

## How-to Apply DCI 550 Glossy and Matte Water-Based Polyurethane Countertop Sealer

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DCI 550 Water-Based Glossy and Matte Polyurethane is a low VOC, aliphatic urethane coating that offers excellent impact and abrasion resistance providing a durable, long lasting finish for your concrete countertop.

**Safety First!** Apply this product with gloves, goggles and a dust mask. Proper ventilation to the outside is highly recommended during application. Should accidental contact with the skin or eyes occur, flush thoroughly with fresh water for at least 15 minutes. If swallowed, do not induce vomiting and contact a physician and/or the Poison Control Center immediately.

**Kit Includes:** Part A and Part B Polyurethane containers, one hand-held 3/8" nap roller and one wooden stir stick.

**Optional Equipment:** HVLP Gravity Feed Spray Gun with compressed air if spraying.

**Surface Preparation:** All surfaces should be clean, dry and free of any debris prior to application. Sand down or fill with slurry all "pinhole" air pockets or voids in the countertop surface prior to application. Sand and repeat until all pinholes and voids are filled. The surface should be polished to no more than 200-grit prior to sealing. See video our, *How to Make and Apply a Countertop Slurry Parts 1 and 2*, at [www.directcolors.com/resources/how-to-videos-and-guides/](http://www.directcolors.com/resources/how-to-videos-and-guides/) for more information.

**Priming the Countertop Surface:** For best results, first apply a single thin coat of DCI Water Based Sealer for smooth surfaces or two thin coats for more porous surfaces. Allow the primer to cure 12 hours between primer coats

and a minimum of 24 hours before proceeding. We recommend you lightly scuff the primer with 400 grit paper and clean debris away prior to applying polyurethane. Priming reduces the risk of air bubbles, promotes good sealer adherence and slightly extends the DCI 550 Polyurethane coverage rate.

**Coverage:** When properly applied, DCI 550 mini kit will cover approximately 50 square feet on an un-primed surface or up 60-75 square feet on a primed surface. Coverage will vary with surface conditions.

**Mixing Instructions:** As a two-part system, Part A must be thoroughly mixed into Part B in order for the material to properly set up for application. Stir part A with the wooden stir stick prior to adding part B as settling can occur. Measure three Parts "A" to one Part "B" (by volume) and mix in a separate container for smaller projects. Immediately replace each lid tightly. For larger countertops, add the Part A into Part B and begin to mix with a wooden stir stick. Mix completely; fold the material over onto itself and carefully scrape the sides of the can to assure nothing is left unmixed. The contents should thicken and become whiter as you stir. Stir for 2-4 minutes until totally combined. If mixing a 1 gallon kit, use a low speed electric drill (maximum 650 RPM to avoid bubbling) and a jiffy mixer attachment to combine. DO NOT mix the product at a high-speed. Once mixed, the pot life for the sealer is approximately 1 hour.

**Application Instructions:** When applying in optimal temperature and humidity conditions of 75 F and 50% humidity, 550 Polyurethane pot life is approximately 1 hour before the material begins to harden. Do not apply to surfaces below 65F or above 90F or if humidity levels are above 80%. Lower temperatures will maximize

pot life and higher temperatures will reduce it. The sealer itself must be above 60F before installing.

*Applying Sealer with a Roller:* Pour mixed material into a plastic paint tray. Avoid pouring sealer directly onto the countertop surface. De-fuzz the roller using strong packing or duct tape. Saturate the 3/8" nap roller with sealer and maintain an even and consistent coat allowing the weight of the roller to do the work. Do NOT bear down on the roller to release more sealer as this can cause bleed out to the edges resulting in lap lines. Maintain a wet edge during application and apply the product along the width rather than the length of the countertop. Carefully blend out any roller lines without over working the sealer. Once rolling begins, working time for this material is 5-8 minutes. Applying beyond the recommended working time can result in streaking, a milky appearance and/or an uneven finish.

*Rolling a second coat (optional):* A second sealer coat can be applied after a cure time of 9-12 hours. The first sealer coat must be hard and clear before proceeding with a second. An additional coat will not improve the appearance of the first coat if issues like streaking, ridges or bubbles have occurred. After 24 hours, lightly scuff the surface with a 400 grit sand paper and clean well BEFORE applying a second coat to ensure good adherence.

*Applying with 550 Polyurethane with an HVLP Sprayer:* If spraying indoors, cover the floor and other surfaces from overspray before applying. Clean the HVLP sprayer according to instructions before beginning the project. Set the air compressor to approximately 40 PSI. Mix the polyurethane as per the mixing instructions and pour into sprayer container. Spray an even, consistent coat onto the surface.

Avoid pooling during application as the milky color will not clear if sealer is applied too heavily. Thirty minutes after the first coat spray a second coat and allow to dry.

**Cure Time:** Surfaces sealed with DCI 550 Water-Based Polyurethane should cure for 12 hours at approximately 75F before use. Allow for additional drying time in the event of high humidity or low temperatures.

**Clean-Up:** The product can be cleaned from tools and sprayers prior to cure with hot soapy water. Once fully cured, 550 polyurethane can be removed industrial paint strippers, such as the Soy Gel Paint and Sealer Stripper, or by wet sanding with a 120-220 grit pad or use dry non-loading sandpaper. Leftover product, brushes, paint trays, or roller covers should be responsibly discarded after use.

**Maintenance and Cleaning:** Surfaces sealed with DCI 550 Water-Based Polyurethane are relatively low maintenance and should be cleaned as needed with a mild, non-ammonia dishwashing soap solution and water.



430 E. 10<sup>th</sup> St. Shawnee, OK 74801

877-255-2656 | 405-275-6657

[info@directcolors.com](mailto:info@directcolors.com)

[www.directcolors.com](http://www.directcolors.com)