



Lets talk about additives and sealers. I like to use fiber additives in my designs in certain stages of the project. Also acrylic additive is another one I like to use. A penetrating sealer is one that penetrates the surface and does not change the appearance at all. A topical sealer can be glossy or semi-gloss and sets more on the surface of the top and does change to final appearance of the projects. Beeswax is another item that protects the surface of a top. Ladder wire is yet another very important item needed when making countertops.



When you are getting ready to make a countertop, you must first make a template. This done by taking luau (thin ply wood strips) or corrugated plastic or cardboard, tape measure, a hot glue gun and small nails and a hammer to the job site. Layout the strips in such a way to duplicate the edge of the proposed new top. You can use the small nails to hold it in place while you are making adjustments. Make notes with a marker so you don't forget. When you are satisfied glue it together with the hot glue gun and now you have a template to work from back at your shop. An average top is 24" from front o back. When doing around sinks, try and make sure you have at least 3 inches front and back to work with. Lay your template out on a sheet of melamine (white coated particle board used

for shelving) and mark it. If you plan on doing a pressed technique which we'll cover, that means the surface against the melamine is going to be the top. Therefore you must flip your template before marking the melamine. On a hard trowel finish, the top is the top. And the flipping is not necessary. Mark Your top where your frames are going. If you are doing a turn down, (area added to front to hide existing plywood or something else) cut strips of melamine 1 1/2 inch wide however long you need. Melamine is used because the concrete won't stick to it. Pre-drill the strips because the screws will split them. It is a good idea to counter-sink them for screeding purposes. Install your frames making sure they bare straight. Make sure your table is braced. You don't want it sagging. .