

## INTRODUCTION

The Milestone system has been used to create beautiful, durable concrete countertops for over ten years. The techniques and processes for creating a Milestone countertop are more involved than those for achieving a Milestone vertical finish. It is therefore recommended that the contractor installing a Milestone countertop have a good working knowledge of the Milestone product line. It is also highly recommended that contractors who want to work with Milestone as a countertop system attend a countertop training class and/or build several sample countertops prior to a countertop installation.

## YOU WILL NEED

The amount of product and supplies needed will vary depending on the size of countertop to be built. Here is a list of supplies and tools you will need for each job.

### SUPPLIES

¾" Plywood  
Wood Glue or thin set  
1" Wood Screws  
3.4 Expanded metal lath (flat)  
1" lath flathead screws  
Milestone Fusion  
Milestone Base Coat Mix  
Milestone ColorPak  
Milestone Cementics Sealer

### TOOLS

Circular saw or table saw  
Electric drill  
Mixing buckets  
Measuring cups  
Measuring spoons  
Stir sticks  
Drill mix attachment  
Metal Finishing trowel  
4 – 6" Putty knife  
Level  
Square Edge  
Drop Cloth

## GETTING STARTED

A plywood counter is usually set up with 2 layers of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood, thin-set or glued and screwed into each other. Depending on the type of finish and your application style, you will end up with an overall thickness of  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " – 2".

If you have seams in the plywood, make sure to miss-align the seams between the 2 layers.

You can attach a piece of plywood to the front and back of the countertop to create a backsplash and front edge.

Next, screw the metal lath (usually 3.4 expanded metal lath) to the plywood, using metal lath or Durock screws. You can nail or staple the lath but you have to make sure that your fasteners are designed to reside in a cement environment to avoid rust issues.

If there are seams in your top layer of plywood, make sure to miss-align them with the seams in your metal lath. Butt your pieces of lath against each other; do not overlap them. Do not place seams in the lath on the inside or outside corners but rather in the open field.

Apply fasteners every 4" – 6" on the edge and every 6" – 8" in the field. Make sure your lath lays down flat everywhere; the time invested into this step will pay off well later.

Roll the metal lath over the outside edges of the countertop and apply fasteners every 4" – 6". Cut the lath about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from front bottom edge of countertop or grind the edges of the lath flush with the bottom edge of the countertop.

Now you are ready for the first Fill Coat. A Fill Coat is essentially a heavy Primary Coat. It usually takes at least 2 Fill Coats to fill in and bury the metal lath.

You can set up your mix for a Fill Coat exactly like the mix for the Primary Coat but if you want to provide more body to your Fill Coat, look for #20, #30 or a #20/30 blend of silica sand at your local masonry supply store. Add 2 parts of Milestone Base Coat Mix to 1 part of sand as you're setting up your mix. After the first coat, the texture of the metal lath will still show; the second coat should bury it.

A third and fourth coat of base coat mix are applied next. These coats are used to shape and level the countertop. Let the base coat mix set up but not dry completely. The Milestone can be carved, almost like a sandcastle at this stage which makes the leveling process really easy. Using a level and a straight edge, make sure that your countertop is level and if required, that your edges are square.

Once the metal lath is completely buried you can start to finish your Milestone countertop. Milestone countertops can be finished using a number of different finishing methods. Here are a few:

- Use the base coat mix (a thinner mix than used for your fill coats is best). This will give you a rougher surface and more monochromatic looking finish.
- Use the tinted Fusion and White Powder (aka Powder finish. See instruction booklet for details) and apply a thin tight coat to the countertop. This will fill in any surface texture from the base coats and give you a smoother finish with a mottled appearance.
- Make a 1:1 blend of Base Coat Mix and White Powder. Mix this new blend 1.5:1 with the tinted Fusion Acrylic Solution. Use this mix to fill in existing texture on the countertop surface but still keep the monochromatic look of the original coats.

### HELPFUL TIPS

- Sanding between coats will help cut down on scratching or streaking subsequent coats
- Always vacuum or brush off any sanding dust from the surface of the countertop before applying the next coat
- A fiberglass trowel will allow you to apply the Milestone product without burnishing the surface
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### SEALER

Apply 2 – 3 coats of Cementics Sealer or SkimStone Protective Sealer using a paint pad applicator.

Once the sealer is dry, you can apply your choice of a water based epoxy, poly-urethane, or poly-urea. The sealer you choose will vary based on the performance you expect from the sealer.