buckets.
- Pre-measure all water to be used. Do not over water. Mix 5.5 pints of clean, potable water per 50# bag of Concrete Countertop Mix for 3 minutes. Allow the product to sit/slake for 2 minutes and then remix for 2 minutes. Additional water is not required and may negatively affect the finished product.
- Add water to the empty bucket first, and then add Concrete Countertop Mix.
- Best results are obtained when a five gallon pail and a mechanical mixer are used to mix the product. Be sure to use a mechanical paddle mixer – no shovels, hoes, wheelbarrows or barrel mixers.