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in the news



Even though laminate and solid surfacing are the top two countertop materials being installed, the use of concrete is on the rise. It is versatile in nature and can be molded into most any shape. Unlike most natural stone, concrete can be stained, acid etched, colored, and have colored aggregates added for texture. Inlaying materials like stone, marble, or tile can create a wider range of patterns. Concrete can take on the texture, look, and feel of stone, such as marble, granite, and limestone. A lacquer or acrylic sealer is applied to prevent staining and the absorption of oils, fats, and citric acid.

No other countertop material on the market today allows such creative freedom and unique style. "Because of its versatility, concrete offers more possibilities for creative expression than any other medium. Each countertop takes on its own character and over time a unique patina. With this in mind, it becomes important to work with a fabricator who not only is well-versed in concrete technology and kitchen design, but who also possesses the creativity of an artist." Craig Smith, Owner, DEX Studios.

What is the hottest trend in countertop material? It's something you don't expect to find in your typical kitchen and bath. The answer...concrete. Concrete has been in use for ages. Some applications that we are used to living with are sidewalks, building foundations, driveways, and structural support. However, beginning about twenty years ago, some experimentation was done with concrete inside the home.

Here, at the turn of the century, the use of natural materials is in demand. Homeowners, builders, remodelers, and designers are turning to the durability and strength that the stone and stone-like materials offer. With the trend toward natural materials like stone, wood, and brick, the popularity of concrete countertops in residential interiors has increased. They fit comfortably into a wide range of styles, including contemporary, rustic, eclectic, and the increasingly popular urban industrial style.



Concrete is a custom material and the cost can vary, depending on color, design, inlays, openings, and choice of edge work. Custom pre-cast sinks and vessels are also available through certain fabricators. One bit of advice I have for JEZEBEL readers, before hiring a concrete specialist, make sure to check references and choose a fabricator that has done more than lay driveways and sidewalks! 'Crete-it's the way to go. - June Hays

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