

CORE DESIGNS:

Frequently Asked Questions

How strong is the material?

Surfaces reach a compressive strength of 10,567 PSI and flexural strength of 1,464 PSI. Our GFRC mixes are nearly three times stronger than traditional concrete.

Are GFRC surfaces "Green"?

Our GFRC Systems contain a minimum of 35% recycled material. Each surface is made exactly to fit the project, reducing waste to near zero. The sealer is water-based with no harmful impact on the environment. Plus, when you decide to remodel, the material can be recycled rather than sent to a landfill. The use of our GFRC Systems helps qualify for several LEED Point categories.

Are the surfaces safe for food preparation?

Yes. All of our GFRC Systems pieces are finished with a water-based sealer to produce a non-porous surface that is safe for food. As on any countertop surface, you should use cutting boards and other measures to minimize damage to the surface and to protect your knives from dulling.

Will my surface crack?

Our high strength GFRC mixes virtually eliminate all cracks and other defects that others try to call "normal features" in their surfaces. The extremely high compressive and flexural strength of the material give you additional assurance against movement that can result in cracks.

How do I clean the surface?

Clean your concrete surface with mild soap and water. You may also use common mild kitchen cleaners, but avoid using any abrasive cleaners as they may reduce the service life of the sealer. Never spill caustic chemicals on the surface.

Can I put a hot pot directly on the surface?

Yes and no. It is rare that typical cooking will result in a pot hot enough to damage the surface or sealer. However, we recommend that you use trivets and other measures to reduce the danger of scorching the sealer. Narrow surface areas are more susceptible to thermal shock, so reasonable care should be used in front of sinks and other such locations. Crock pots and similar appliances should not be placed directly on the surface.

Does concrete stain?

Our GFRC surfaces are finished with a food safe, low voc sealer to produce a non-porous surface that virtually eliminates staining. As with any surface, any spills should be cleaned up promptly.

Can I use GFRC Systems outside?

Yes! All systems' colors are UV stable and will retain their beauty in direct and indirect sun exposure. Concrete surfaces are perfect solutions for outdoor installations. Unlike all other solid surface alternatives, and most granites (which are resin impregnated), our GFRC surfaces will not fade or fall apart when used outside.

Will the color be what I expect?

Color selections for concrete surfaces may be made from samples and charts. Our color system produces reliable and repeatable integral and stain colors. Because each piece is hand crafted, slight variations in color and hue should be expected.

Will the color fade?

All systems colors are UV stable and will retain their beauty.

Will the installation be messy?

Our GFRC surfaces are made at Core Designs, not on site. We will measure and template your project and then return with the finished pieces. Unlike conventional concrete countertop creation, the dust and mess is kept away from the project area.

Can I customize the look?

Concrete surfaces offer a wide range of standard and premium base colors and stains, edge profiles, textures, and other attributes. The only limit to what can be created is your imagination. Custom, hand crafted, and organic surfaces are our specialty.