

Helix QuickTops Concrete Countertop Mix

Technical Data Sheet



Helix Color Systems is a premier line of specialty decorative concrete admixtures manufactured by ChemSystems Inc. Helix Color Systems is manufactured for the discriminating installer or designer who values service and quality. Specializing in custom colors, specialty products, and superior service, Helix Color Systems offers an innovative alternative in the decorative concrete industry.

Description

Helix QuickTops pre-cast concrete mix is an easy to use, just add water concrete countertop system. Helix QuickTops is available in three different types:

- **Fast Set E Mix** – Economical, 1 gallon of water per 50 lb bag, 3 hour turn around, resembles buff colored Indiana Limestone.
- **Fast Set Polish Mix** – Economical, 1 gallon of water per 50 lb bag, 4 hour turn around, resembles dense buff colored marble, optimum for polishing.
- **Regular Set 12H Mix** – Lowest cost, 1 gallon of water per 50 lb bag, 12 hour turn around, resembles natural gray concrete.

Note: *Helix QuickTops is optimally designed for reverse cast molding and no troweling. It is not recommend to cast Helix QuickTops in place and finished exposed surfaces with a trowel.*

Helix QuickTops contains a proprietary blend of architectural cements, polymers, fibers, and other additives to produce a high quality, high strength, precast concrete.

Most any color can be achieved by using a CSI / Helix color tint pack. Consult the CSI / Helix standard color selection charts for color choices.

Product Benefits

- Strong, durable, hard to scratch surface
- Just add 1 gallon of water per 50 lb bag - No need for additional additives
- Quick turnaround time – De- mold and install in as little as 3 hours
- Accepts most color additives for endless color options
- High flexural strength – no need for steel reinforcing
- High flow rate for reduced bug holes and voids for a tight finish
- Accepts most types of specialty aggregate, glass, and fillers for decorative finishes.

Perfect for both residential and commercial applications:

- Home kitchen and bath
- Sinks
- Bar tops
- Tiles
- Pre-Cast furniture / art
- Pavers
- Desk tops

Required Equipment/Materials

- Helix QuickTops product
- Mixing container (minimum 5 gallon unit for 1 bag)
- Mechanical mixer
- Mold or Form
- 1 gallon of potable water per 50 lb bag
- Color Additive (optional). Color Tint Packs are available in a wide range of colors, refer to the ChemSystems standard colors.
- Decorative Aggregate, Glass, or fillers for Polish Mix ONLY(optional)

Application

1. Place 1 gallon of clean cool water per 50 lb bag into mixing container.
2. Add color if desired. Maximum 10 oz. for dry powdered colorant, 8 oz. for liquid color per 50 lb bag. Consult CSI / Helix standard color selection guides for color options.
3. Mix color with water until dispersed evenly and uniform color is achieved.
4. Slowly pour the contents of the Helix QuickTops powder into the water as the mixer is running. Avoid entrapping or folding air into the mix when blending. Minimize moving the mixer blade up and down to avoid air entrapment.
5. Add any optional aggregates at this time, mixing until evenly dispersed. Maximum 8 lb of aggregate per 50 lb bag.
6. Mix for 2 to 3 minutes, or until all the powder is uniformly blended. Assure the mix is lump free, paying close attention to corners and edges of the mixing container.
7. Pour the mix from corner to corner into the awaiting form or mold. DO NOT place the material into the middle of the form. The material will naturally begin to level itself.
8. For small molds or forms, gently rock from side to side to level the material. For large molds and forms, use a rubber mallet to gently tap the sides of the mold to level the material.
9. With a kneading action, use your fingers and work the material over the entire piece. This action will help bring any trapped air bubbles to the surface. On average, cover the casting 2-3 times.
10. Using a hammer or rubber mallet, gently tap the sides of the form to help consolidate the material and release any trapped air. On average Tap each side slowly 2-3 times. A hand held vibrating sander can also be used to vibrate the material into the form and eliminate air holes and voids.
11. Helix QuickTops Concrete Countertop mix is NOT designed to be cast-in-place with exposed surfaces finished with a trowel. For best results use a smooth surface mold constructed from melamine board, plexi-glass, or similar. Pour Helix QuickTops material into the mold and screed off the excess as described in the previous application guidelines.
12. The casting portion of your project is complete. Once the piece has firmed up, cover it with poly to retain the moisture and heat. You will be able to de-mold your piece in 3 to 12 hours, depending on which system was used.

Cure Time / De-Mold

Depending on which Helix QuickTops system was used, cure time and remold times will vary. Cure times to de-mold and installation:

- **Fast Set E Mix:** 3 hours
- **Fast Set Polish Mix:** 3 hours (polish in 4 hours)
- **Regular Set 12H Mix:** 12 hours

Surface Protection and Maintenance

Helix Color Systems recommends sealing all pre cast concrete. Depending on the desired final look, either topical or penetrating Helix sealers can be used on your Helix QuickTops precast concrete. Contact your CSI / Helix sales representatives for sealer options.

Limitations and Precautions

Note: *Helix QuickTops is optimally designed for reverse cast molding and no troweling. It is not recommend to cast Helix Quicktops in place and finished exposed surfaces with a trowel*

- On hot days it is recommended to wet cure the cast piece by spraying the back side with water to assure it remains moist until the piece has cured. Cover entire piece with a damp towel or plastic to retain as much moisture during the curing process.
- If the air temperature is lower than 70 degrees F. The cure time may extend longer than stated.
- Thinner pieces may cure faster than stated.
- Thicker pieces may take longer than stated.
- Once the piece is cast do not move it. Moving the piece may cause it to crack or delaminate.
- To assure uniformity when casting multiple pieces measure out all of your additives prior to mixing.
- Heavy tapping or use of a vibrating table for a long period of time may cause the decorative aggregate or glass to consolidate to the center of the piece.

Shelf Life and Storage

- Store Helix QuickTops in a cool dry place.
- Do not use if material package is damaged.
- Helix QuickTops has a shelf life of 1 year from date of purchase.

Coverage Rates

Helix QuickTops coverage rates will vary depending on which system is used and the thickness of the final piece. One 50 lb bag yields:

- **Fast Set E Mix:** 4 sq/ft @ 1 1/4 inch thick
- **Fast Set Polish Mix:** 4 sq/ft @ 1 1/2 inch thick
- **Regular Set 12H Mix:** 4 sq/ft @ 1 1/2 inch thick

Package Sizes

Helix QuickTops is available in 50 lb bags.

Technical Data

Please refer to the corresponding MSDS for hazard-related information.

Product Handling

For complete instructions on handling and use, consult the corresponding Material Safety Data Sheet before using product.

Warranty

Helix QuickTops, a proprietary product, is warranted to be of uniform quality within manufacturing tolerances. Since control is not exercised over its use, no warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the effects of such use. Seller's and manufacturer's obligation under this warranty shall be limited to refunding the purchase price of that portion of the material proven to be defective. The user assumes all other risks and liabilities resulting from use of this product. If you have any questions, please contact ChemSystems, Inc.



*For complete information on all CSI products—including product information catalogs, product brochures, color charts, technical specifications, sales aids and more—contact ChemSystems, Inc.

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