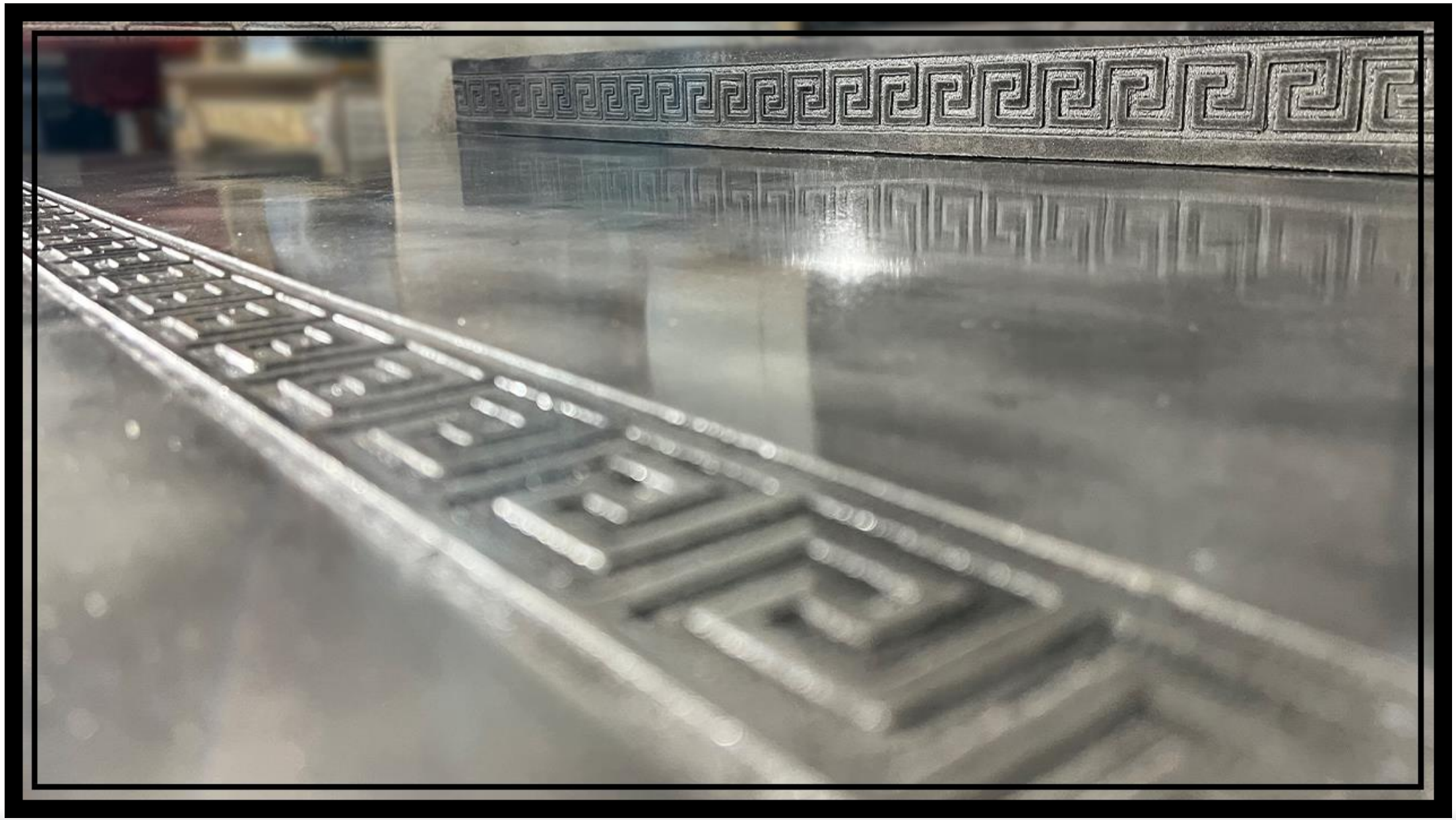
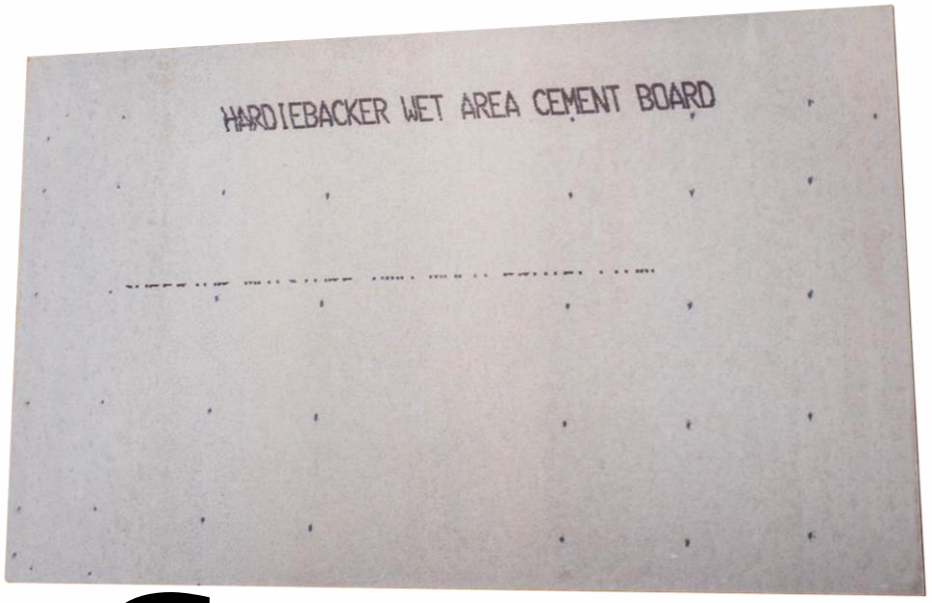
Restoring Countertop With Microtek





Cement Board

Blade

Ruler

Clamps

Pump Sprayer

Nail Gun

Color Pack

Micro-Tek

Mixer

Sander

Trowel

Stencil

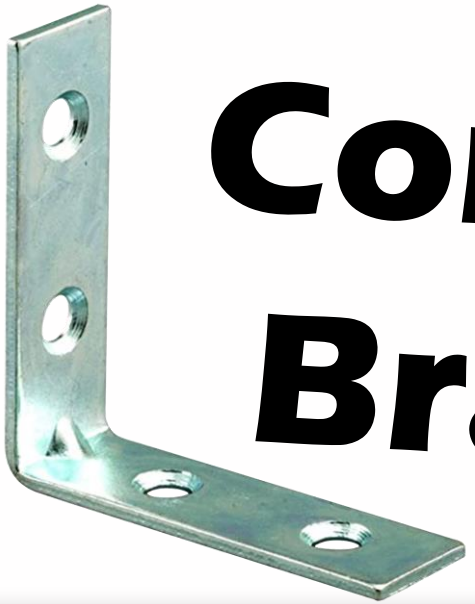
Eco Stain

Diamond Sanding Pads

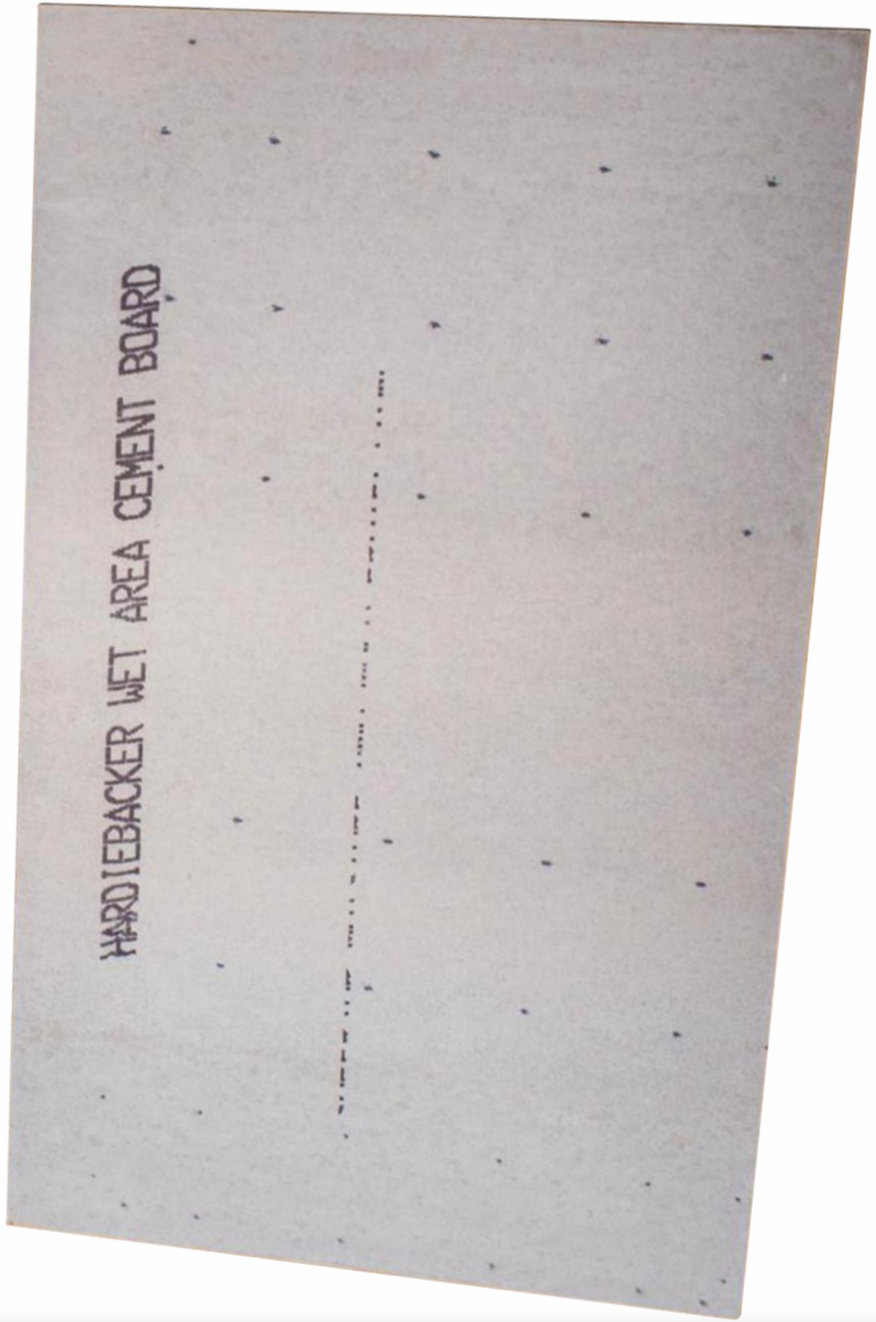
Double-Side Tape

PC12 Sealer

Foam Roller



Corner Brace



Preparation

The existing countertop will not hold a good bond to the overlay product if not prepped. Additionally, wood has a tendency to expand and shrink with various temperature / humidity changes which will crack the overlay. To avoid these issues, we will cover the counter with a cement based backer board. You can buy one with a vapor barrier already applied to it

First, measure the countertop

1

We will then cut the backerboard to its exact dimensions

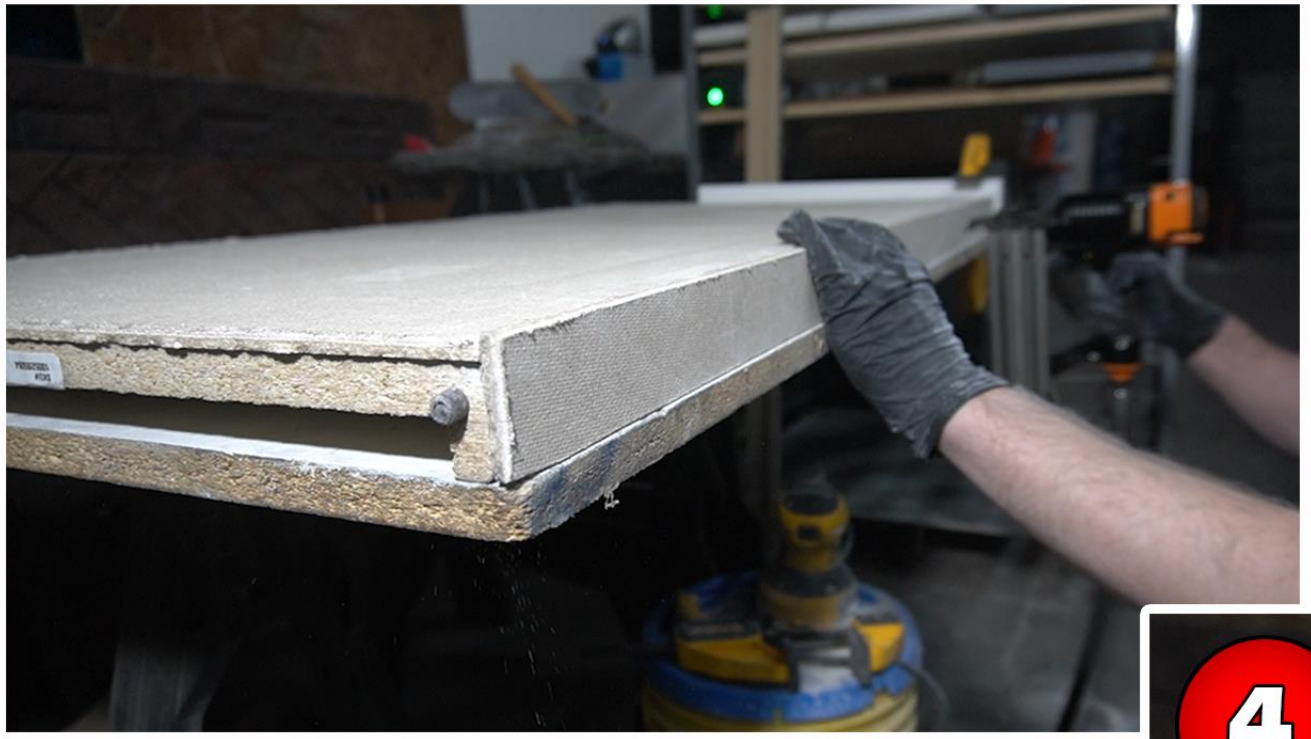
Use clamps and a ruler to guide your knife for a straight cut

After a couple of passes, the board easily breaks along your cut.

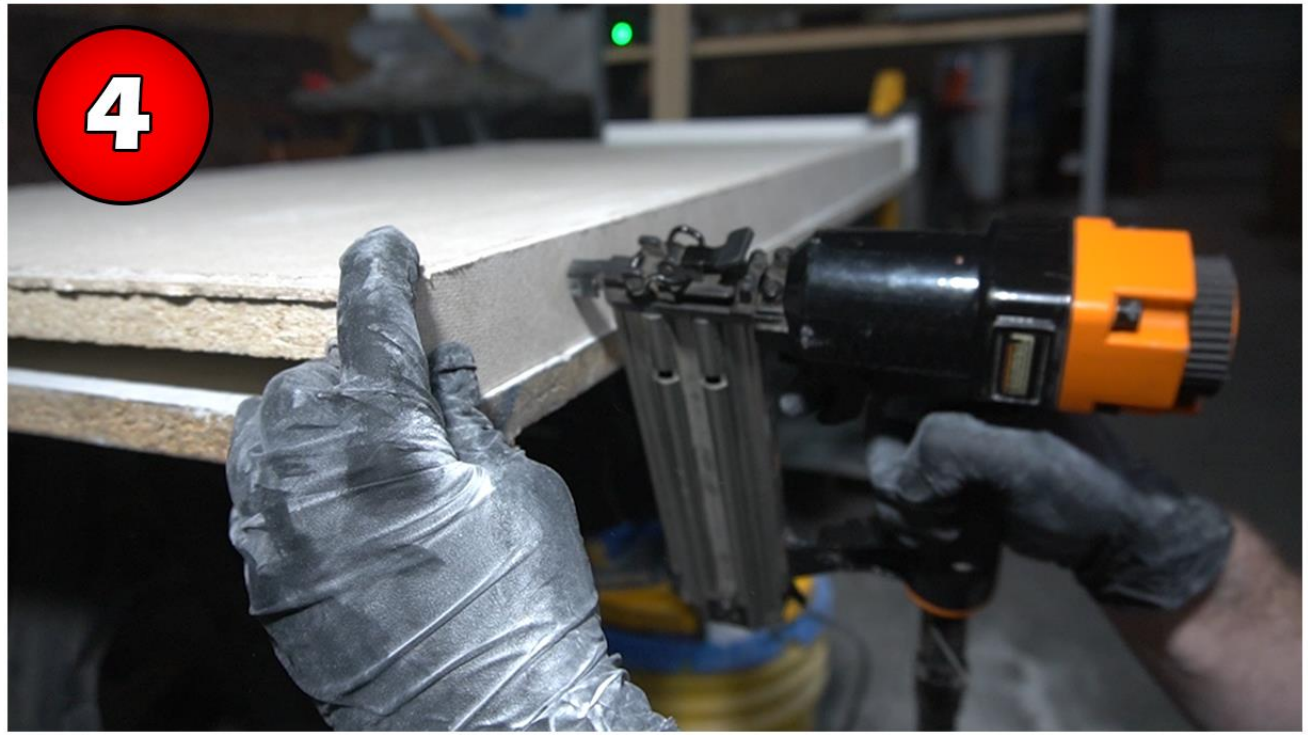
Attach the board using a nail gun

3

Drywall screws are another option



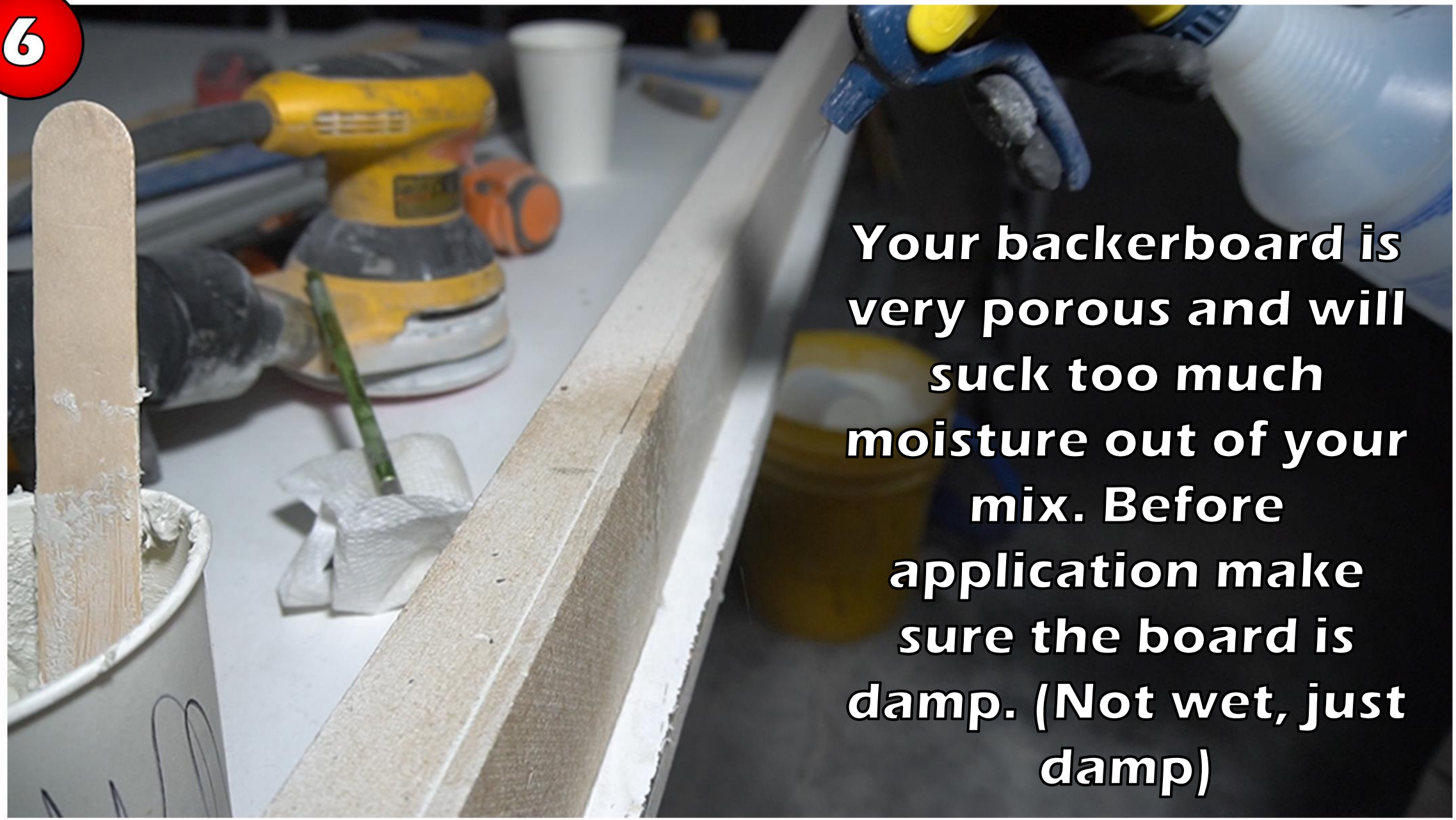
Cover all exposed decorative surfaces



I did the same with the backsplash

Next, mix a small amount of MicroTek to a peanut butter consistency

This batch will be used to fill in any seams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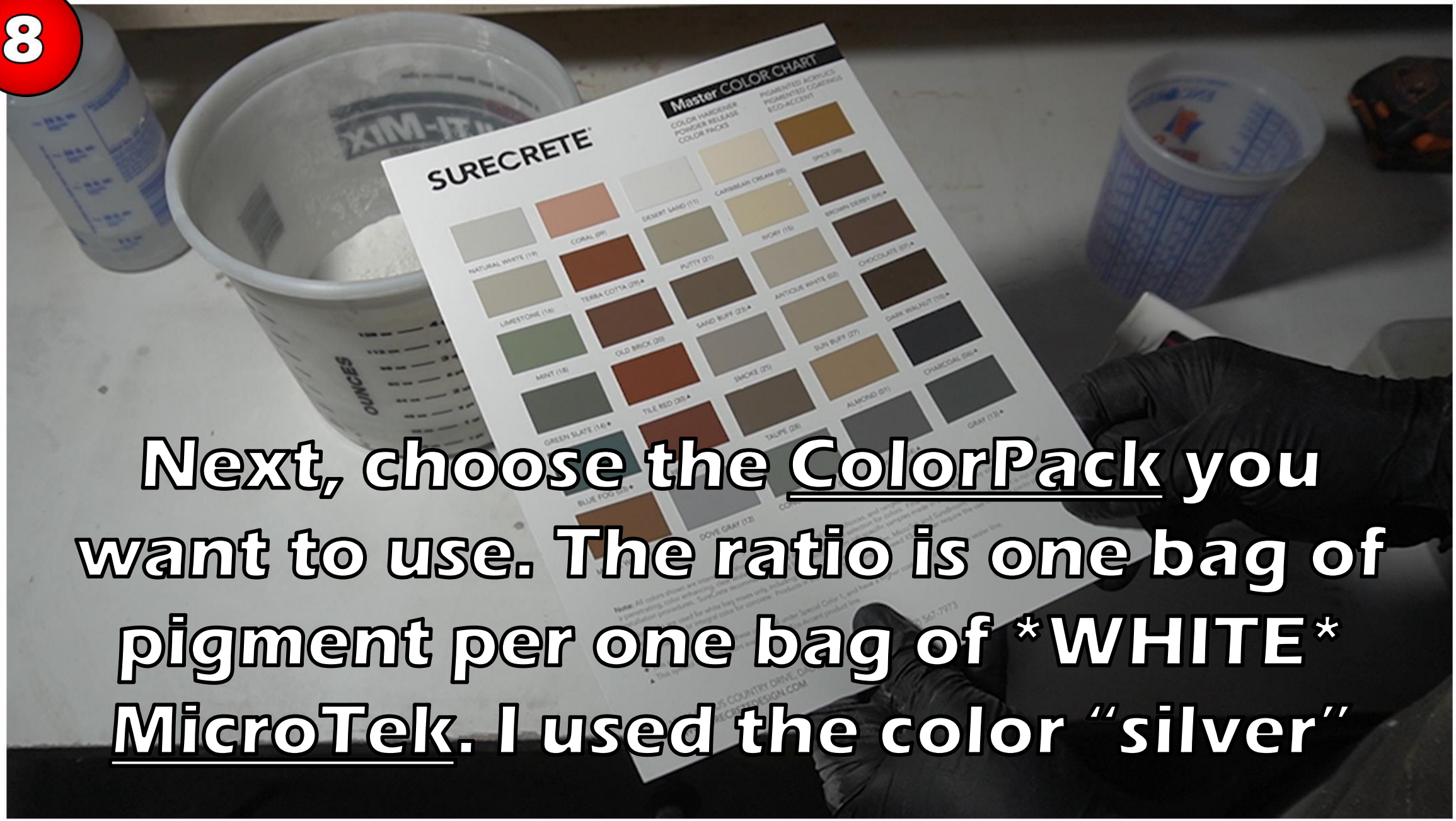
Your backerboard is very porous and will suck too much moisture out of your mix. Before application make sure the board is damp. (Not wet, just damp)

Place the putty mix into any seams / imperfections

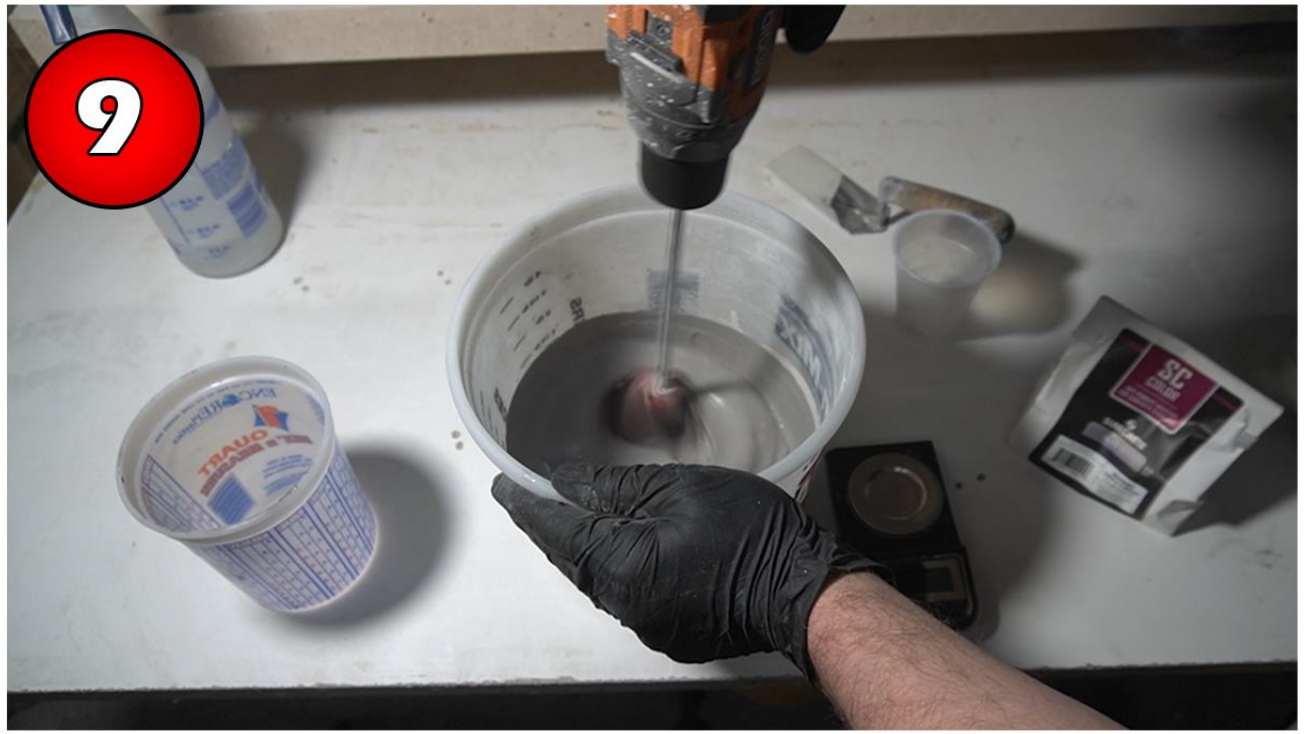
Scrape it even and flush


8
SURECRETE
Master COLOR CHART
OUNCES
Next, choose the ColorPack you want to use. The ratio is one bag of pigment per one bag of *WHITE* MicroTek. I used the color “silver”

First Coat

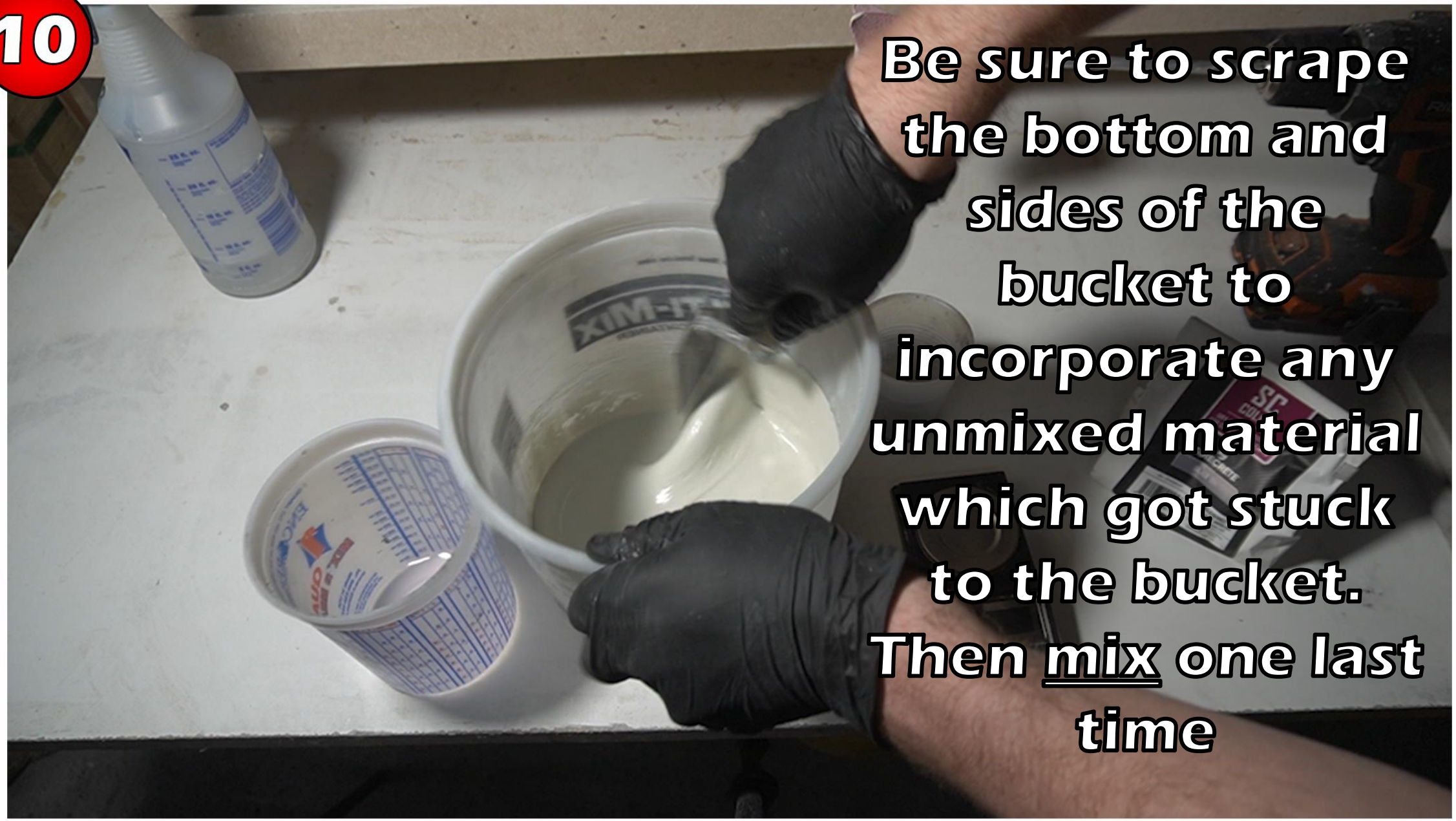
If not using stencils, one coat of MicroTek is more than enough to complete your project. However I did, and in hindsight I wish I made the first coat a darker color than the second. That way the stencil pattern would stand out even more. The mix ratio for one bag of MicroTek is 5-6 quarts of water.

Mix all the materials together thoroughly



PRO TIP

Mix the pigment into the water first to ensure the color is incorporated easier


10
Be sure to scrape the bottom and sides of the bucket to incorporate any unmixed material which got stuck to the bucket. Then mix one last time

Dampen your backer board

And pour on a thin layer of MicroTek

12

Use a trowel to spread the material around the surface

Microtek is a pretty viscous product that goes on very thin

Trowel the overlay north to south, east to west, repeatedly

13

This ensures a consistent thickness of MicroTek across your surface

Vertical surfaces could be trickier to perfect

14

I usually leave them for last

15

After a couple of hours the material is dry to the touch but still soft enough to be manipulated

I use a blade to touch up the “lips” on the corners

Second Coating

Again, the second coating is necessary only when using stencils or if extensive grinding/polishing is planned. Our stencils are made of rubber and are reusable. They are 13" long but two stencils seamlessly connect to each other and continue the pattern.

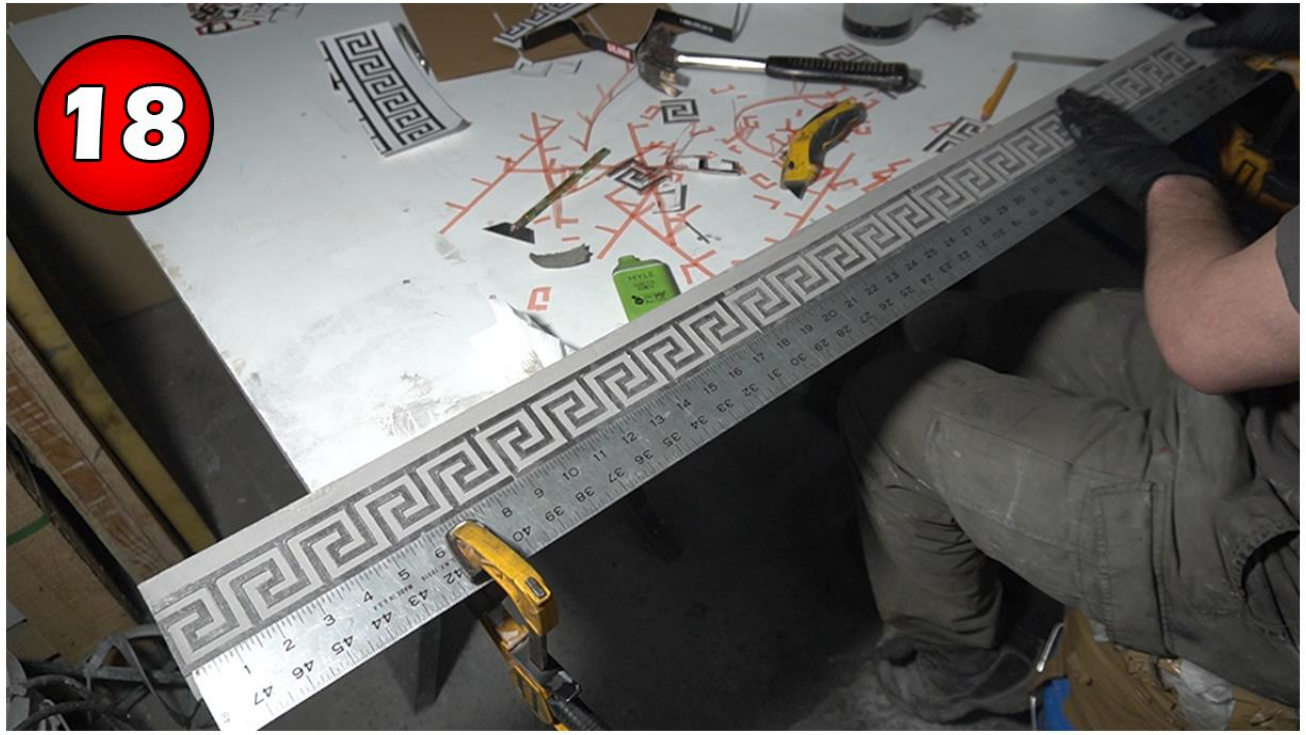
Attach <u>double side</u> <u>tape</u> to the <u>stencil</u> to ensure it wont move while troweling

Trimming the excess <u>tape</u> is required

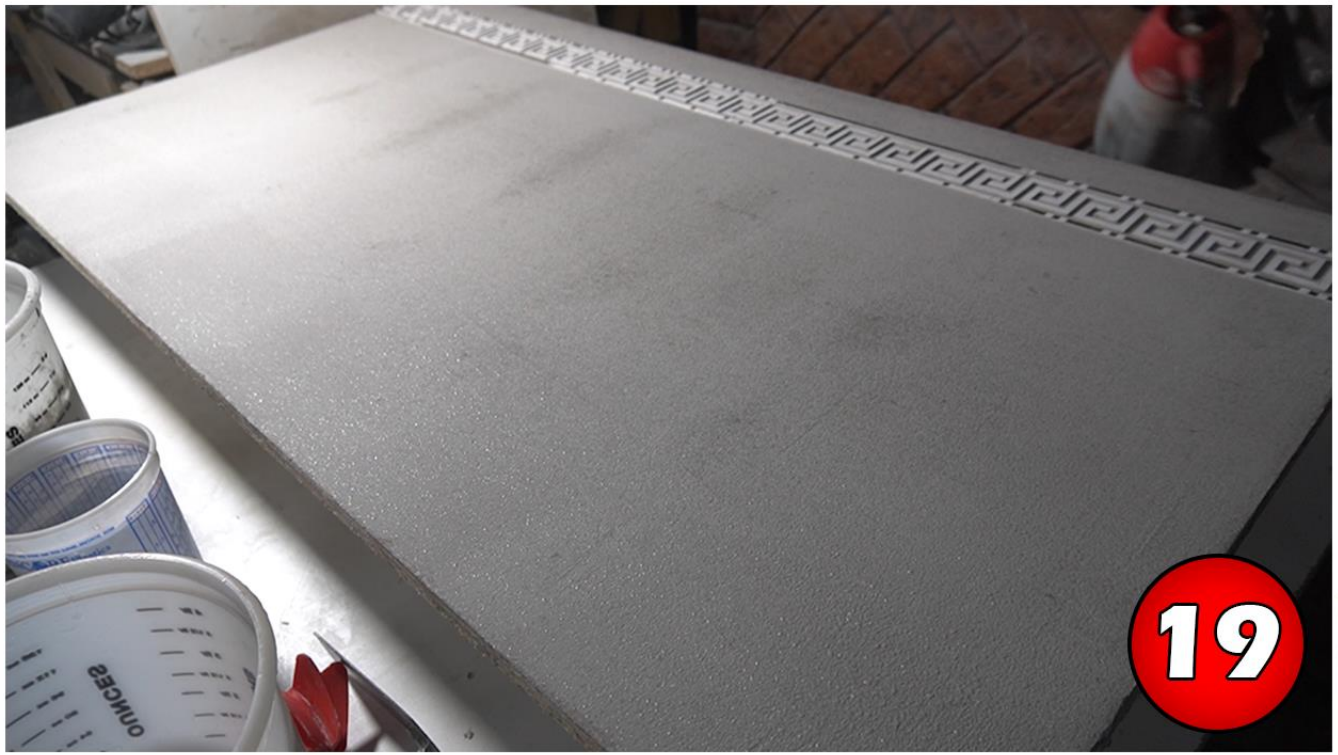
I want to ensure the stencils are straight

Use a ruler and clamps again to serve as a guide

Remove the protective red film from the tape

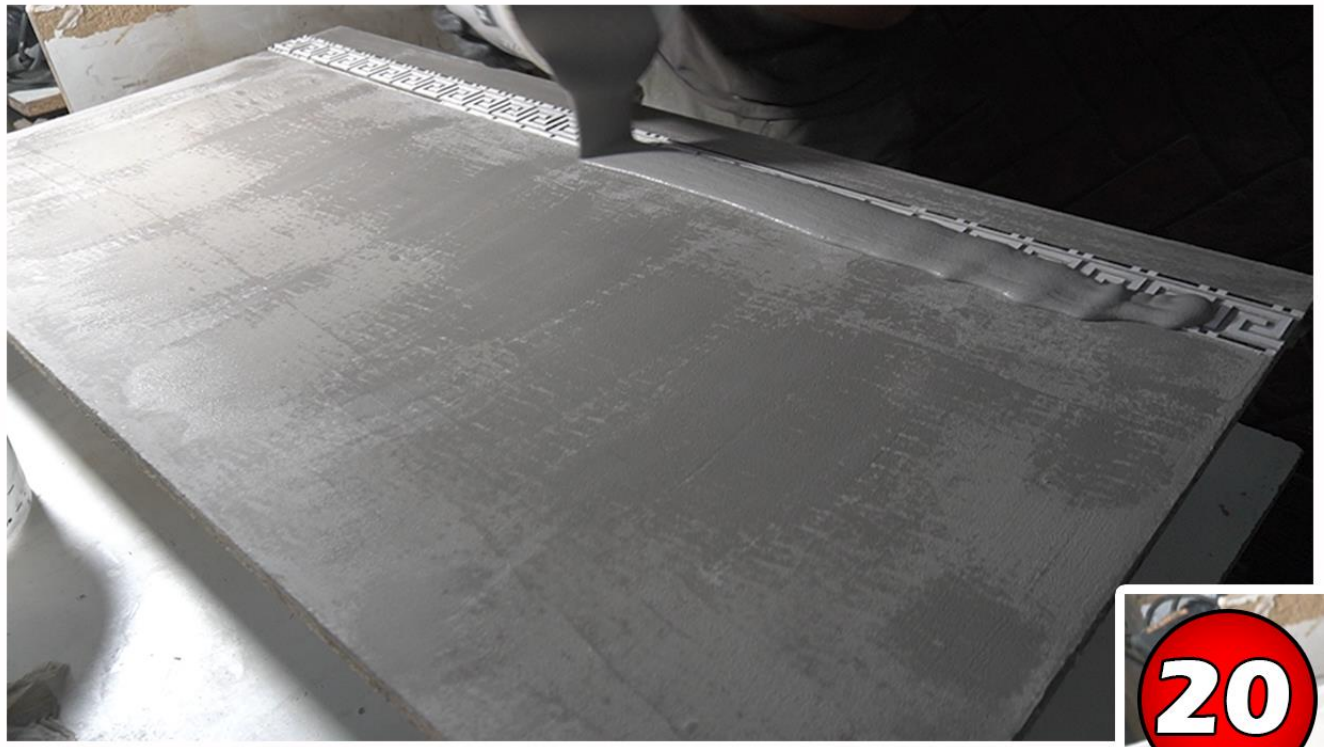


Adhere the stencils to your first coat



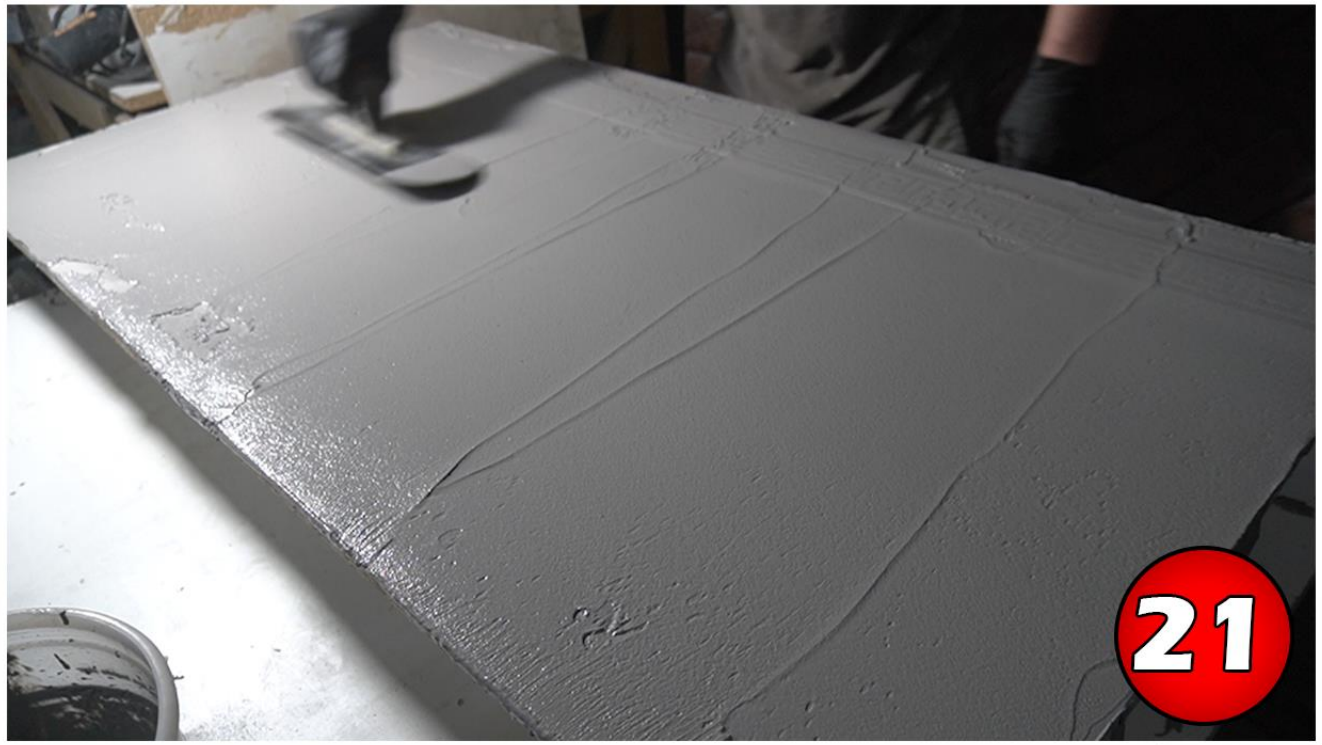
Dampen the surface before applying second coat

Then mix the second batch of MicroTek



I started by pouring directly onto the stencil

Then I vibrated the material into the stencil to avoid bugholes and imperfections

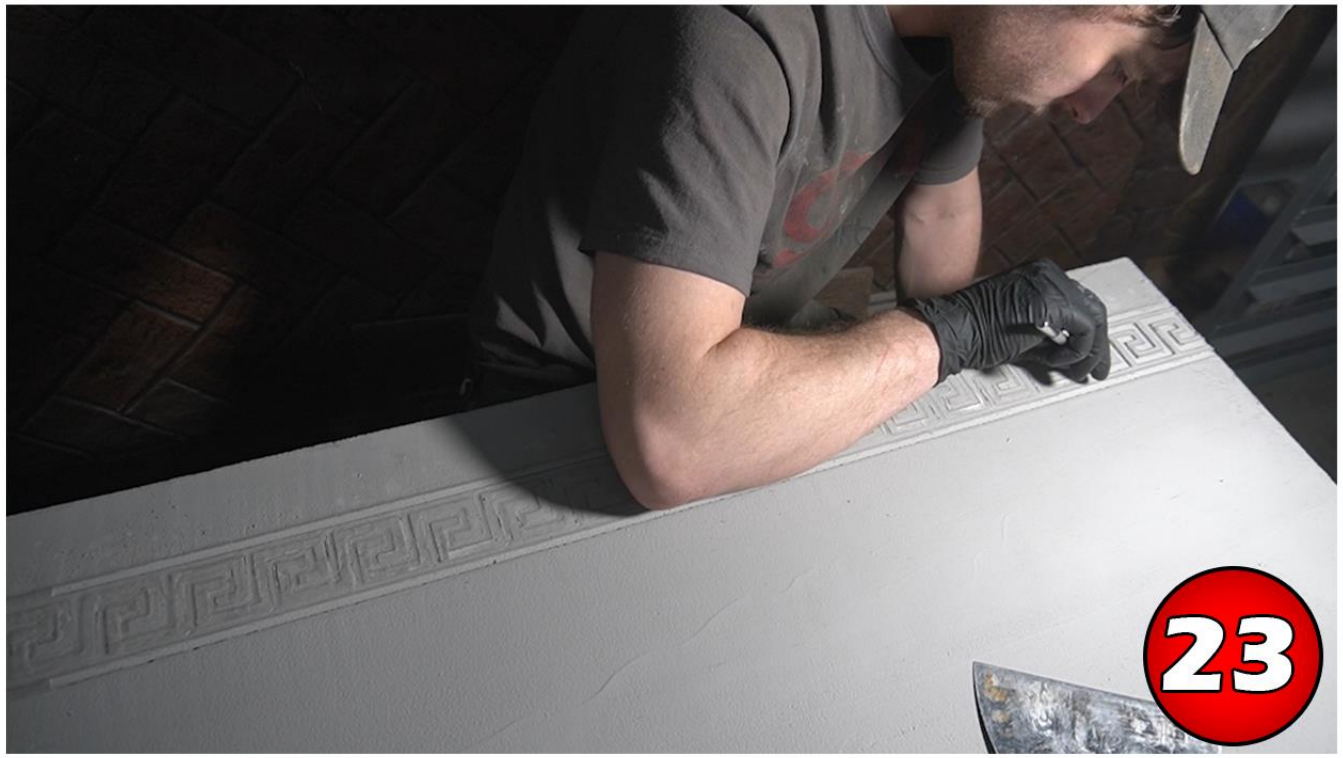


Again, spread the material to an even level

Avoiding <u>trowel</u> marks requires skill and experience. Grinding / polishing will be required if towel marks are visible

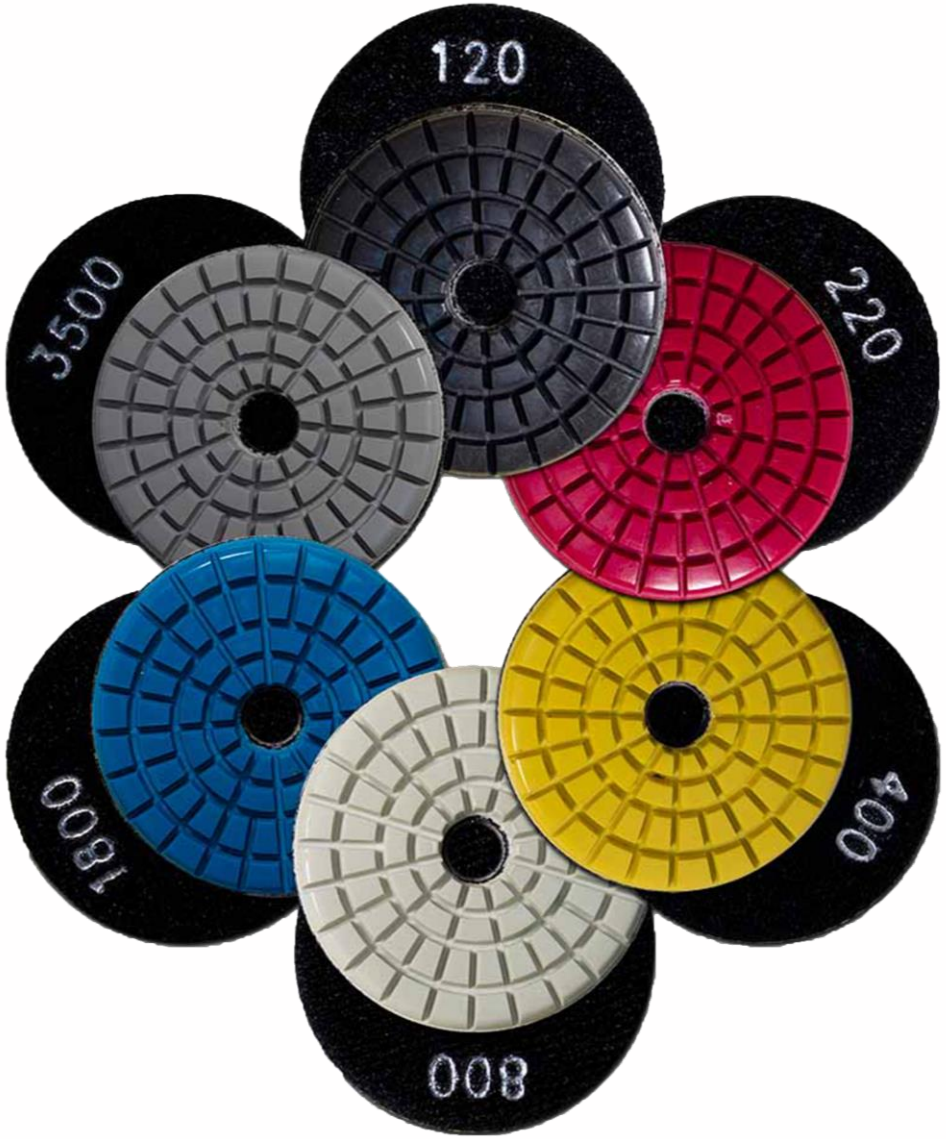
Repeat step 15

Initial set time is 6-8 hours. Like concrete, <u>MicroTeks</u> full cure is at 28 days.



The stencils are removed the next day

The stencils are flexible, so its easiest to clean them by bending them until all the concrete falls off



Grinding

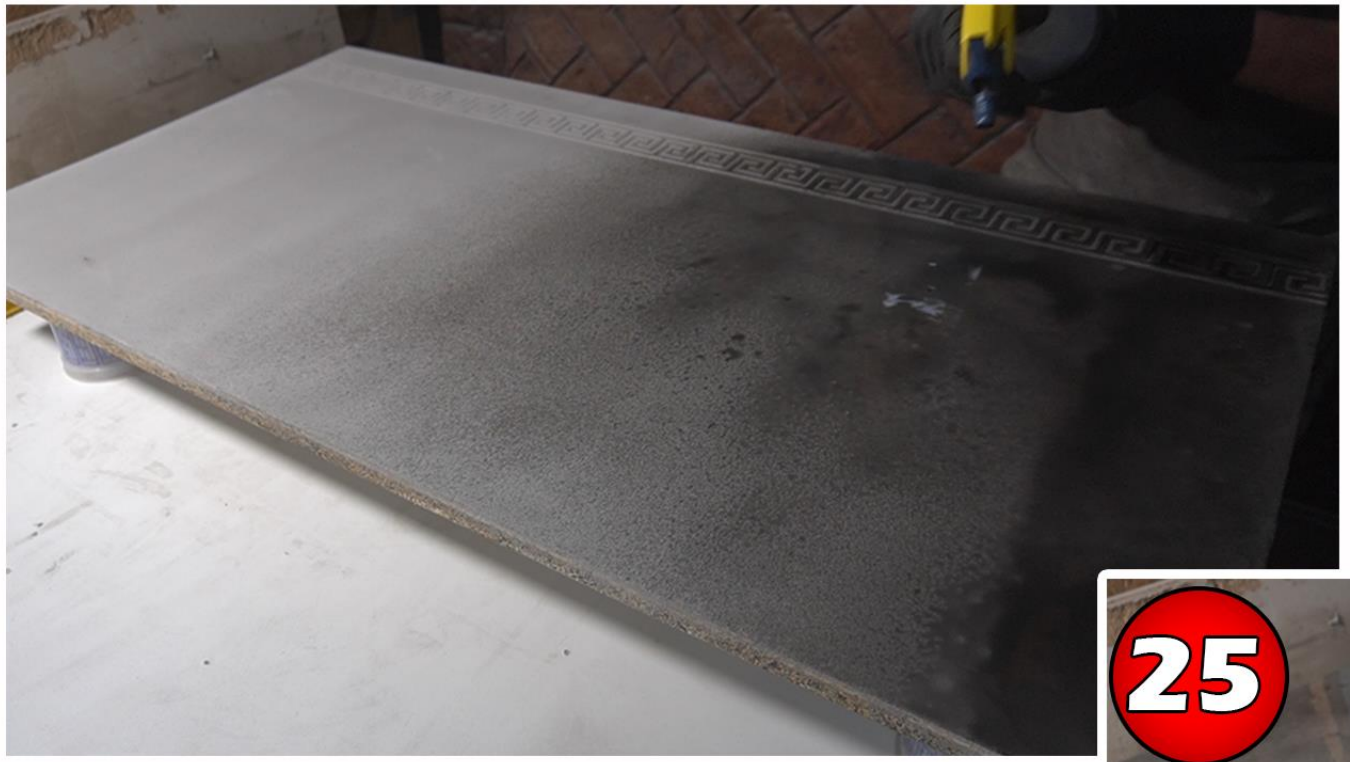
Using standard sanding pads on concrete will never work. Instead you must use resin pads which are embedded with tiny nanodiamonds. You start at the coarsest grit (lowest number) and work your way up to finer polish pads

I only grinded up to 200 grit as I will use a high gloss sealer later

Its important to use a respirator when polishing concrete as the concrete dust is not good for your lungs

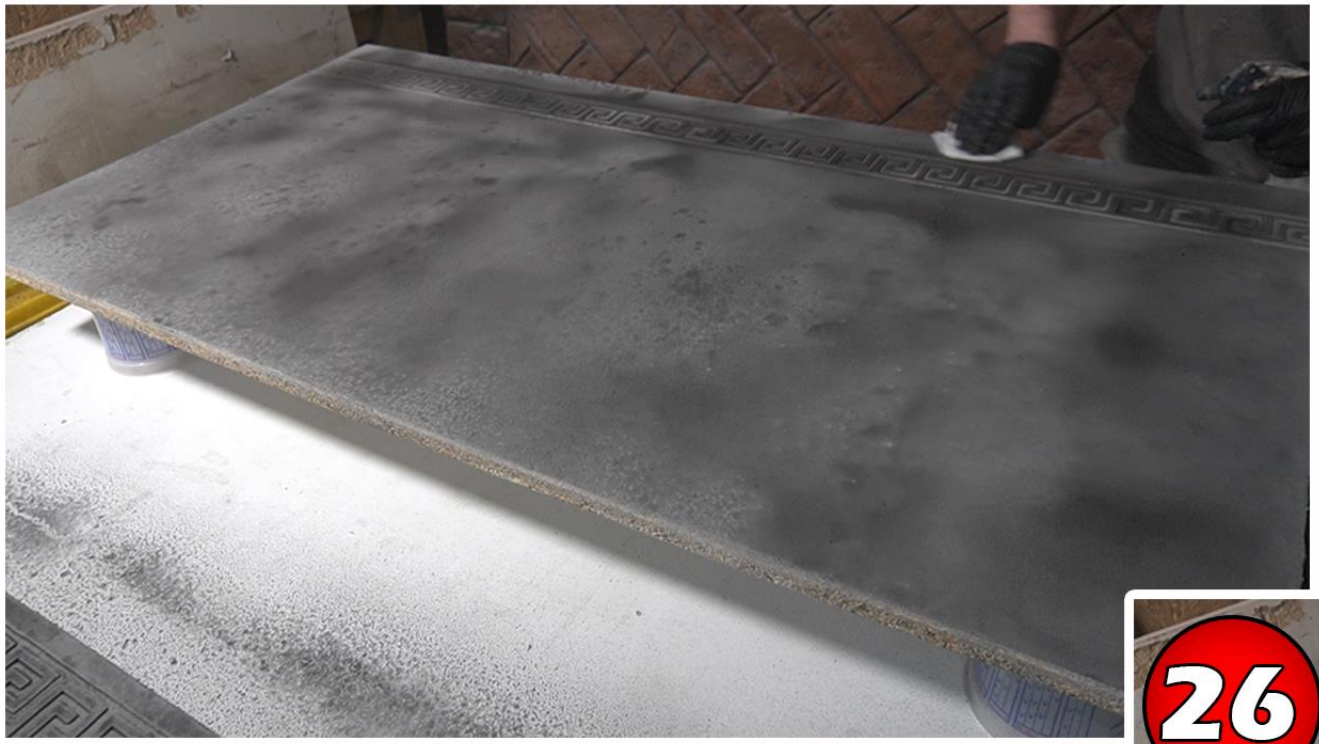
Staining

Staining is a secondary coloring option which can either accent the concrete or give it a "burnished" look to recreate a Venetian Plaster look. EcoStain comes in many different colors and must be diluted 4 parts water to 1 part stain to achieve the look on the color chart. However, you could use varying water ratios to change the intensity of the stain.



The EcoStain is sprayed onto the concrete

The color I used is "domino" diluted at a 7 parts water to 1 part stain



Once the water dries, you can start manipulating the <u>stain</u>

I used a towel soaked in denatured alcohol to blur the burnish look. This can be done with water at the risk of leaving streaks

Sealing

Using the XS PC12 food safe sealer will benefit the overlay in the following ways:

- **Keeps the stain locked in place**
- **Brings vibrance to the color of the concrete**
- **Seals the pores of the concrete so water will bead off and various stains will not be permanent**
- **Adds a high gloss mirror finish without the need for extensive polishing**
- **Adds scratch protection to your countertop**

The PC12 is mixed thoroughly at a 3 parts A to 1 part B ratio

Then it is poured out across the length of the surface in a line

The sealer is then rolled onto the surface with a foam roller

Backroll the sealer north to south, east to west to get an even coverage and to reduce roller marks

Two coats are recommended for a durable finish

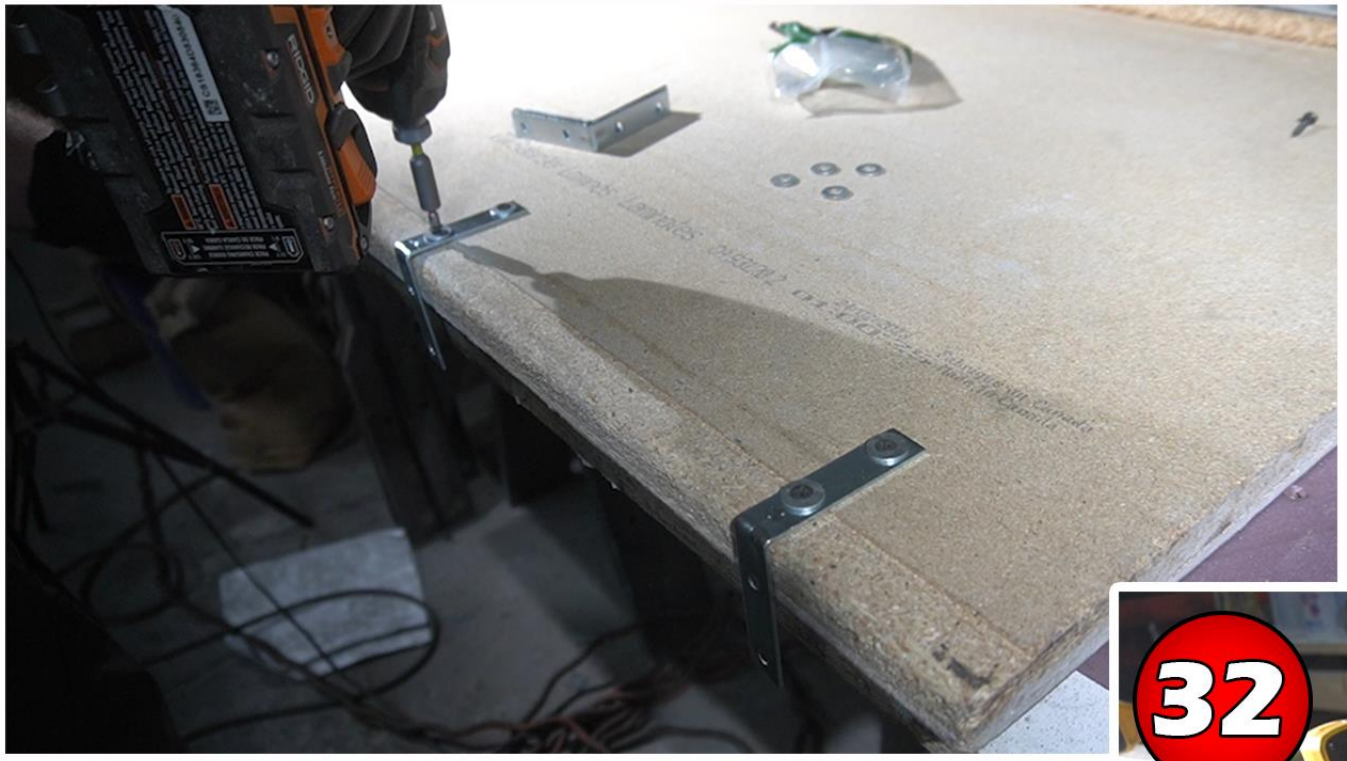
If the <u>sealer</u> has been cured for over 12 hours, it must be sanded at 220 grit before recoating

Then the dust is removed using denatured alcohol

Clean thoroughly as all remaining dust particles will be visible in the finished surface

Repeat step 27

Repeat step 28



A simple corner brace can be used to attach the backsplash

PRO TIP

If worried that your screws are too long, you could use washers on the brace!


33
Done!

Watch the full video here!!