

Feasible Formulas for Formica

As decorative finishers, we always face durability issues when dealing with difficult-to-stick surfaces. Formica is one such problem. All types of efforts have been made to properly prepare Formica to accept paint. And, while it may accept a paint finish initially, maintenance and long-term durability become major factors when dealing with countertops.

For the ultimate in wear resistance and natural appearance, we now look to decorative concrete as the solution. With overlay veneers that are almost bulletproof and chemical stain systems offering predictable color results, we are now able to accomplish more by simply going over Formica than by tearing it out and adding actual tile. At the same time, thanks to the thin nature of overlay veneers, we no longer have the issues of pulling a sink out of the counter first or having to reinforce the cabinets for a tremendous addition of weight.



This countertop exemplifies the possibilities of elaborate tile patterns over Formica.

An excellent concrete product for use on Formica is the Bella Vernici Architectural Concrete System, developed by a conglomerate of artists and concrete contractors looking to go

surface down with denatured alcohol. Sanding is of relatively little use as you're not going to actually abrad Formica to any substantial degree. Even if you did manage to break

beyond the realms of traditional decorative concrete installations. Bella Vernici works well over most any existing substrate, including such problem areas as Formica.

The first step in dealing with Formica is to properly clean it. This is accomplished by simply wiping the



This cutaway section shows the layering of Formica, XIM, Bonding Primer, Overlay and Stain.