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CONCRETE COUNTERTOPS: A UNIQUE LOOK FOR LESS

Countertops Made with Concrete Offer a Stylish, Cost-Saving Surface Alternative

ATLANTA (Oct. 18, 2006) – Owing to its unique appearance, affordability and high durability, concrete countertops continue to gain popularity as the material of choice for kitchen and bath remodeling. In addition, concrete countertops can be customized to individual specifications with a variety of decorative colors, stains, finishes and optional features for far less cost than using stone or even hiring a professional.

For example, a concrete countertop that is 22 inches deep by 1 ½ inches thick can be completed in a weekend at a cost of \$15 to \$17 per foot. Conversely, a professionally installed concrete countertop can cost about \$65 to \$125 per foot, according to The Concrete Network.

To create a concrete countertop, homeowners will need QUIKRETE® Countertop Mix, QUIKRETE® Stucco & Mortar Colors or QUIKRETE® Liquid Cement Colors, QUIKRETE® Concrete Sealer, a drill with paddle mixer, trowel, wood float, two plastic buckets (5 gallon and 1 gallon), ¾-inch laminate wood board and wood strips, 1 ½-inch wood screws, form release agent, 2-inch paint brush, rubber mallet and 400 grit sandpaper.

- Construct the countertop form by securing the laminate strips to the laminate board with wood screws. Many countertops in existing kitchens will not be perfectly rectangular. In order to obtain the correct form angles, it is important to remember that the bottom of the pour will be the top of the counter.
- Apply a form release agent to the inside of the form. This allows for easy removal of the countertop once the concrete has cured.
- Mix the QUIKRETE® Countertop Mix to a flowable consistency using the drill with paddle mixer.

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- For a decorative touch, add QUIKRETE® Stucco & Mortar Colors or QUIKRETE® Liquid Cement Colors, which combined result in 25 base coloring options, to the mixing water.
- Pour the completed mixture into the pre-constructed forms and spread evenly using a wood float. Level the grout to the top of the form using the wood float.
- Tap the sides of the form with a rubber mallet before finishing the countertop to reduce air pockets that could leave voids in the surface.
- A steel trowel finish can be applied to the bottom surface of the countertop once the surface is “thumbprint hard.”
- Remove the form after the countertop has set for 24 to 48 hours.
- Lightly sand the countertop including the corners to remove imperfections and residual form release. Thoroughly rinse with clean water.
- Thoroughly rinse, clean and allow the countertop to dry before applying the QUIKRETE® Concrete Sealer. Refer to packaging for specific application instructions.
- Secure the concrete countertop to the vanity or cabinetry using silicon sealant.

For more information on repair and renovation projects, visit www.quikrete.com.

The QUIKRETE® Companies

The QUIKRETE® Companies are the largest manufacturers of packaged concrete in the United States and an innovative leader in the commercial building and home improvement industries. With more than 80 manufacturing facilities in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and South America, The QUIKRETE® Companies have unsurpassed product distribution and depth. The QUIKRETE® Technical Center ensures that professionals and consumers alike are provided with the most innovative and highest quality products available on the market. For additional information on QUIKRETE® or its products, please visit www.quikrete.com or call (800) 282-5828.

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