

CARE OF AMERICAN EPOXY SCIENTIFIC RESIN COUNTER TOPS & SINKS

Epoxy resin products are nearly chemically inert, thus resisting stains and damage from a wide variety of reagents and chemicals if properly installed and cared for. However, an end-user must be aware that there are certain reagents and/or chemicals that will stain or otherwise damage resin. Caution should be used when using any type of acid such as nitric acid, sulfuric acid, chromic acid, hydrofluoric acid, etc. Concentrated amounts of these acids, if spilled on resin counter tops or in resin sinks, will cause stains or permanent etching of the resin surface. Any spills must be immediately cleaned to avoid damage to your resin products, as well as avoid any danger to your workers.

Note: Epoxy resin products are the material of choice for the laboratory environment but can be sensitive to rapid changes of extreme hot and extreme cold temperatures. Improper use of liquid nitrogen or dry ice may cause cracking and potential sink failure. Product failures resulting from the use of liquid nitrogen or dry ice are not covered under the warranty.

TableX recommends the following process/intervals for basic care and housekeeping of counter tops and sinks:

1. In normal laboratory applications, counter tops and sinks should be wiped clean at the end of every day if possible. At a minimum, a weekly cleaning regiment must be implemented to insure the lasting beauty and durability of your resin products. To clean counter tops and sinks to remove dirt, dust and chemical residues, simply use a sponge, clean water and a sudsing cleanser (i.e.: Soft Scrub). Lightly wipe the surfaces until the dirt and residue is removed.
WARNING: Do not use an abrasive cleaner or abrasive sponge/brush so that the surface of the resin is not damaged.
2. Sinks should be inspected on a monthly basis to insure the seal between the sink and counter top, and the seal between tub sink and sink plug (sink strainer), is still good. Specifically, look for voids or cracks in the cement at seams. If cracks or voids are detected, repair should occur immediately.
3. Counter tops should be inspected every six months. Review of current housekeeping practices should be conducted, especially in any area that staining occurs on a frequent basis. Inspection of the counter tops must include a review of the joints to insure they are still sealed and solid. Look specifically for any cracks or voids in the cement at joints. If cracks or voids are detected, repair should occur immediately.

REPAIRING RESIN COUNTER TOPS

Although the resin materials used to form counter tops are very hard and durable, they can be damaged if care is not taken. Should damage be identified during normal daily operations or through routine inspections as recommended, the following processes should be used to make repairs.

SCRATCHES

Counter tops can be scratched if heavy items/equipment are slid across their surface, sharp objects are run along the surface such as cutting, or something is dropped on the counter top. Scratches can be categorized in two types: 1) Surface Scratches and 2) Deep Scratches.

Surface scratches can be easily repaired by following these steps:

1. Many light surface abrasions can be handled by simply wiping the counter tops with a clean cloth dampened with Scott's Liquid Gold, Old English Lemon Oil, or other similar commercially available product.
2. If surface abrasions are not removed using this process, the deeper scratches will need to be addressed individually as follows:
 - Using Epoxy Edge Dressing as a lubricant, make a circular motions to the affected area with a Gray Scotch Brite pad.
 - Using a slightly damp clean cloth wipe off excess edge dressing.
 - Wipe the entire counter top with a light coating of Scott's Liquid Gold, Old English Lemon Oil, or other similar commercially available product.

Should the counter top sustain minor chips at the edges or corners, the following steps should be followed:

1. Using a clean cloth rag dampened with alcohol, clean the area of the chip and surrounding counter top.
2. Mix two-part epoxy cement in accordance with instructions on container.
3. Using a putty knife, apply cement to chip working into the crevice and shaping to match contour of edge/corner.
4. Remove excess cement using a putty knife, but allow cement to remain slightly raised above surface of counter top.

WARNING: Cement is a permanent adhesive. Avoid getting cement on any other surfaces or materials since it will be impossible to remove once cured.

5. Allow cement to cure for an 8 – hour period.
6. Using an orbital sander with 120 grit or finer wet/dry sand paper, sand the repair area until the patch is flush with the surface of the counter top.
7. Using a 50/50 mixture of Soft Scrub and a commercial cleanser on a clean cloth rag, apply the mixture in a circular fashion to clean/buff the repaired area.
8. Wipe the area with a clean cloth rag and clean water.
9. Using Epoxyn Dressing Kit, wipe the area to refurbish the color and luster of the repaired area.
10. Apply a light coating of Scott's Liquid Gold, Old English Lemon Oil, or other similar commercially available product to the entire counter top.