

## Counter Mix

### Grey or White base colors

**Description:** *Technik Counter Mix* is specifically designed to be finished using three different methods. This product can be Hand Packed, Cast or Hard Trowelled. Pieces that are pressed will create very 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
- Desk tops
- 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.

**Mixing Instructions:** Water demand will vary depending on the method you are using. For **Hand Pack** and **Hard Trowel** use approx. 4-4.1L of water. For **Cast** projects you may need as much as 4.7L per 50lbs bag. This product can be hand mixed or using a barrel type mixer, water demand will be the same for either mixing method. Be sure to put water in your mixing container first and then add the dry powder. To add color use **Technik Tru-color**, choose from 1 of 14 designer colors. If blending color into the mix add water, then color, mix briefly before adding the **Counter Mix** powder.

**Placing:** This multi-use product can be **Hand Packed, Hard Trowelled** or **Cast**.

**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 seam like 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 mould has been filled you may screed or trowel finish the surface.

**Cast:** Begin by building your form or mould to the desired dimensions. Prepare your reinforcing material and suspend it minimum of 1½” from the finished surface of your piece. You can now place your **Counter Mix** (see mixing instructions). Vibrate the material to reduce voids in the finished piece. Use a pencil vibrator, or you may use a palm sander on the exterior of the mold.

**Hard Trowel:** Typically this method is used when you are building your counter top 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. The correct mix consistency can be achieved by adding 4 liters of water per 50lbs bag. As you place the product begin to screed to the approx finished level. Once your project is placed you can use a palm sander to vibrate the sides of the counter top. For the best **Hard Trowel** results your initial placing should be done with a mag trowel or wooden float, as the **Counter Mix** starts 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 counter top be sure to protect your work area from the elements (all) for the first 24-36 hours.

**Form removal:** When **Casting** or **Hand Packing** you can de-mold in as little as 12-14 hours. It is recommended that larger pieces cure a minimum of 24 hours before removing from the mold. **Hard Trowelled** pieces are typically done in place and you would only remove the edge molding which can be done in 3-6 hours, this will allow you to do any final finishing that may be required on the 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

## Counter Mix

### Grey or White base colors

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.

#### Sealing:

To create a streak free finish, take an applicator pad or soft clean cloth and saturate the entire surface with clean water; allowing it to penetrate. In a container mix 1 part **Clarity Clear** sealer with 3 parts water. Apply this solution to surface with the same applicator pad and saturate the entire surface evenly. Agitate the diluted sealer ensuring that there is coverage over your entire project. After 15-20 mins wipe off excess sealer and let dry. Repeat this procedure with a 1 part **Clarity Clear** 1 part water mixture. After your second flood coat has dried apply 4-5 additional coats of pure **Clarity Clear** allowing the sealer to dry between coats (approx 30 mins). The sealer needs to cure 48 hours before applying a food safe wax.

#### Compressive Strength:

(CAN/CSA-A5, ASTM C109)

Results pending

#### Volume:

0.45 cubic Feet per 50lbs

#### Drying Shrinkage: %Volume ASTM C596

Results pending

**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 uses for this product is very broad, whoever 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.

**Curing Time:** Your piece can be de-molded in 12-24 hours. The freshly de-molded piece should be turned face up and allowed to cure for another 12

hours before polishing. You may need to turn your piece every day to ensure it cures evenly. Most sealers can be applied after 4-7 days (refer to specific instruction of sealer being used).

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

**Packaging:** 22.7kg/50lbs. bag

**Caution:** Contains cement, a 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.

**Starpatch Concrete Products, Burnaby, BC.**

Phone (604) 433-7355