



How to Install Concrete Countertops

Brand new countertops can provide an added sense of luxury and cleanliness to any kitchen. There have always been many choices, from Formica to tile to granite, but recently concrete has taken the forefront in materials choice. Concrete affords you the ability to use your imagination in design, textures, and colors. Fortunately, installing concrete countertops is a project that the novice homeowner can undertake on their own.

There are many types of concrete countertops that you can make; from trowel or ground face finish, to variegated colors. They can be poured in place or shop poured and installed afterward, depending on how fancy you want to make your countertops. Liquid dyes allow you to custom match your countertops to your room décor. We sell the materials in an easy-to-mix, easy-to-pour kit, with all the correct additives already in the bag.

With a few tips and these subsequent steps, you can tackle this undertaking on your own and save the charge for a contractor. In this article, we are going to discuss how to shop pour a counter top with the bottom of the pour being the finished surface.

Step 1

The first step to installing concrete countertops is measuring the dimensions of your existing counters. Since walls are not perfectly straight, measure an eighth of an inch's distance from the wall to allow for imperfection. You can hide this extra space with a backsplash later. Decide how long of an overhang you want, and then add this measurement accordingly.



Step 2

Next you will need to create your mold. We recommend that you use melamine plywood, as it is the standard for concrete countertop molds. Be careful when creating the mold, as any deficiencies will appear in your concrete.

Measure your plywood to cover the entirety of your counter. When building sides for your mold, you add about 2 inches to the actual desired height of your countertop.

Create molds no longer than 8 feet. If your countertop reaches longer than 8 feet, make more than one mold as to prevent cracking.

Pre-drill the holes for your screws so that you do not warp the plywood. When drilling your plywood together, be careful to hold the drill straight in order to avoid tampering with the exactness of your mold. If you want to incorporate special designs, like a soap holder or a drain area for a sink, now is the time to add them to the bottom of your mold. You can even add glass beads, medallions, or anything you'd like to dress up your countertop.

Step 3



Follow the mixing directions on your concrete mix and then pour the mix into your mold. Be sure to constantly vibrate your mold in order to get rid of trapped air. Tapping it with a hammer will usually give sufficient vibration if you have made the mix to the right consistency. You want to pour the entire top at one time to make sure that you don't end up with any seams.

If you are pouring a piece over four feet long, you will need to reinforce your concrete with wire mesh. The mesh should be the size of the countertop minus about one inch from the edges. After you have poured the first two inches of concrete, imbed the mesh into the wet mix. Pour the rest of your concrete over the mesh.

Flatten and smooth the concrete mix. Then allow your countertop to cure for the allotted time listed on the concrete package. We suggest that you make your concrete in a garage or separate workspace to avoid making a mess in your kitchen, and allowing extra time to ensure that you're concrete is fully cured.

Step 4

When the concrete is fully cured, strip it from its mold and set it on a sturdy work table. You can now finish the top with a circular sander and abrasive sandpapers. Run your sander over the countertop in circular motions. By using progressive grits of paper, you can get the finish down to a very smooth surface. Be careful when sanding edges and corners that you do not apply too much pressure on the sander.

Once your concrete countertops are ready for installation, be sure to employ other people to help you carry the countertop into your kitchen. It will be heavy, and the more support you have the less likely it will crack.

Tape off the edge of your kitchen cabinets so that the adhesive does not run onto the rest of your counter. Prop a couple of 2x4s on the counter and place your concrete countertops on those, rather than mounting directly onto the counter. Then apply a small amount of construction adhesive or silicone caulk every four to six inches along your countertop, but not so much that it runs over the sides when you put the countertop down.

Gauge and measure your countertops so that they fit well onto your counter before removing the 2x4s.

Step 5

Finish off your project with a deep penetrating sealant to protect your new countertop from food stains. It is also highly recommended that, like with any concrete or stone countertop, you polish it up with a beeswax coating. It will give your top a nice shine as well as prevent stains.



After following these steps, you will have created and installed your own concrete countertops. Who knows, you may just want to remodel the bathroom too!

Camosse Masonry Supply sells Buddy Rhodes concrete countertops. We recommend these particular products for their consistency, workability, and versatility.

[Contact us](#) for any of your countertop questions or if you are interested in purchasing the necessary materials for this project.

Camosse Masonry Supply has two locations in both Worcester, MA and Charlton, MA. We are one of Worcester County's largest suppliers of concrete masonry block and supplies.

