

Painting your Countertops

List of Supplies:

- Sandpaper cube (fine grit)
- “Bulls Eye 1-2-3” by Zinsser (sold at wal-mart)
- 1 qt. of accent paint (DutchBoy, Accent Base, Satin, 1 qt. Formula: B-9 C-31.5 F-4 KX-2Y3)
- 2 cans Rustoleum “stone” spraypaint—color: pebble
- Miniwax Water Based Polycrylic—clear satin
- Foam Brush (get a medium to large wide brush—something that will be able to fit in your varnish can.
- Small foam roller (usually comes in a small package with small paint tray.
- Tape, Newspaper (or plastic) for covering walls and floors
- Caulking

Before you begin: Please note that by painting your countertops there will be instances where you may put a nick in them or set something on them that will stain the varnish. We haven’t had too many problems with ours, but we make a conscious effort to be somewhat gentle with them. It also helps if you wipe down your countertops when they are wet and avoid leaving wet dishes or glasses on them for a long period of time. If you fail to do this, it can temporarily discolor the varnish due to the water rings it leaves.

The nice thing about painting your countertops is that they look great for an inexpensive price (less than \$100). Plus, if you do mess them up, you can always repeat some of the steps below to repair them. Good luck!

1. If possible, remove the sink.
 - a. *We were able to do this in our bathroom and not our kitchen and I like how the countertops are holding up around the sink in the bathroom much better.*
2. Fix any areas in the caulking by filling in holes, etc.
3. Sand down your countertops to scuff them up a bit
4. Paint the countertops with a primer using a small foam roller.
 - a. *Use a primer that is suppose to adhere to hard-to-stick surfaces.*
 - b. *I used “Bulls Eye 1-2-3” by Zinsser (sold at wal-mart)—see link in e-mail*
5. I usually give the countertops at least 2 coats of primer
6. Apply a base coat color—Sharon I would just use the paint from your living room/hallway.
 - a. *I used a brownish tan color from walmart (DutchBoy, Accent Base, Satin, 1 qt. Formula: B-9 C-31.5 F-4 KX-2Y3), which was the same exact paint that I used on our bedroom walls. I don’t think it matters what type of finish the paint is, but I think the paint that I used had a satin finish.*
7. Here’s the messy and smelly part. Tape of all areas that you don’t want to get splattered by paint.
 - a. *Make sure you cover the floor too. Make sure the area is well ventilated and plan to step out of the house for a while until the smell is gone.*
8. Spray the countertops with a speckled spray paint.
 - a. *The rusto-leum brand has a lot of different color options called “STONE”. Some wal-marts carry this, but your best bet is to go to lowe’s or home depot.— (see e-mail link for spray-paint options)*
9. Give the countertops as many coats of spray-paint until you like the look.
 - a. *In our kitchen I had to use at least 2 cans before I got the consistency of specks that I wanted.*
10. MOST IMPORTANT PART! When the spray-paint is dry to touch, use a brush (I use a wide foam brush) and apply a polyurethane varnish (*see e-mail link*).
 - a. *It is important that you make nice long strokes (from the countertop touching the wall to the edge of the countertop next your stomach) b/c you may be able to see the lines in the future when the light shines on the countertops just right.*
11. Once the varnish has dried (make sure it is completely dry—the specks from the spray-paint should feel rough and hard to touch), use a fine sandpaper square/cube and sand down the countertops.

a. *Depending on how smooth you want your countertops will determine the amount of time you spend doing this. Mine are not entirely smooth, but I purposely made them that way.*

12. Wipe down the countertops with a damp paper towel

13. Apply nice long strokes of varnish. Wait for it to dry. Feel the countertops and sand rough or uneven spots if necessary. Wipe down with damp towel. Apply varnish. Repeat.

14. You will do step 11 as many times as you feel necessary.

a. *The more coats of varnish you apply, the longer your countertops will last. Make sure you apply as many coats of varnish as possible around wet areas, like the sink.*

Important: Once you complete all the steps, you can begin using your countertops, but I will be very gentle with them at least for the first month. I also STRONGLY suggest that you don't set heavy items on the countertops for a long period of time without putting a plastic liner or some type of coaster under them. If you don't do this and leave a microwave or knife stand on the countertops, over time they may leave indentions in the varnish.

Any questions, feel free to ask!