



# TOTALBOAT® TotalBoat Epoxy Black Marble Effect Countertop Kit - Instructions

This fun project includes almost everything you need to create a black epoxy faux marble countertop that looks like sleek, exotic black marble with silvery gray marbling and veins.

## Things You'll Need in Addition to the Kit Contents:

- Countertop (wood, Corian®, Formica®, laminates, ceramic tile, butcher block, cultured marble, and traditional granite)
- Plastic sheeting to protect work area/floor
- Sandpaper - between 80-220 grit
- Proper respirators, eye protection, clothing protection
- A digital scale, if measuring epoxy by weight, not volume

**IMPORTANT:** Timing and accuracy are critical in achieving successful results, as is knowing how to manipulate the different pigments to create the marbling design you have in mind. Please read all instructions carefully before you begin.

## **Calculate How Much Mixed Epoxy You'll Need**

Mixed epoxy refers to resin and hardener combined. Measure the area to be filled to determine how much you'll need. **To calculate the area, multiply the Length x Width X Depth to determine the volume needed in cubic inches.**

1 quart of mixed epoxy = 57.75 cubic inches

2 quarts of mixed epoxy = 115.5 cubic inches

3 quarts of mixed epoxy = 173.25 cubic inches

1 gallon of mixed epoxy = 231 cubic inches

## HOW TO MAKE AN EPOXY BLACK MARBLE EFFECT COUNTERTOP

### STEP 1 - PERSONAL SAFETY AND SETUP



Be sure to wear gloves and other personal protection, as needed, and make sure your work area is well ventilated.

Protect your work area and floor by covering it with plastic sheeting.

Lay out your materials so they're within easy reach. You don't want to have to go looking for anything once you've mixed the epoxy.

### STEP 2 - LEVEL YOUR COUNTERTOP & PREP THE SURFACE



Use a level to make sure your countertop surface is even.

Next, sand the surface with 80-220 grit to scuff the surface so the epoxy will adhere well.

Remove sanding residue by wiping the surface with a clean rag dampened with acetone or isopropyl alcohol.

**STEP 3 - ESTIMATE HOW MUCH MIXED EPOXY YOU NEED**

Figure out how much resin it'll take for each of the two layers needed to create the marble effect. The first layer is a thin coat, the second layer is a thicker coat, called a flood coat.

**IMPORTANT:** TotalBoat TableTop Epoxy is a clear coating epoxy, not a deep casting epoxy, and has a maximum depth per layer of  $\frac{1}{8}$ " to  $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

**To estimate how much epoxy you need, multiply:**

**L x W x Epoxy Pour Depth = Cubic inches of epoxy**

Then look at the conversions in the following list to find out how much mixed TotalBoat TableTop Epoxy you'll need.

- **1 quart of mixed epoxy** = 57.75 cubic inches
- **2 quarts of mixed epoxy** = 115.5 cubic inches
- **3 quarts of mixed epoxy** = 173.25 cubic inches
- **1 gallon of mixed epoxy** = 231 cubic inches

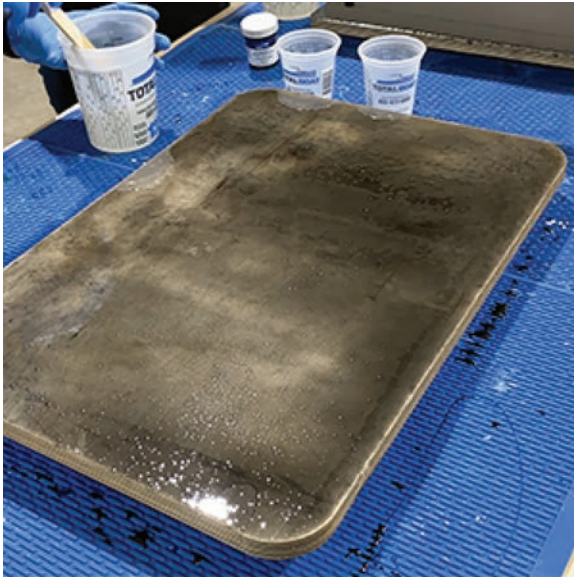
**EXAMPLE:** In this project, you'll be applying a thin  $\frac{1}{16}$ " seal coat of mixed epoxy to seal porous surfaces (more on this in the next step), followed by a slightly thicker  $\frac{1}{8}$ " flood coat. Let's say your countertop is 24" wide and 48" long.

- **For the thin seal coat:**  $24" \times 48" \times \frac{1}{16}" = 72$  cubic inches. If 1 quart of mixed epoxy = 57.75 cubic inches (as shown in the list above), you'd need a little less than 1.5 quarts of mixed epoxy to cover your table with a  $\frac{1}{16}$ " seal coat.
- **For the flood coat:**  $24" \times 48" \times \frac{1}{8}" = 144$  cubic inches. That's about 2.5 quarts of mixed epoxy. If you plan to do the optional clear coat in Step 12, you'll also need this amount.

**STEP 4 - MIX EPOXY & TINT IT BLACK FOR THE SEAL COAT**

A thin seal coat seals porous surfaces and keeps air from forming bubbles in the flood coat.

Combine 1 part TotalBoat TableTop Epoxy and 1 part TableTop Hardener, by volume\*\*, in a clean mixing cup. Stir gently for 2-3 minutes, scraping the sides & bottom, then pour into a second mixing cup and stir for 2-3 minutes. Add black pigment dispersion, a few drops at a time, until the epoxy is a solid black color. (\*\*By weight, the ratio is 1.2A:1B).

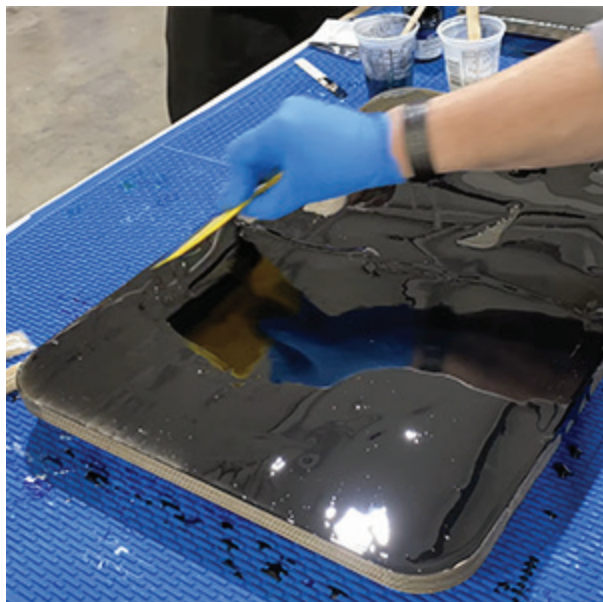
**STEP 5 - APPLY THE BLACK EPOXY IN A THIN SEAL COAT**

Pour a thin  $\frac{1}{16}$ " seal coat of black mixed epoxy onto the surface. Use a spreader to spread the epoxy evenly. **WAIT FOR THE EPOXY SEAL COAT TO SET UP AND BE TACK-FREE BEFORE APPLYING YOUR FLOOD COAT.** If you wait until the surface hardens completely, sand with 220 grit and remove residue by wiping with acetone, and let dry.

**STEP 6 - MIX MORE EPOXY FOR A BLACK FLOOD COAT AND FOR THE MARBLING PIGMENTS**

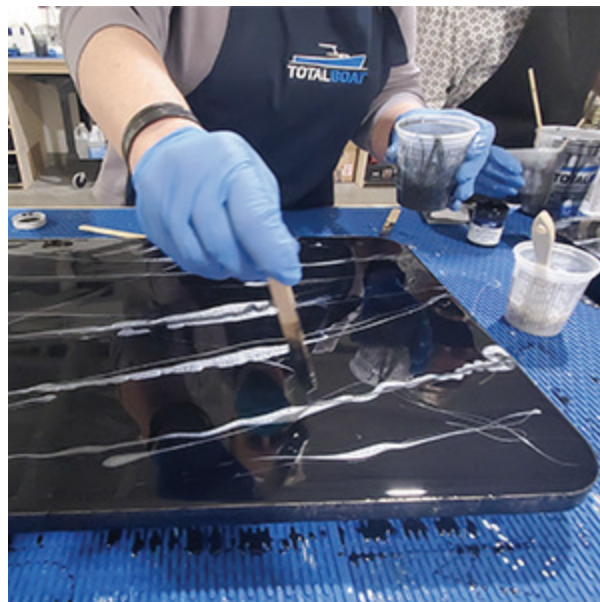
- Mix more TotalBoat TableTop Epoxy in a large mixing cup until combined thoroughly. You'll need to mix enough for a  $\frac{1}{8}$ " deep black flood coat, plus some for the silver, light gray, and dark gray 'marbling' and 'veins'. **Reserve the largest amount of clear mixed epoxy for the black flood coat.**
- **For the marbling and veins:** Pour a small amount of the mixed epoxy into three mixing cups. Tint one with Silver Pearl mica powder, tint another with Light Gray mica powder, and tint the final cup with the Black Gray mica powder.
- **For the black flood coat:** Add the black pigment dispersion to the remaining mixed epoxy, a little at a time, until it is opaque black.

**STEP 7 - POUR A FLOOD COAT OF BLACK EPOXY OVER THE SEAL COAT**



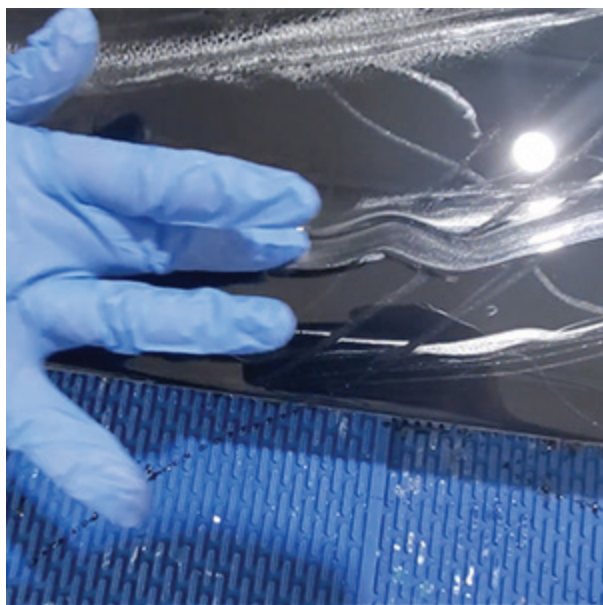
Pour the black mixed epoxy flood coat onto the surface. Spread the epoxy evenly over the surface to a depth of  $\frac{1}{8}$ ". Make sure to cover the edges with the black epoxy - you can use your gloved fingers to do this.

**STEP 8 - APPLY THE MARBLING EFFECT WITH THE SILVER PEARL, LIGHT GRAY & BLACK GRAY MIXED EPOXIES**



Drizzle lines of Silver Pearl mixed epoxy, in random directions, on the top and sides. Use a small, clean mixing stick or chip brush to control the lines of silver epoxy. Apply alternating lines of silver and the light and dark grays, as desired.

**STEP 9 - FEATHER IN THE MARBLING**

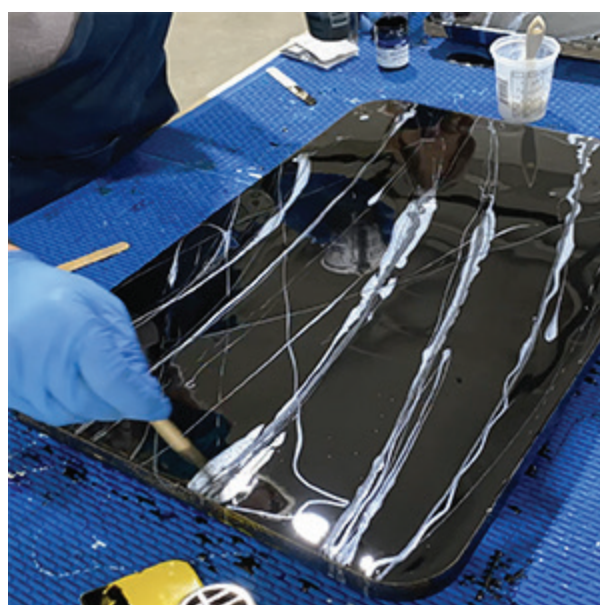


Feather in the silver and gray epoxy lines using your gloved fingertips or the chip brush. .

To loosen up the feathered lines, wave the heat gun quickly back and forth 2-3 inches above the surface. This will pop bubbles in the epoxy and help move the marbling.

**IMPORTANT:** Don't allow the heat gun to get too close or stay in one place too long or you'll scorch the surface.

**STEP 10 - CREATE 'VEINS' WITH DARKER MIXED EPOXY**



Use a small, clean mixing stick to apply thin lines of the light or dark gray epoxy on top of the silver feathered areas to appear as darker veins in the marble.

Use the heat gun to manipulate the veins. For example, you can push the colors over each other easily using the heat gun.

**STEP 11 - ADJUST THE MARBLING EFFECT, AS DESIRED**

You may wish to add more black epoxy on top of some of the veins or to rework some areas by adding more veins and repeating the process. If needed, mix more epoxy and tint, as desired. Continue until you're satisfied with the effect. At this point, you can either let the epoxy cure completely & go to Step 13, or allow the epoxy to cure till it's tack-free & go to Step 12 (APPLY A CLEAR COAT).

**STEP 13 - REMOVE CURED EPOXY DRIPS UNDERNEATH**

**Allow 5-7 days for the surface to harden completely.**

Once it's cured, you can flip your project over and use a sander to remove any unwanted dried epoxy droplets from the bottom edge.

**IMPORTANT:** Be sure to wear protective gloves and a proper respirator when sanding cured epoxy.

**STEP 12 - (OPTIONAL) APPLY A CLEAR COAT**

After the marbled epoxy has partially cured, add more shine and durability to the surface by applying a clear layer of mixed TableTop epoxy.

Mix enough TableTop Epoxy Resin and Hardener (at a 1A:1B mix ratio, by volume, or a 1.2A:1B mix ratio, by weight) to cover the top and sides in a 1/8" thick clear coat. Do not add white pigment.

Pour the mixed epoxy, and use a plastic spreader to level it. You can let the clear epoxy pour over the sides on this step, brushing or spreading it with your gloved fingers along the sides to make sure you have an even edge.

Use the heat gun to remove bubbles and to move the veins around to enhance the marble effect. Wave the heat gun about 4-6 inches from the surface and keep it moving to avoid burning the epoxy surface.

**PUT YOUR BEAUTIFUL TOP TO GOOD USE!**

Place your items on the beautiful top, then show it off!

**IMPORTANT:** Do not place items hotter than 124°F on the cured surface or it will discolor and become distorted.