



## **Richlite Design Features**

### **Thickness**

- The minimum thickness for counter use is three quarter inch. Half inch is not stable enough, especially when trying to install biscuits or spline joints at the seams.
- Material thickness less than three quarter inch is suitable for vertical use only, such as back splashes, wainscoting, or other vertical wall applications.
- Richlite is an extremely dense and stable slab material which does not require substrate material for Underlayment support.

### **Edges**

- Richlite can hold a very detailed and sharp edge. Any carbide router bit can be used to create an edge profile.
- A deep edge profile will expose more paper layers and show the “end-grain” affect.
- Built-up edges are not appropriate for Richlite material. When building up an edge with Richlite additional (and opposite) strain is applied to the material. This will most likely cause the material to separate. As a cost consideration, the labor increase to save on material cost will equal out in the end. Additionally, the thickness at the sink cut-out and the edge of the countertop will be the same. Fabricating built-up edges voids the manufacturer's warranty.

### **Seam Placement**

- The seams will show and should be incorporated into the design layout
- For both structural and aesthetic reasons, seams should be placed at natural positions such as corners or midpoints.
- Structurally, the seams may – and should – be placed exactly at a 90 degree perpendicular corner.
- Seams can also be placed diagonally from a corner
- Seams may be placed over a dishwasher if necessary.
- Richlite sheets come in several different sizes. The maximum countertop length without a seam is 12'. The largest achievable island top without a seam is 5'x12'. Work with your fabricator to come up with a cost effective layout.
- Make sure your client understands where the seams will be placed.

## **Grain Direction**

- Richlite has a mottled appearance which patterns in a striated effect lengthwise.
- The striations are more apparent in the lighter tones such as baguette, however, they can slightly appear in slate black.
- Consider the grain directions when planning cuts or laying out a design. A grain direction running crosswise, or front to back, may seem a little awkward.
- Make sure your client understands the grain direction in their layout.

## **L-Shapes (seamless)**

- Because Richlite has lengthwise striations, planning a seamless L-shape counter will result in the grain direction running lengthwise on the long leg of the “L” and the grain direction running crosswise (or front to back) on the short leg of the “L” shape.
- Slate black has very little striation affects, therefore the above scenario does not result when using slate black on a seamless L-shape counter.

## **Cut-Outs**

- Under mounted sinks can be done in all thicknesses three-quarter inch and above.
- Three-quarter inch Richlite will support a stainless steel sink without any additional support. Farm-style sinks in porcelain or other heavier materials such as cast iron will need additional support under the sink. It is advised to follow the sink manufacturer's installation instructions.
- Three-quarter inch Richlite will support lav sinks in porcelain or stainless steel.

## **Routed Drain Boards**

- Sloped drain boards can be routed into Richlite countertops with the following limitation. Do not route any deeper than the maximum three-quarter inch. Obviously, routed drain boards will not work when starting out with three-quarter inch Richlite material, as any routed material will end up being below the three-quarter inch maximum.
- Depending on the slope and length of the drain board design it may be necessary to use one and a quarter inch thickness or greater if planning a drain board.

## **Cantilevers and Spans**

- Richlite is extremely strong and can be cantilevered easily without additional support.
- Generally, three-quarter inch material will remain stable with a 12" overhang. One-inch material with an 18" overhang, and one-and-a-half inch material with a 24" overhang.
- See the Cantilever and Span section in the specifier manual or the technical section on the website ([www.richlite.com](http://www.richlite.com)) to get further cantilever and span calculations.

## **Fittings**

- Faucet fittings can be deck mounted
- Soap dispensers should be located in such a position that soap is not likely to drip onto the counter, rather it should drip into the sink basin.

## **Surface Finish**

- Although Richlite has a matte finish, the Richlite surface must be sanded and buffed to achieve a smooth surface texture. Richlite is unable to hold a glossy finish. Additionally, scratches appear more readily as the glossiness increases.
- Richlite recommends using Richlite sealer which can bring out the same look as a mineral oil but will last much longer. Richlite sealer will be available for sale on the Richlite website if clients need to refinish their countertops.
- Mineral oil adds a soft luster and deeper tone. A note of caution using mineral oil: Although mineral oil is absolutely beautiful when first applied a higher degree of maintenance is needed to continue the same look. Richlite is a non-porous material which the mineral oil can only sit on top of the surface. When any soap residue is applied to the surface it will wash away the oil in the immediate surroundings – and a more industrial look will appear. Additionally, water and oil do not mix so when a water glass is set on Richlite with mineral oil – a water ring mark will appear. This can easily be removed by wiping it down and possibly by reapplying the mineral oil. All that being said, after a period of time and several applications of mineral oil, the Richlite material will start to take on a lasting oiled look and less maintenance will be needed.
- No sealers or oils are needed to achieve an industrial look. Richlite will create its own luster in high use areas. Richlite will not be damaged if sealers or oils are not used – the countertop will become dull and possibly cloudy (especially in slate black) and can always be refinished if needed.