



process is complete. Two to three coats may be necessary for total opacity of the primer. Once applied, they need to dry for at least two hours.

When doing a cementitious veneer, a transitional primer is then needed. This

Top: This counter is shown with just Overlay and some rocks added for texture.

Right and bottom: The same counter is shown after stain and grout.



through that surface, your remaining substrate would be the equivalent of paper. This wouldn't offer a very durable surface to begin work on.

After you have properly cleaned the surface, our recommended primer is XIM. There are several primers available for Formica surfaces. But, most of them do tend to be oil-based and, therefore, require proper ventilation and precautions. Simply check with any home-improvement or paint store to see what they recommend. While these primers may still be able to be scratched if left on their own, they are quite durable after the entire

is generally referred to as a Bonding Primer. Bonding Primers are normally extremely thin and can crawl on a sealed surface such as XIM or other oil-based primers applied over Formica. Therefore, an initial coat of Bonding Primer is put down and allowed to "tack up" for approximately 20 minutes. Then a second coat is applied in a perpendicular direction to the first. This is referred to as "checkerboarding." The second coat of Bonding Primer is normally allowed to dry for at least 30 minutes. This will give a physical tooth so that the Overlay Compound is able to bond. If the

Bonding Primer is allowed to sit overnight, it is important that it be cleaned thoroughly the next day to eliminate any dust that may have settled. An additional coat of Bonding Primer may even be called for in extreme situations where there is no remaining tack to the dry coats.

Now, to apply the Overlay Compound, it's important that you first understand the properties of the medium. The Overlay Compound is essentially a mixture of aggregates, Portland cements and lime put together in a unique combination to offer an extremely alkaline material for oxidization. The Overlay Compound is an extremely fine powder. And, as such, does not have a lot of binding properties on its own. Therefore, there is an admixture known as Enforcer Liquid. Enforcer is designed as the strengthening agent for the Overlay Compound. The normal ratio is two parts Overlay Compound to one part Enforcer. This ratio is subjective, according to each application. The desired consistency is in the hands of the applicator. Your safety is in knowing that regardless of how much Enforcer is added to the Overlay Compound, it will still accept oxidization. Mixing is as simple as pouring the two together and drilling the mix. Unlike dealing with plaster (and most concrete), powder can be added to liquid and liquid can be added to powder to adjust the ratios—regardless of accidental over-dilution or inadequate saturation.

Once the mix is to the desired consistency, the material is then troweled into place. Difficult areas like round-overs and bull-nose can be smoothed by hand as much as possible and subsequently sanded the following day to create a smooth surface. This is also true of details like rope moldings and other decorative ornaments that will need the profile reclaimed once the material has dried. Being able to sand the following day enables us to allow diffi-