

Counter Mix

Grey or White base colours

Description: *Technik Counter Mix* is specifically designed to be finished using three different methods. This product can be Hand Packed, Cast or Hard Troweled. Pieces that are hand packed will create unique veining. The design matrix allows this product to be placed vertically without sagging. This product is available in white or light grey to allow you to achieve a full spectrum of color finishes.

Recommended For:

- Pre-cast countertops.
- End tables and small tables
- Desktops
- Patio Stones etc.
- Floor or wall tiles
- Fireplaces
- Planters

Advantages:

- Shrinkage Compensated.
- Just add water to the powder mix and stir.
- Designed to prevent aggregate separation.
- More convenient and less messy than “do it yourself” blends.
- Multi use mix.
- Can be extended up to 20% with various aggregate, quartz or crushed glass. Extra mix water will be required if you extend your mix.

Mixing Instructions: Water demand is 4.0 to 4.1L. When:

Casting (pouring into a mold) put water into a mix pail, you must add a **Flow Kit**. To properly disperse your **Flow Kit**, you must stir the water while slowly adding the **Flow Kit**. Once you have fully dispersed the **Flow Kit** you may begin to add your **Counter Mix**. This material should be mixed with a paddle mixer. Slowly pour your **Counter Mix** into your mixing pail while continuously mixing. Once all the material has been added to your mix bucket continue to mix for at least 1-2 minutes. Let you mix stand for 1 minute and then mix again for 1 more minute before placing into your mold. Your finished mix will appear slightly stiff but pourable.

Hand Packing (create veining) **Do not** use the **Flow Kit**. Put your water into a mixing bucket and slowly add the Counter Mix material while mixing with a paddle mixer. You will end up with a clay like material.

Hard Troweling (Troweled in place) **Do not** use the **Flow Kit**. Put your water into a mixing bucket and slowly add the Counter Mix material while mixing with a paddle mixer. You will end up with a clay like material.

Placing:

Casting: Begin by building your form to the desired dimensions. If you plan on using reinforcing material, it must be suspended as far as possible away from the finished surface to prevent ghosting. You can now place your **Counter Mix** (see mixing instructions). Do not pour the **Counter Mix** over the rebar, remove the rebar from your mold, pour the material to the level that your rebar was suspended and then re-hang the rebar into your mold and continue to place the balance of the **Counter mix** into the mold fully covering the rebar. Pouring the **Counter Mix** over rebar can result in ghosting of your re-enforcing material. Vibrate the material to reduce voids in the finished piece. Use either a pencil vibrator, a palm sander or a rubber mallet on the exterior of the mold.

Hand Packed: This method requires that you build a form. When hand packing your mix should be the consistency of clay. Place small amounts of the mix at a time placing it in a manner to create voids which will become the veins of the finished piece. Creating these veins may take some practice so it is advised to do a small test piece before attempting your first project. When you have filled about $\frac{2}{3}$ of your mold you can place your re-bar or other reinforcing material. It is not necessary to suspend the re-bar as the mix will hold it in place. Once your entire mold has been filled you may screed, or trowel finish the surface. The voids you create while hand packing are filled after you have demolded and have done an initial polish. There are multiply how to videos on the internet that discuss the details of this process.

Hard Trowel: Typically, this method is used when you are building your countertop in place. Be sure to build a very stable substrate on your cabinets. Temporary edging is built to form your piece. Fasten metal lath to the substrate to provide additional support and to ensure a good bond. As you place the product begin to screed to the approx. finished level. Once your project is placed you can use a palm sander or rubber mallet to vibrate the sides of the countertop. For the best **Hard Trowel** results your initial troweling should be done with a mag trowel. As the **Counter Mix** starts

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to set you can then use a steel trowel. You will continue to trowel every 15-20 minutes for about 3-4 hours after placing the material. With each pass of the trowel, you will densify the surface and add unique characteristics to your piece. Once the material is set up sufficiently you may remove your edge molding. If you are building an exterior project be sure to protect your finished project from all elements for the first 24-36 hours.

Curing: After placing your product and it has set you should now wet cure it for 24-36 hours. This is best done with a saturated wet covering, like a cotton towel. Ensure your covering remains wet for the duration of the curing process.

Form removal: When **Casting** or **Hand Packing** you can de-mold in about 24-36 hours. It is recommended that larger pieces cure a minimum of 36 hours before removing from the mold. When **Hard Troweling** a project you can typically remove the edge molding within 3-6 hours, this will allow you to do any required finishing on the front edges.

Polishing:

You may begin polishing after 48 hours of casting your piece. For the best results use a wet polish method, however dry polishing does work. If you do not want to expose any aggregate start at 200 grit and work your way to 3000 for a highly polished finish. To expose aggregate start at 50 grit. If your piece requires voids to be filled use **Starpatch Slab and Panel**, which is available in a grey or white base and can be colored to match your piece. **Slab and Panel** can be polished after 12 hours and re-applied until all the voids are properly filled. You can also use the **Counter Mix** material to fill voids. If they are very small voids, sieve out the courser sands by running the powder mix through a kitchen sieve, the advantage of doing this will ensure a good colour match.

Sealing: To prevent stains on your newly finished countertop it is highly recommended to apply a stain blocking sealer. The **Counter Mix** will accept a wide variety of sealers, you must do a test to determine stain resistance of the sealer you choose. **Starpatch Concrete Products** has 2 urethane sealers available that provide proven stain resistance. There is a gloss version, 100% solids urethane and a satin version which is a water-based urethane. Contact **Starpatch Concrete Products** for details about these products.

Volume:

0.45 cubic Feet per 50lbs

Bucket Life: Approximately 30 minutes, depending on temperature and humidity.

Shelf Life: One year in original unopened bag if kept in dry storage.

Limitations: Temperature at time of application may not be lower than 5°C/41°F. The use of this product is very broad, however it is the responsibility of the user to satisfy themselves that it is the appropriate product for the planned project. If you are making tiles, be sure to either apply a membrane on the back side before installing them or use the appropriate Epoxy thin set. The introduction of moisture to a fully cured tile will cause curling. When polishing installed floor tiles dry polish only. Be aware that concrete will stain easily if not properly sealed; protect your project as needed. When working outside be sure to protect your work area from both sun and rain. Accelerated curing can cause cracking.

Color: Concrete grey or white. Available in any custom blended color upon request.

Packaging: 22.7kg/50lbs. bag

Caution: Contains cement, polymer and other additives which may cause skin irritation. In case of skin or eye contact, wash thoroughly with water. Please consult the MSDS for detailed safety and handling instructions. In case of eye contact consult with nearest physician. **KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.**

Warranty:

Starpatch Concrete Products warrants that if its products prove to have manufacturing defects and Starpatch is notified of such within 6 months from date of Starpatch shipping, Starpatch will replace the defective products F.O.B. factory. Such product replacement shall constitute the sole and exclusive remedy for any claim under this warranty. This warranty is in lieu of all other warranties, expressed, implied or statutory and is strictly limited to its terms. Starpatch makes no warranty of merchantability or suitability of its products for any particular purpose. Starpatch sells its products upon the condition that the customers shall conduct their own tests to determine the suitability of the products for the customers intended purposes. Under no circumstances will Starpatch be liable for economic, special, incidental or consequential damages or losses of any kind whatsoever arising out of or occasioned by the selection, use, installation or replacement of this product.

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