



## **Frequently Asked Questions - And Answers by Don Latimer**

The following information is to give you ideas about how to use Milestone on your own project. The methods described are what I have found through experience and trial & error to work well for me. I recommend testing your own techniques on samples to prove them. Some developed finishes are more difficult to do and timing can cause failure. Also, each individual can have a different understanding of what is described. Testing will teach you the best process, show you the results of your finish work, and help guarantee your successful finish every time. I still do testing and samples on almost every project.

### **What exactly is the milestone product?**

Milestone is more of a surface coating for over concrete and a variety of other substrates. The liquid and powder make a plaster that can be colored any color and a variety of textures can be created by adding different sands or even a little lime. It is fine for inside or outside and even in fountains.

### **Acid Stain**

If I apply the Milestone powder with acrylic liquid as a base coat for a concrete counter, can I acid stain that application? I need to do a mottled counter with many of the same color that we used in a "typical concrete" counter. We actually used a solid base acid stain color then spritzed, dabbled, dropped, etc. splatter of several different colors. Will the acid stain damage the milestone?

- I have done acid stains a few times and it seems to work fine. I replace up to half of the milestone powder with cement to get a better reaction out of the acid stains. The stains don't work with Milestone exactly like they do with concrete but they don't seem to bother the structure. You can always do a sample first and see what you think. I have had a little trouble with the sealers wanting to react to the stains. You might try to neutralize it first with an acid neutralizing wash.

### **Adhesion**

We are pouring over an existing cement floor. Do we need to use a bonding product prior to using your finished product?

- The Milestone will bond good to a clean cement floor and no other bonder is required. Oil and grease will inhibit the bond. The rougher the surface the better the mechanical bond will be.

Do you think that milestone would get good adhesion over Bona brand 'High Traffic' two part epoxy floor finish?

- I don't know the Bona epoxy but you might do a test patch and see what you think. One trick you can do is re-coat with the epoxy and broadcast #70 or finer sand over it while it is still wet, as you apply it. You can even put sand or walnut shell in the epoxy before you put it on. You can also abrade by sanding the epoxy that is there to help improve the bond. Use 36 to 50 grit paper.

## **Boulders**

I am interested in making myself some landscape boulders. Cement is OK, but does not lend itself to making a hollow (lighter than a real boulder) construction. I am more interested in sculpting the "boulder" than in using a mold (sand cast or other). Does your product stick to armatures that are free form? Can it be tinted in order to put "natural looking" striations or flecks of mica in the "boulder's" interior that would show when a face/facet is sheared off? Can the product also be coaxed to shale or slate-like smooth finish?

- You can do a lot with Milestone to develop the finishes you want. The universal tints allow you to create any color you want. You can also create any movement or flecks you want, for instance by staining the top coat with acrylic liquid and tint. For lightweight projects I would try going over Styrofoam using mesh reinforcing.

## **Cement Stains**

Do you have a product catalog available of your cement stains?

- No, there is no catalog. Using the Milestone acrylic liquid as a stain base is a secondary use of the product. I use it to stain both concrete and the Milestone plaster itself. I am using universal pigments to provide the desired color and thinning with water if needed to diminish the sealing potential of the Milestone acrylic liquid.

## **Cleaners**

I just purchased a home with a Cementsics bathtub in it and was wondering what cleaners I could use. I have always cleaned with Simple Green and wanted to make sure that it would be OK for the finish? Are there other products that will work and also kill the germs that are so commonly found in the bathroom?

- I don't know if your tub has any sealers but it is always best to clean with a mild non abrasive soap. I do not recommend simple green it may be powerful enough to attack the bond of the acrylics. Try a mild germ fighting soap. You can try bleach, it kills all germs, but over a long term use it might fade the color.

I finished my kitchen countertops with Milestone. Other than a wet sponge and the occasional soapy water, what cleaners are recommended? I sealed it with a non-toxic carnauba wax, and know that any ammonia based cleaner is bad, but I was wondering if there are any other cleaning ingredients to be careful of?

- I think you have the right idea on cleaners. Try to stay with non abrasive cleaners. If you use abrasive cleaners you will have to re-wax more often to maintain your finish. If you need to use a little bleach test it first to see how it does. Try to clean spills right away. Watch your counter if it does stain easily you may need to do more for sealers. On counters, I usually use a water based epoxy first and then wax over that.

## **Color**

Is powder white or gray the only product colors to choose for my floor?

- The product can be tinted to any color using universal pigments.

I want a rustic yellow finish on the outside of the house. How do you incorporate this color into the mixture? Do you have this color blend, or would it be a separate additive for color?

- To get the rustic yellow you might want to use gray milestone and add yellow oxide. You could of course start with white as well. I use universal tints to color just as you would use in a latex paint. You mix it into the Milestone acrylic liquid; it may not be more than 10%. You can develop your own formula, choose one of ours or let us do a custom-made sample for you. We will batch out the colorant according to the size of your project.

If I am trying to achieve a particular color would it make sense to get the source it at a paint store then get the formula then say double it because it is going into cement vs paint?

- If you get the formula for a gallon of paint, put that into a gallon of Milestone acrylic liquid, and add the white Milestone powder the color will be a good starting point. It may need some adjustments but it is a good place to start. With Milestone cement you do not need to double the pigment ratios, as would be necessary with regular cement. I would recommend starting out with a one-pint or even a one-cup formula and doing a sample. Sealers will effect the final color value. Epoxy will deepen the value if it is applied first. The urethane will have a little less effect.

### **Concrete**

I heard that Milestone is meant to go over a concrete base. It looks like many or most of your projects do not have a concrete base. Please comment.

- Many of the projects on our website are over concrete, mostly the floors, but even the walls are often over cement board. The Milestone can go over the cement base projects without bonding agents because of the acrylic liquid used in the mix.

### **Counters**

Why do you use tile board to build counter tops instead of pouring them into forms and then putting milestone on top? Wouldn't that make a more solid lasting structure?

- Either is OK. If you do a concrete poured countertop, it would have to be one and half to two inches thick solid concrete. You will need to leave it in the form for quite some time depending on how thick the pour is. It would work but it would be more work and it is more susceptible to cracking.

Is a thickness of 1/8 to 3/8 inches tough enough to keep from cracking or breaking if something is accidentally dropped on it?

- The finish coats are always applied over a hard base that shouldn't have problems with cracking. The Milestone is less susceptible to cracking than what you would think of as regular concrete. It is much more flexible.

Can you get a marble type look with Milestone?

- With the right process you can get a variety of looks. You may want to try a little lime (1 to 4 or 1 to 3 parts lime per powder and some silica sand). 1 sand to 1 powder mixture, but this can vary as is needed up to two to one either way.

Can you use a spray bottle of water to moisten cement to smooth it out?

- Usually, I don't use water to help finish because it can effect the color if you're not careful. Most finishes I do don't need it but I do use it sparingly once in a while.

How many coats of epoxy do I need for the countertop?

- I recommend at least two, tight, wiped-in coats of epoxy coat as a minimum.

### **Countertop Care**

How do I care for my waxed Milestone countertop?

- You can re-wax it as often as you want to keep it looking good, probably every six months to a year. Clean it with mild soaps and non abrasive pads or cloths. Do not let spills stand, clean them up immediately. Especially oil and acids like citrus fruit base foods. I carry the wax.

## Coverage

Each project will get different coverage according to the type of surface you are going over and according to the type of coat you are doing.

Base coat: A base coat over a smooth surface like sheetrock or troweled smooth concrete with a mix of 1 part 70 grit sand and one part Milestone dry blend powder will cover about 350 square feet per gallon of acrylic liquid mixed. This is the type of coverage we get on a regular basis but we are able to keep our thickness to a minimum. If you are trying to order enough for your project you should probably order at a rate of at least 200 sq ft per gallon until you can find your own coverage rates.

Top coat: A tight troweled top coat that just fills in the #70 sand grit base made up of just Milestone dry blend powder will cover about 175 square feet per gallon of liquid mixed. This is the type of coverage we get on a regular basis but we are able to keep our thickness to a minimum. If you are trying to order enough for your project you should probably order at a rate of at least 100 sq ft per gallon until you can find your own coverage rates.

How many square feet will a five gallon pail of acrylic liquid cover?

- Generally on a floor you should get about 250 to 500 square feet per set ( 2-five's of powder and 1-five of liquid.)

How much will I need to cover 100 square feet?

- This will vary but I would figure about 1 to 2 gallon minimum.

How much volume of mix does 60 lbs of Milestone Cement make?

- Two 30 lb pails of Milestone Cement and a 5 gallon pail of acrylic liquid if added to sand will make about 10 gallon of material. It will cover about 250 square feet at about 1/8 in thick.

When you talk about square foot coverage, is that assuming a 1/8 th inch thickness per layer?

- The coverage is based on about 1/8inch thick, which is a little thicker than I usually install my two finish coats. One sand coat as a base and one finish coat without sand. With this combo and the thickness I install, I get about 200 square ft of coverage per gallon of acrylic liquid (this is the coverage over a finished surface). When I include base coat that is over cement board I usually quote people about 50 square feet per gallon of acrylic liquid. You also have to have enough Milestone powder to go with the liquid.

What would be your best guess estimate for materials, to finish the exterior of a house that's about 1350 square feet?

- I would estimate about 6 pails of acrylic liquid and 12 pails of powder.

## Decks

Can Milestone be used on a porch with a living space below? We were considering a Gaco deck coating but it seems very pricey and not in keeping with the craftsman style, milestone would look great if at all possible.

- If you want a waterproof coating for your deck Gaco deck or span deck are good option.

Milestone can then be installed over that. Put walnut shell or sand in the final coats to improve the bond. A 30 grit sand would be fine. There are other ways to waterproof but this is a simple one and the look of the Gaco is not important, only the waterproofing function.

## Durability

What can you tell me about the durability and safety for use of Milestone as a kitchen countertop?

- All the care, sealers and durability will be similar to the way a concrete counter would work.

Milestone is not quite as hard as concrete, however. The sealers are not FDA approved.

Does it scratch easily?

- It doesn't scratch that easy. On a countertop, you should use a board for cutting.

Can you put hot things on it?

- Really hot pots straight from the stove will mar the finish and should not be put directly on the counter top.

Does it stain easily? Do you have to use a sealer and if so what do you recommend?

- I use water-based epoxy for protection from stain and then carnauba wax for the finish cover.

### **Fireplaces**

My fireplace is brick that has been painted. Does the paint need to be stripped off or can the Milestone be applied directly to the painted brick?

- It does stick great to paint if the paint is stuck well. If it is a glossy paint it would be good or sand or roughen up the surface first.

Does there need to be any mesh applied for the milestone to "hang on"?

- You can apply mesh if you think you are going to have a problem with cracking on joints of unstable bricks.

How thick does the base coat need to be?

- It only needs to be as thick as necessary to level out over the bricks. I would usually coat until it is level using a 1 part #70 sand mix and 1 part Milestone powder mixed with the acrylic liquid and then a very thin finish coat over that.

You've done several fireplaces with the material very close to the heat, have you had any problems with cracking?

- I have done surrounds for fireplaces without any problems but I don't run the Milestone into the fire box itself. I use cement board as a base for areas near the firebox opening.

How do you get the edges, designs or contour on the fireplaces?

- I usually frame around fireplaces with steel studs and cement board but if it's far enough from the firebox so that the heat doesn't matter you can use wood framing and sheetrock. The shapes can be built with plaster and mesh using jigs. You can order some shapes precut from foam as well.

### **Floors**

Do I need to tear up the old tile and do any special preparation for the new floor?

- I have gone over tile in some cases. It must be fastened down good and you should try to abrade the surface whatever you can. I also like to use one layer of the fiberglass cloth to bond the coating together.

How thick (how many layers) does the floor need to be? -

- I use the same procedure details on the floors as I do on the countertops. Please see the Technical Info section on the website.

Do you have any experience using Milestone over a cement slab floor with radiant heating? I'm wondering if the heat will compromise it.

- I have used the Milestone over radiant in-floor heating and even after seven years the floor looks as good now as when it was new. I used fiberglass mesh tape on all the cracks and to date none of them have returned.

If I want a basic concrete floor, would this require only one coat of the concrete, if the surface I'm covering is a good quality surface?

- You can get away with only one coat. I did a floor where I used 1/8 inch tape to create a pattern of large rectangles applied one thin coat. Sometimes so thin the gray of the concrete played through to the top color. Sealed it to protect it from stains and it looked fantastic.

How long is the required drying time before the floor can be walked on?

- Thin applications will almost always dry up over night. Thinner applications will dry in hours. You can often walk on thin applications in minutes without shoes.

### **Over Formica**

How much coverage does a 30 lbs pail of Milestone Cement have over existing Formica countertops?

- A unit might be considered a 5 gallon pail of Milestone acrylic liquid and 2 pails of Milestone Cement. This will usually cover about 250 to 500 square feet or 50 to 100 square feet per gallon of acrylic liquid. It does vary with how you do the finish. Make sure you abrade the surface of the Formica good to improve the bond if you are going directly over that surface.

### **Leftovers of acrylic liquid**

Do the containers it comes in keep it? Some of the plasters I have worked with set in a few days of opening the container, so it's a "use it or lose it" situation.

- I have had containers of the acrylic keep several years and still be good but you do have to re-stir the sediment off the bottom before you use it. Some pigments will cause a rancid smell after just a few months. Blue seems to be the worst.

### **Mixing**

Are these five gallon pails premixed and all I have to do is pour?

- It comes as a liquid and a powder and the two have to be added together. The coverage varies according to how you install it.

### **Milestone vs Venetian Plaster**

Is Milestone burnished like Venetian Plaster? Is it troweled thinly like Venetian Plaster in 3-4 layers?

- It has a soft natural mottling no matter how you trowel it but to increase the mottling and add mixed layers of color, several layers thinly troweled can have great effects. It does not get the high gloss sheen of Venetian unless you add lime and use a little water as you trowel. To get the really high gloss you will probably still have to wax.

### **Outdoor Application**

I would like to use Milestone a wall surrounding the drive way into the garage. Since this an outside process can you tell me about drying time, application temperatures, and if it should rain or snow prior to it drying would I need to cover it?

- When I do outside work I try to have the temperature above 50 degrees. The surface should be dry when it is applied. I also try to apply my sealer coats before the finish gets rained on to

help prevent staining. It is very important to protect it from rain until the base coat or the finish coat are finished drying. Late in the year temperatures are on the decline and it is quite problematic to do an outside application.

### **Outlets**

Are there other outlets for your product in the U.S.?

- Artisan Finishes in Seattle is the only point of sale right now. To order you can email, fax, call your order in or use our online shop.

### **Product Pickup**

Do I pick up the products at your 1st Ave. S. address?

- You can pick up material at the store in Seattle or I do ship around the country.

### **Recycled Glass**

I'm looking for sustainable building products for our "Green Library", and have heard that you're dealing with finishes which are made from 50% post-consumer glass and 10% fly ash.

- I use 50% or more recycled glass routinely, as an ingredient in my mix for many of the finishes.

The Milestone System itself is a cement-based powder and an acrylic liquid often used in conjunction with other aggregates.

### **Sealers**

*Note on sealers:* Milestone cement finishes do not necessarily need to have any sealers even in outside application but sealers are helpful to prevent stains and even natural patinas from happening. We have found that most water based sealers work well with the Milestone finishes especially those made for concrete, tile grout or stone. Added sealers will give added protection and the desired level of protection can vary according to the application environment and your personal expectations. We do a variety of projects and we are covering some of the methods we have found to work for our needs. You may want to experiment with your final sealer to make sure you are happy with the level of protection you are getting.

*Cementic sealer:* A urethane product made specifically for Milestone that helps to resist stains, and creates a low to medium sheen. It also lowers the PH to allow other sealers to work more effectively. It is breathable and allows for moisture to migrate in and out of the Milestone. Alone it can be susceptible to oils and high acid materials. You will need a painters pad, tray, rags a respirator and gloves. APPLICATION: Apply to the surface with your painters pad in round strokes. Avoid linear application as streak marks may occur around overlaps. Apply rapidly and wipe in with a rag immediately as you go. It is best to maintain a wet edge, especially on the first coat. This product needs to be applied thinly and wiped immediately to avoid drips. If needed, apply additional coats for more protection and added sheen. On vertical surfaces always work from the bottom up in order to avoid dripping onto unsealed surfaces.

*Carnauba wax:* A water soluble wax that helps resist stains and creates a soft surface texture with medium sheen, with mild stain resistance. It is generally applied over Cementic urethane sealer. You will need a painter's pad and handle, a paint tray, rags, a respirator and gloves. APPLICATION: Apply the wax in a circular motion with your pad. Quickly wipe off excess with a rag. Allow the remaining wax to "set" for a few minutes, then buff with a clean rag until shiny. Apply additional coats for added sheen. It is always best to apply the wax over other sealers. The Milestone is almost too porous for the way the wax soaks in. Wax should always be your last sealer and should only be applied after you're satisfied with your overall level of protection.

*511 Impregnating sealer:* This is a sealer that soaks deep into the cement and is breathable yet greatly prevents water absorption. No sheen. It is best applied in multiple coats over a period of several days.

Sealer combinations based on the type of installation:

Decorative interior walls:	2 coat of Cementic urethane 1 or more coats of Cementic Canuba wax
Decorative interior ceiling:	You can leave a ceiling without sealers but if you're doing the walls in the same color, the color of the ceiling will be lighter. We generally advise you to use the same sealers as for a wall.
Hard use interior walls:	For kitchen stove areas, counter backsplashes, and bathroom sink areas use the same sealers as for a countertop/shower.
Countertop and shower:	2 coats of 511 impregnator on the first day. Let dry. 1 coat of 511 impregnator on the second day. Let dry. 1 coat of Cementic urethane. 2 coats of Kelly Moore water based epoxy; thin the first coat with 20% water. Let dry between coats. Scotch brite lightly. 1 coat of 511 impregnator. Let dry. 1 coat of Cementic Canuba wax.
Shower floor:	Same as countertop/shower, but don't apply any wax.
Floor:	1 coat of Cementic urethane. 2 coats of Kelly Moore water based epoxy; thin the first coat with 20% water. Let dry between coats. Scotch brite lightly. 1 coat of Varathane.
Exterior Surfaces:	2 coats of 511 impregnator on the first day. Let dry. 1 coat of 511 impregnator on the second day. Let dry. 1 coat of Cementic urethane. 1 coat of 511 impregnator. 1 coat of Cementic Canuba wax.

## **Sculptures**

How well does Milestone polish?

- To get a high polished finish I use waxes and polish them. I think this gives a natural look to the finish, not the plastic look of some sealers.

How long does it stay smooth?

- It should hold its finish for years.

Can you use it with all the same aggregates and reinforcements as Portland cement?

- Yes.



Does Milestone bond to acrylic resin?

- It seems to bond well to most surfaces including acrylics. In case of doubt a test might be good.

How deep a hue can you get with colorants?

- It is possible to get very rich and saturated colors.

How long does it take to cure?

- Thin veneers might cure just over night and thick castings might take days. The length of cure will vary according to the mass you deal with.

Can Milestone be damaged by ultraviolet rays?

- In the years I have worked with Milestone I have yet to detect any UV damage.

### **Self-leveling**

Is Milestone self-leveling?

- No, it isn't self-leveling, It must be troweled on.

### **Shipping**

Please contact us with your shipping address plus your order and we will give you a quote on the shipping costs and estimated time of arrival.

### **Shower Application**

Is your product waterproof?

- Milestone is waterproof like most cement would be but you may want to use sealers to prevent stains. I use it in showers regularly.

What is the mix for a wet floor application?

- Add the color to the Milestone acrylic liquid. You can then take equal parts of # 70 sand and the gray or white powder and enough acrylic liquid to make it flow good when you trowel it. When this coat is dry enough to walk on but not yet totally dry you can sand it flat if you need to. The top coat can be done when the first coat is totally dry, usually the next day. The top coat can be just powder and liquid or you can add the #70 grit sand to give it a good non skid surface. I usually add about one #70 grit sand to two powders when using it for a non-skid surface.

Which are the working steps for a shower application?

We usually begin with a layer of 1/2" plywood, that is blocked on the seams. Then we use thinset, applied with a 1/4" notch trowel to embed the cement board (still screw the cement board to the plywood) and we misalign the seams between plywood and cement board. This whole process results in a minimum amount of movement in the substrate. Once the cement board is installed we use Redgard or a comparable waterproofing membrane to establish a vapor barrier. We fill any gaps in the cement board with a Milestone/Sand mix first, then paint on a coat of the Redgard, install 4 inch reinforcing mesh at all the joints and a layer of 4 ounce fiberglass cloth over the whole surface. We run the mesh into the drain as well. We embed the mesh into the Redgard, using a putty knife or trowel. After gluing the mesh to the cement board in this way, we add some #70 grit sand to the Redgard and paint on a thin second coat just to give a little better tooth to bond to for the subsequent Milestone base coats. This makes a great water proofing membrane and it also acts as an anti-fracture membrane. After you trowel on a couple of base coats using a 1 to 1 (by volume) mix of Milestone cement

and #70 grit silica sand you should have all of your shapes (corners and level surface) established. The finish uses colored Milestone acrylic liquid and is always comprised of 2 coats. The exact procedure depends on the type of finish selected. After troweling the 2 final coats, you still have to seal the surface in order to deal with moisture and potential staining. The sealer combination for showers is as follows:

2 coats of 511 impregnator on the first day. Let dry.

1 coat of 511 impregnator on the second day. Let dry.

1 coat of Cementic urethane.

2 coats of Kelly Moore water based epoxy; thin the first coat with 20% water.

Let dry between coats. Scotch brite lightly.

1 coat of 511 impregnator. Let dry.

1 coat of Cementic Canuba wax.

## **Stucco**

*Note:* There are three ways of doing Stucco systems. 1. Traditional stucco with a scratch coat, a brown coat, and a finishes coat. All cement based. 2. Exterior insulated finish systems (EIFS). Problematic in the past because it doesn't breath well. It uses closed cell foam as its base. Nowadays they add a drain mat of some sort behind the foam to allow a space for air. 3. A cement board system done similar to the EIFS system but the cement board breaths more like traditional stucco. The product I work with Milestone Cement can go over any of the three and do well as the finish. When I do installations I usually do the Cement board but with a drain mat behind it. It has less tendencies to crack, one of the benefits of the EIFS system but breaths better like traditional stucco. The biggest change in the industry has probably been the attention to details especially around windows and doors that most good contractor do these days.

## **Taping**

When you put down the metal lath and begin to apply the cement, do you tape off wall edges to protect existing walls. How high up do you apply the tape and when is it best to remove ?

- Tape the walls off just above what you think is going to be the finish floor. I would remove the tape after each application of Milestone if the tape gets buried in the plaster. If you wait too long after the cement dries, the tape gets stuck and is hard to remove.

## **Tints**

When tinting with universal tints, does it dry lighter or does the color stay consistent wet or dry?

- It does dry lighter than the wet mixture. However, when I use water-based epoxy as a sealer it comes out much closer in color to the wet material.

You recommend not using over 8 oz of tint per gallon of acrylic liquid. How do you get the very rich colors I see in your examples? In my trials, there are times when I have almost twice this ratio of tint to acrylic.

- Sometimes I go over the 8 oz. per gallon limit. I often will go as much as 15. To get more brilliant colors you can also combine with powder pigments like those that are used in concrete. Another trick is to do a stain wash after it is dry by applying the acrylic liquid with pigment in it. On big areas I will dilute it with water to make it easier to work with. If you are doing walls or other decorative surfaces where it isn't as important how hard the surface is you can use as much colorant as you can get away with.

## **Troweling**

Do you have any tips for troweling? Which angle should be used? How do you get a smooth surface without the trowel lines? Are you going over a base of Milestone?

- You will need to alter the angle of the trowel to get the finish you desire. You will also have to vary the pressure and the thickness of the plaster. The amount of plaster you have on your

trowel at any one time is also important. Less plaster helps to reduce trowel lines. The type of trowel you use can be helpful as well. A pool trowel has a radius end which helps to eliminate trowel lines. You can learn more about trowling in our Finishes workshop.

### **Venetian Plaster Walls**

I would like to do a faux, venetian plaster type finish on walls - do I need any special wall preparation?

- You have to level out the wall, first. I usually do a base coat of Milestone: The mix consists of 1 part #70 grit sand and 1 part Milestone Cement (by volume). Add Milestone acrylic liquid until you have the right consistency. Coat the wall without bonders directly over the painted wall. Put the coat on not much thicker than the sand in the mix. This base helps the wall take a finish even, levels out unevenness in the surface but is not a must. Then coat out with a finish coat. If the paint is a high gloss enamel I would recommend you sand or roughen the surface first.

### **Water Base Epoxy**

What is the name and source for the water base epoxy?

- I use a Kelly Moore product called Enviro epoxy.

What kind of epoxy would you recommend and how do you apply it so you don't get a build up? Do you just hand rub it in and keep it as thin as possible? I've used epoxy in boat building environments and a squeegee has worked well for that sort of thing. Does the epoxy effect the color of the concrete?

- I use a water based epoxy and wipe it in with a rag. It will give a bit of a wet look in color. Water based epoxy is easier to use than builders epoxy. Yes, you can squeegee it in and then wipe it in as well. If you don't wipe it in you will get more build up but also more protection. I sometimes use the painting pads with circular motions to apply the epoxy. I usually thin it 20% with water on the first coat.

### **Waterproofing**

In a shower, what sort of waterproofing do you put on the Milestone surface?

- Please see 'Sealers'.

### **Wax**

Is your wax food safe and the best you've ever seen for kitchen countertops?

- Our wax has a nice feel and a beautiful sheen. Several coats will give good protection but I almost always seal with a water based epoxy, a urethane, and a penetrating sealer, the combination of all three, first. I believe, that for countertops or floors you need to have good protection before you wax. Only wax can go over wax. Our wax is not FDA approved but I don't know of any finish being used on concrete, Marble, Granite, or Milestone that is FDA approved. For inconsequential contact with food, I think it would be OK but not if you were going to store food in contact with the sealed surface as in a food storage container.

Can you dilute wax with water? What is the correct dilution?

- You can use the wax full strength if you want but I almost always dilute 1 to 1 with water. It can be diluted as much as 6 to 1 and still get fairly good results.

How do I apply the wax?

- The wax can be applied over any finish as a final coat and it can be applied directly over the unsealed Milestone. When applied directly over unsealed Milestone it is easier to apply if diluted 8 to 1 for the first coat or two then apply a 2 to 1 for the final wax. The unsealed concrete absorbs moisture quickly and makes it hard to work with wax. An easier way is to seal with the urethane first. Apply wax with a rag or pad using circular motion. Make sure you buff it as you

go before it dries. When working with darker colors you may want to add a little pigment to the wax it will help to keep the colors rich.