

Encore™ Countertop Kit

Before starting, please check that your kit contains the following items and confirm the **correct** Color Concentrate for Day 2:

Day 1 Compartment

Super Bond™ (1 gallon)

Day 2 Compartment

Color Concentrate (27 fl oz)

3 Pre-Measured Bags Cement Mix

(one each Green, Blue, and Red label)

Day 3 Compartment

ColorLock™ Sealer (20 fl oz)

Color Lock™ Activator (2 fl oz)

ProGuard™ Satin Finish (18 fl oz)

ProGuard™ Activator (3 fl oz)

How to DVD

Instruction Booklet

Instruction Booklet Contents

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Encore™ Countertop Instructions

NOTE: This kit is meant for single use application. It cannot be combined with other systems/products or used in partial amounts.

For additional application tips, watch the Encore How-To DVD included in the Encore Kit.

Before You Start

The Encore™ Countertop Refinishing Kit is available in five designer colors. One Encore Countertop Kit will finish up to 50 square feet of countertop surface.

1. Measure your countertop. Be sure to include any backsplash area that you will be finishing with the Encore system.
2. Make sure you have all of the tools and supplies you need before getting started. A list of recommended tools and supplies can be found at the end of this instruction booklet.
3. Choose your favorite Encore color and get ready to begin!

How to Measure Your Countertop

1. Measure the length and the width of your countertop
2. Multiply the two numbers together
3. If measuring in inches, divide the total by 144
4. Repeat steps 1 – 3 for backsplash and/or edges
5. Add total square feet together.

This kit is designed to cover 50 square feet. If your total is less than 50 sq ft, you will have material left over after each step. If your total is greater than 50 square feet, you will need an additional Encore Countertop Kit.

Countertop Preparation

1. Tape and protect all edges and built in appliances that will not be finished with the Encore system. If taping around the edge of your sink, remove and re-tape between each step for best results. We recommend removing the sink beforehand and re-installing it afterwards to give a more professional look and better seal.
2. Thoroughly clean the countertop surface with a de-greasing cleaning agent. The countertop must be clean and free of grease, dirt, debris or other contaminants.
3. Wipe down countertop with clean water and a lint free rag to remove any cleaner residue. Allow to dry completely.

Backsplashes and Bull-Nose Edges

Backsplash Application Tips

The Encore Kit can be used to finish laminate backsplashes at the same time as you finish your countertop. Be sure to include the measurements in your total square foot calculations! You will be following the same instructions for the backsplash as you do for the countertop. If you find it difficult to apply the product with a putty knife or trowel, try using a synthetic bristle paint brush to apply the product and then smooth it out with your putty knife or trowel. A smaller 1½-2” putty knife may be easier to use.

When working on the backsplash avoid getting drips or splatters on the countertop surface. If the area is dry, you can protect it with newspaper or a plastic drop cloth. However, if the surface is wet or you are applying product to the backsplash concurrently with the countertop, then use your trowel or putty knife to immediately smooth out any drips or splatters.

When applying the ColorLock Sealer and ProGuard Finish, use a small foam brush and apply a thinner coat on the backsplash to avoid drips and runs.

TIP: If you are using tape to mask/protect a textured wall adjacent to the backsplash, it can be difficult to keep the material from ‘creeping’ under the tape. One solution is to forget the tape and use a broad putty

knife or wallpaper edge-cutting tool to protect the wall while your applying product to the backsplash. Just be sure to hold the tool tight against the edge where the two surfaces meet.

Bull-Nose Edge

You will be following the same instructions for the edge as you do for the rest of the countertop. If applying the product on a rounded edge is difficult with a putty knife or trowel, try using a synthetic bristle brush to ‘paint’ the product onto the rounded edge. Then, while the product is still wet, use a plastic bag, held like a rope between your two hands, and smooth the product along the rounded bull-nose edge. You can then add a little “texture” with your putty knife or trowel.

When applying ColorLock and ProGuard, use a small foam brush and spread a thinner coat on the edge to avoid drips and runs.

Using the Encore Countertop Kit

DAY 1 - Apply 2 coats of Super Bond™

(Note: Unless you are using over tile with grout lines, you will have excess material. Do NOT apply more than 2 coats.)

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS – Hand protection is recommended when working with Super Bond™. Wear a dust mask when sanding and/or cleaning up sanding dust.

1. In the “Day 1” compartment of your countertop kit is the Encore Super Bond. Open the container and stir the contents until you have a uniform mix.
2. Pour out a small amount of Super Bond on to a back corner of the countertop, approximately a 2-3” diameter puddle.
3. Using a 6” putty knife or trowel, apply a THIN coat to the entire surface. For best results, keep your putty knife or trowel at a minimum 45 degree angle and feather while wet to achieve a tight finish.
4. This coat is meant to be a “scratch” coat. It will have scratch lines and chatter marks that will be filled in with the next coat. The surface will have an uneven appearance with a variety of opaque and translucent areas.
5. Rinse your tools in warm clean water being extremely careful of the sharp edges.
6. Allow to dry a minimum of three hours or until the surface is dry to the touch. (High humidity will prolong dry time. A fan may be used to improve air flow. Do not use a hair dryer).
7. Lightly sand the surface to knock down peaks & ridges with 100 grit sandpaper. Remove sanding dust using a soft bristle brush or vacuum.
8. Beginning in an opposite corner, apply a second THIN tight coat of Super Bond to the entire countertop surface. This coat will be smoother and more uniform than the previous coat.
9. Rinse your tools in warm clean water being *extremely* careful of the sharp edges.
10. Allow to dry overnight.
11. **IMPORTANT!** In the “Day 2” compartment of your kit find 1 quart of Color Concentrate. Make sure the cap is securely closed. Shake vigorously for one full

minute to incorporate any settled material and ensure uniform color. Set aside for use during Day 2.

DAY 2—Apply 3 Coats of Encore Color/Cement Mix

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS – Hand protection is recommended when working with the Encore Color Concentrate™. Wear a dust mask when working with the Cement Mix™ or when sanding and/or cleaning up sanding dust.

Step 1—First Color Coat

1. Take the bottle of Color Concentrate you shook at the end of Day 1 and gently rock it back and forth to mix.
2. Set aside for about 10-15 minutes to allow any bubbles to subside. Meanwhile, lightly sand the Super Bond surface with 100 grit sandpaper to remove or knock down any peaks, ridges, or drips.
3. Remove sanding dust using a soft bristle brush or vacuum.
4. Pour 1 ½ cups (12 fl oz) of Color Concentrate into a clean mixing container. (A 2½ qt mixing container works best.)
5. Add 1 ½ cups (12 fl oz) of water to your mixing container and stir well.
6. Find the GREEN label bag of Cement Mix powder in the “Day 2” compartment of your countertop kit and add the contents to your diluted color mix to create your ENCORE mix.
7. Stir until all lumps and clumps are gone and you have a creamy, uniform mix similar to pancake batter (thick but should run or drip off the stir stick).
8. Begin in a back corner of the countertop and pour a small amount (about a 1-2” diameter puddle) of Encore mix onto the surface.
9. Using a 6” putty knife or trowel, apply in a THIN tight coat. A thin tight coat is achieved by keeping good pressure on your putty knife or trowel and maintaining a minimum 45 degree angle. Repeat the process over the entire surface.

TIP: If your mix starts to thicken & become too difficult to work with as you spread it across the surface, return it to your mixing container and stir it back into your wet mix. If the ‘wet mix’ becomes too thick, it may be returned to its original consistency by adding water sparingly *no more than one teaspoon at a time!*

10. This coat will fill in the surface of the countertop leaving a smooth even finish, however, it is normal for the Super Bond to show through in some areas.
11. Allow to dry a minimum of 2 hours or until the surface is dry to the touch.
12. Rinse tools in warm clean water. Be *extremely* careful of sharp edges on trowel and putty knife.

TIP: High humidity will prolong dry times. You can use a fan after applying the Color Coats to improve air circulation and minimize dead spots. Hair dryers should NOT be used to speed up the process.

Step 2—Second Color Coat

1. Gently rock the bottle of Color Concentrate back and forth to ensure a uniform color. Do not shake.

2. Set the bottle aside and allow the bubbles to subside while you lightly sand the surface with 220 grit sandpaper. Wipe off sanding dust with lint free rag.
3. Pour 1 cup (8 fl oz) of Color Concentrate into a clean mixing container. (2½ qt is still a perfect size).
4. Measure and add 1 cup (8 fl oz) of water to your mixing container and stir well.
5. Find the BLUE label bag of Cement Mix powder in the “Day 2” compartment of your countertop kit and add the contents to your diluted color mix.
6. Stir until all lumps and clumps are gone. You will have a more liquid consistency for your second coat than you did for your first coat. It will resemble coffee creamer (runny but with obvious body or viscosity).
7. Begin in a different back corner than the previous coat and pour a small amount (about 1-2” diameter puddle) of Encore mix onto the surface.
8. Using a 6” Putty knife or trowel; apply a THIN tight coat across the entire surface of the countertop. Remember to keep pressure and a minimum 45 degree angle on the putty knife or trowel.
9. Allow to dry 1-2 hours or until the surface is dry to the touch.
10. Rinse tools in warm clean water being *extremely* careful of the sharp edges on trowel or putty knife.

TIP: Save your sandpaper in case you need to sand after your final coat. Well worn sandpaper will be less aggressive and give a smoother finish.

Step 3—Third Color Coat

1. Gently rock the bottle of Color Concentrate back and forth. Do not shake. Let stand to allow bubbles to subside while you lightly sand the surface with 220 grit sandpaper. Wipe off sanding dust with lint free rag.
2. Pour off cup (6 fl oz) of Color Concentrate into a clean mixing container. (Now a 1 qt container will work best). Note: there will still be a small amount of material left in the bottle.
3. Measure and add ¾ cup (6 fl oz) of water to your mixing container. Stir well.
4. Find the RED label bag of Cement Mix powder in the “Day 2” compartment of your countertop kit and add the contents to your diluted color mix.
5. Stir until all lumps and clumps are gone. You will have a consistency similar to whole milk (thin but not water thin).
6. Beginning in a different area than the before, pour a small amount (about 1-2” diameter puddle) of the Encore Color mix onto the surface. Apply a THIN tight coat using pressure and a 45 degree angle on your putty knife or trowel.
7. Repeat over the entire countertop surface.
8. Allow the surface to dry overnight.
9. Rinse tools with warm clean water. Be careful of sharp edges!

DAY 3—Apply Sealer and Finish

Encore ColorLock™ Sealer will darken and ‘pop’ the color.

Encore ProGuard™ provides durable protection with a beautiful low sheen satin finish.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS – Eye and hand protection is necessary when mixing the

Encore ColorLock™ and Encore ProGuard™. Hand protection is recommended during application.

Step 1 – ColorLock™ Sealer

1. Find the two GREEN label ColorLock bottles with the black caps in the “Day 3” compartment of your countertop kit (one small bottle, one large bottle).
2. Pour the contents of the small bottle into the large bottle.
3. Replace the cap on the large bottle and make sure it is screwed on tightly. Shake the bottle vigorously for a full minute.
4. Remove the cap and allow to sit for 20 minutes after shaking.
5. While waiting for the ColorLock to be ready for use, take your worn 220 grit sandpaper and lightly sand any rough or raised areas. Sanding the entire countertop surface for a smoother finish is optional.
6. Wipe off ALL sanding dust and debris using a clean, lint free rag before applying ColorLock.
7. Pour a small amount (about a 2-3” diameter puddle) of ColorLock onto the countertop and spread with a 4-6” foam mini roller.
8. Spread a thin, even coat across the entire surface of the countertop making especially sure not to miss any spots. Avoid leaving puddles or build-up in corners. Use a foam brush to cut-in edges and apply to corners or areas where the roller is not practical.
9. Occasionally back-roll the finish using only the weight of the roller to remove any bubbles, ridges or high spots. The ColorLock will have a milky appearance when wet and will dry clear.
10. Allow to dry a minimum of 4 hours. Do NOT force dry with fans or hair dryers. When dry, the surface may still feel ‘grippy’ or ‘tacky’ to the touch but should not feel wet.

IMPORTANT: Set unused material aside. **Keep out of the reach of children and pets.** Leave the cap off the large bottle and allow material to harden before disposing of in the trash. Throw away the small bottle and cap. Do not recycle.

Step 2 – ProGuard™ Satin Finish

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS – Eye and hand protection is necessary when mixing the ColorLock and ProGuard. Hand protection is recommended during application.

1. Make sure the ColorLock is dry to the touch, especially along the back edges or any high build areas.
2. Find the two BLUE label ProGuard bottles with the white caps in the “Day 3” compartment of your countertop kit (one small bottle, one large bottle).
3. Pour the contents of the small bottle into the large bottle.
4. Replace the cap on the large bottle and make sure it is screwed on tightly. Shake the bottle vigorously for one full minute.
5. Remove the cap and allow the ProGuard Satin Finish to “rest” for 20 minutes after shaking. Meanwhile, if needed, carefully sand any high points or blemishes with 320 grit sandpaper. Wipe off sanding dust with a clean, lint free rag.
6. Pour a small amount (about 2-3” diameter puddle) of ProGuard Satin Finish onto the countertop and spread a thin even coat using a 4-6” foam mini roller.

7. Repeat the process across the countertop making especially sure not to miss any spots. Avoid leaving puddles or build up in corners. Use a foam brush to cut-in edges and apply to corners or areas where the roller is not practical.
8. Occasionally back-roll the finish using only the weight of the roller to remove any bubbles, ridges or high spots. The ProGuard will have a milky appearance when wet and will dry clear.
9. Allow to dry overnight.

IMPORTANT: Set unused material aside. **Keep out of the reach of children and pets.** Leave the cap off the large bottle and allow material to harden before disposing of in the trash. Throw away the small bottle and cap. Do not recycle.

Using Your Encore Countertops

Congratulations! You now have a beautiful ENCORE countertop.

Because you used an environmentally friendly system, it will take 7 days for the finish to completely cure. After letting dry overnight you may use your countertops with care. You'll want to make sure that any spills, drips or standing water are cleaned up immediately during the first week. Appliances, place mats, etc, that can trap moisture on the countertop should not be replaced until 7 days after the finishing process.

Cleaning Your Encore Countertops

A non abrasive, pH neutral cleaner and a soft rag is the best way to clean your countertops. Wipe up spills immediately. Avoid standing water or trapping moisture or liquids under dishrags, soap dispensers, etc.

Tools and Supply List

- Encore Countertop Kit—check complete list on front page
- Kitchen Cleaner/Degreaser
- 6" Metal Finishing Trowel, or
- 4-6" Putty Knife (and 1½-2" for backsplash edge)
- Measuring Cup
- 2 ea—2 ½ Qt Mixing Containers
- 1 ea—1 Qt Mixing Container
- 4 ea—Paint Stir Sticks
- Clean Lint-Free Rags
- Painters Tape (we recommend 3M Delicate Surfaces Tape-Orange Core)
- 100, 220 and 320 Grit Sandpaper
- Wash Bucket (5 gallon pail works great)
- Soft Bristle Brush (for cleaning sanding dust from surfaces)
- Synthetic Bristle Brush (for applying Encore to tight spots)
- Plastic Scoop (for Super Bond)
- Disposable Gloves
- Dust Mask

- Safety Glasses
- 2 ea—4-6” Foam Mini Rollers
- 3 ea—Foam Brush (for applying Sealer and Finish to areas where the roller won’t easily reach)
- Plastic Tarp
- Cardboard (for a place to put tools and mixing containers while working)
- Newspaper (for protecting flat surfaces from drips and splatter while working on vertical backsplash areas)
- Fan (Optional for air movement while Super Bond and Color Coats are drying)

NOTES