

Operation and Maintenance Instructions

EPOXY RESIN COUNTERTOP INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

Epoxy resin counter tops are custom fabricated from your shop drawings, including sink cutouts, drillings and special cutouts, each piece is numbered and should be installed exactly as per the blue print layout, to minimize normal variations. Tolerances in thickness and warpage (due to the very nature of resin) are held to a minimum, and are easily corrected in the field by shimming or sanding. Note: sanding of the top surface is not recommended.

Epoxy resin tops should be cemented together using a black epoxy adhesive (in some instances, where flexibility is most important, a silicone adhesive should be used. this will facilitate breaking a joint for top replacement). The epoxy adhesive will set firmly, and breaking this bond is extremely difficult. Be sure the room temperature is 60' or warmer for better results.

The surface to be joined should be clean and free from coatings, dust or dirt. We recommend using acetone or lacquer thinners to wipe those edges in question. If a reduction in ultimate clean up time is desirable, masking tape can be used to mask adjacent areas, then removed after final cementing.

Layout the whole item before cementing. Shim where necessary clamp and align all pieces carefully. Leave 1/16' to 1/8" between pieces at joints. Using a putty knife or plastic spreader, push the cement into the joints and smooth out. Wipe away any excess cement with a cold water moistened cloth then remove masking tape.

After a period of 1-2 hours (longer if not 60') the joints can be dressed up. Let set overnight, for a bond of sufficient strength. It may be necessary to apply additional cement after the first application, as it sometimes shrinks in the joints. We recommend a thorough cleaning of the tops with detergent and water. If building construction is still in process, cover all tops with a suitable material to protect.

Bonding of bench tops to cabinets

Screw anchors can be used to bind epoxy resin to cabinets, but the epoxy Adhesive or silicone is recommended. The area to be bonded on both the furniture and the underside of the top should be sanded with coarse sandpaper. As before dust should be removed with acetone or lacquer. The adhesive may be applied to the tops and cabinets and fixed in place at the same time tops are being bonded together.

Field fabrication

If necessary, emergency field cuts can be made using a carborundum abrasive blade (masonry type). if the piece to be cut produces an exposed edge, it can be cleaned up with abrasive paper and then dressed with an oil based product (I.E. WD-40). Service holes can be drilled using a carbide masonry drill, which will require frequent sharpening, diamond tools are recommended for best results.

Note: Due to the very nature of resin, tolerances in thickness and minor warpage can develop. (It is not uncommon to have a 1/8' warp in a 4 ft., or 1/16" difference in thickness). Careful installation when aligning sections is recommended, we emphasize the importance of installing all tops in numerical order. HEMCO assumes no responsibility for the removal of material that has been cemented in place.

Visit www.HEMCOcorp.com

**HEMCO Corporation
711 S. Powell Road
Independence MO, 64056
MM-WSMM.08.17**

HEMCO
Lab Planning Solutions

Call Toll Free: (800) 779-4362

**Phone (816) 796-2900
Fax. (816) 796-3333
Email info@HEMCOcorp.com**

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Care and Maintenance of Epoxy Resin Tops

A regular schedule of maintenance is the most effective means to prolong the surface life and attractiveness of Epoxy Resin epoxy tabletops. It is important that the counter top surface be protected during installation, after installation and before acceptance. However, if some minor surface or edge damage does occur we recommend the following procedures be used:

For light scratches and scuff marks, clean the area thoroughly with mild soap and water, and then apply a light coat of oil based product (i.e. WD-40). This will bring back the black color of the work top surface.

For deep scratches on the work surface, clean the scratch or gouge thoroughly and remove any loose debris. Mix an appropriate amount of the two part black epoxy cement being used as a joint compound. Note: Follow mixing instructions on the label. Observe all cautions listed by the manufacturer. Using a putty knife fill in the scratch until it is level with the surrounding top surface. Remove any excess epoxy cement from the working surface immediately adjacent to the scratch. Let the patch cure according to direction on the can.

For chips on the front edge of the counter tops, clean and prepare the area to be patched as done for or a deep scratch. A very small chip on the front edge can sometimes be sanded out. Mix an appropriate amount of epoxy cement and apply to the chip, the front edge is a sanded finish and the damaged area can be sanded to a 150-grit finish.

We do not recommend sanding the work surface itself, as this is a molded product, which has a matte finish by design and is very difficult to duplicate using sandpaper.

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