



# Countertops with SkimStone

SkimStone can be used to update the color and look or extend the life of old countertops. The key to a successful application is SkimStone Bonding Primer which promotes adhesion between the counter and SkimStone. It also adds a profile to the substrate which will enhance the depth and textured appearance of the SkimStone.

## **SURFACE PREPARATION**

Proper surface preparation promotes optimal adhesion of SkimStone to the countertop. Surface must be free of overspray, loose caulking, glues, grease, foodstuff, etc. Be sure the surface is dry and smooth, with special attention that the seams are properly glued and smooth to the touch. For best results, remove and reinstall sinks and appliances flush with the countertop.

## **MIXING**

Stir the Bonding Primer with a slow mixing action to a uniform consistency. Do not induce air into the product.

## **BONDING PRIMER APPLICATION**

Pour a small amount of Bonding Primer onto the surface. Using a trowel or putty knife, apply a thin coat to the entire surface. For best results, keep the trowel at a minimum 45 degree angle and feather while wet to achieve a tight finish. Allow to dry completely, 2-4 hours depending on temperature and application thickness. Remove high spots with a putty knife or sandpaper. Apply a second coat to fill in all scratches and voids. Allow to dry a minimum of 8 hours before applying SkimStone.

## **SKIMSTONE APPLICATION**

Apply SkimStone to the countertop in the same manner of application as the Bonding Primer. Typical applications require 3-4 coats of SkimStone, with 1-3 hours of dry time between coats. The finished SkimStone surface must be completely smooth. This can be accomplished by gently sanding between coats of SkimStone with fine sandpaper.

## **PROTECTIVE SEALER APPLICATION**

After the SkimStone surface has dried a minimum of 8 hours, apply 4-6 coats of SkimStone Protective Sealer to the counter. Allow for 2-6 hours of dry time between coats. For a smooth finish, sanding with very fine sandpaper between coats of sealer is recommended.

## **ADDITIONAL PROTECTIVE COATINGS**

Additional products such as wax or epoxy can be used to provide further protection and stain resistance. Rudd Company does not recommend any specific products, and testing should always be performed to ensure compatibility. When using another finish or maintenance product, always follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

## **CLEANUP**

Tools can be cleaned with water immediately after use. Dried material may be scraped or removed by sanding. Allow leftover material to dry and then dispose in garbage. Do not pour material down sink, toilet or drains.

## **MAINTENANCE**

Maximum hardness of countertop will be achieved in 7-10 days. Use with care during this period, limiting contact with water and use of the countertop. Immediately wipe all spills and regularly clean the countertop with mild household detergents. Additional coats of Protective Sealer may be added as part of a routine maintenance plan, depending on countertop use. Do not apply Protective Sealer over a surface coated with other products without testing for compatibility.

## **HELPFUL TIPS**

1. To keep applications very thin, increase the pressure and the angle of the trowel.
2. Pouring too much Bonding Primer or SkimStone onto the surface can make it difficult to apply. Start with one cup of product and adjust the amount to fit your level of comfort.
3. The second coat of Bonding Primer should be applied in the opposite direction of the first coat. This will help reduce the telegraphing of Bonding Primer.
4. When applying over ceramic tiles, an additional coat of Bonding Primer may be necessary to minimize telegraphing of grout lines.
5. On convex curves, use brushes or hold a small plastic bag with both hands, twist and pull taut while lightly passing over the Bonding Primer, to create a smooth surface. For other angles and difficult to reach places a putty knife or finger trowel may be used. Do not over-build Bonding Primer in these areas.
6. To remove telegraphing of Bonding Primer, sand your counter with 220-grit sandpaper between the coats of SkimStone or apply additional thin coats of SkimStone until the desired affect is achieved.

Always wear a dust mask when sanding during any step to avoid inhalation of particulates.

Read Material Safety Data Sheet and label before using.

Note: SkimStone countertops perform similar to concrete countertops. SkimStone countertops are not guaranteed against staining and water damage. Always use cutting boards, hot pads, non-porous plant saucers, and wipe up spills and standing water immediately.