



STEP 3: Epoxy Topcoat

Ultra Epoxy Topcoat Countertop Paint Kit - Covers 16 Feet

ZERO VOC, Low Odor

• Covers 16 feet of standard 2-foot deep countertops = 35 sq. feet

PLAN FOR YOUR PROJECT:

Block out at least 4 hours for time sensitive elements during application. Before you begin your project, make sure your epoxy cans are at the same room temperature as the room you'll be working in by leaving the cans in your room for at least 3 days prior to application. The optimal temperature is between 72°F to 75°F; higher or lower temperatures will negatively impact the epoxy's cure time. **Consult the included SDS for complete health and safety information.**

Note: If you're applying epoxy over an existing Giani High-Gloss or Glitter Topcoat finish, then it must be fully cured (Applied for 14 days) prior to using the epoxy. Additionally, if you have any blemishes in your current finish, repair it before applying the epoxy. For instructions, scroll to the bottom of the "How Do I Care for My Countertops?" tab in the Giani FAQs section at gianigranite.com.

Additional items you may need:

- Tweezers to remove any fallen dust or lint during application.
- Clear acrylic caulk for sealing. DO NOT use silicone caulk - it will not adhere.
- One roll of Painter's Tape
- Paper towels for clean up.
- Nail polish remover (acetone) for clean up.
- #600 grit sand paper and sanding block.
- Safety goggles to avoid accidental eye contact.
- Sufficient lighting.

PREP WORK:

1. CLEAN



If you're applying the epoxy over an existing Giani Topcoat, then thoroughly clean the finish with mild dish soap and water. Do NOT use any other cleaners. **If you're applying the epoxy over a new Giani mineral or veining application, then there is no need to clean and you can move on to sanding.**

2. SAND



Use a #600 grit sandpaper to lightly smooth down any peaks created during the mineral or veining process. Don't use a coarser or higher grit because it will create visible scratch marks. **For an existing Giani Topcoat**, lightly sand the entire surface with a #600 grit sandpaper. You don't have to remove the topcoat, just knock down some of its gloss. You can use a sanding block or power sander for even pressure. Wipe up any loose material with a damp paper towel.

3. TAPE & COVER



Apply painter's tape in the following areas for easy clean up, prevention of bleed-through, and proper self-leveling:

- Underneath your countertop's front edge.
- Above backsplash and sink.
- Around appliances (see note 1).
- Around the edges of plastic tarps (see note 2).

4. MIX



READ NOTE BELOW BEFORE MIXING!

With your safety goggles and gloves on, open one Epoxy Activator can and pour its ENTIRE contents into one Ultra Epoxy Resin can. Then, using the kit's stir stick, stir the mixture for EXACTLY 3 minutes and 15 seconds. If it isn't mixed for that amount of time, it may cause performance issues.

Note 1: If it is not easy to pull out your appliances, then create a "Tape Dam" in between them and the countertop as a barrier for self-leveling. To create this dam, apply the tape between your appliance and countertop with about a half inch amount of the adhesive side sticking up and facing your countertops. Use your stir stick if you need it to help you adhere it in the crease.



Note 2: Use your kit's included plastic tarps to cover up your cabinets, dishwasher, and floors in order to prevent spills and allow for the topcoat to properly self-level over the edge of your countertop. Tape down the edges of the tarps to secure them in place.

Note: Once the epoxy has been mixed, the reaction cannot be stopped. The Epoxy Topcoat comes in 3 sets of Resin and Activator cans. The amounts are designed so that the contents of one of the Activator cans can fit into one of the Resin cans. Each set is provided to give plenty of time to apply the mixture to ONE 6-foot long section of a standard 2-foot deep countertop at a time (which is equivalent to 12 square feet of countertop). **DO NOT** attempt to mix all 3 sets of Resin and Activators at one time because there won't be enough time to apply all 3 sets to your countertop before the epoxy begins to set. Turn off any ceiling fans and close all windows in the area to prevent dust from blowing onto your finish. Be aware of the health and safety notice below.

HEALTH & SAFETY - The Giani Epoxy Activator contains corrosive material: Isophoronediamine. Wash hands after use. Do not get in eyes, on skin or on clothing. Do not breathe vapors or mists. Use good personal hygiene practices. Eating, drinking and smoking in work areas is prohibited. Remove contaminated clothing and protective equipment before entering eating areas. Eyewash stations and showers should be available in areas where this material is used and stored. Individuals with existing respiratory disease such as chronic bronchitis, emphysema, or asthma should not be exposed. Wear appropriate clothing to avoid skin contact to the epoxy during your application.

EPOXY APPLICATION

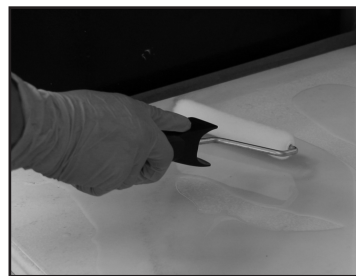


AFTER MIXING THE EPOXY, YOU HAVE ABOUT 30 MINUTES TO COMPLETELY COAT THE SECTION before it stops flowing adequately. It takes about 5 to 10 minutes to coat one 6-foot section.

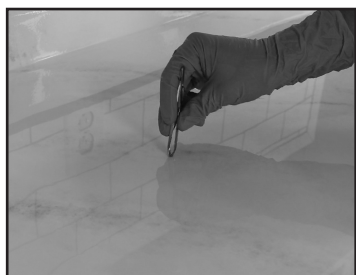
Slowly pour about two-third's of your mixed can's contents in 3 long and narrow parallel streams in the center of your 6-foot section. (You'll want to pour out the majority of the contents on your countertops immediately after mixing because the epoxy's hardening rate will accelerate when left in the can.) If your section is shorter than 6 feet, move onto the next section and create streams there so that the total length of the two areas adds up to about 6 feet. Use the kit's included 2" Angled Brush, and start applying a thin coat of epoxy mixture from the can onto your backsplash. Remember to stay in your 6 foot section! Lightly brush back across the length of the backsplash once or twice to minimize the possibility of runs and bare spots. Then, use the brush to coat the epoxy around the perimeter of the section as well as along the bottom of the backsplash. This will make filling in the center of the section easier. Brush out the epoxy a little from the backsplash crease because the epoxy can pool there.



TIP: De-lint Roller Cover with sticky side of tape. (See video for demonstration) Next, use your kit's Roller to slowly distribute the epoxy evenly throughout the section. Use light pressure and be sure not to overwork the distribution because it will self-level. The goal is to make sure you've coated the entire surface without any bare spots. You may pour more epoxy from your can as needed, but make sure you have enough left over to cover your countertop edges. If you have any excess epoxy, spread it toward your next section. Or, if you're at the end of a section, then brush the excess back into your can and pour the epoxy onto the next section. After the top of your section has been filled in, pour a small stream of epoxy close to the edge of your countertops, and use the roller to apply a coat of epoxy to the edge of your countertops. It's okay if the epoxy runs onto the tarps - you want a good layer of epoxy on your edges since they tend to experience the most amount of wear and friction, especially around the sink area. **Note:** A small amount of epoxy may continue to drip off the front edge of your countertop for a short while as it self-levels; typically about 30 to 65 minutes.



Finally, closely examine your section with a shop light or lamp to look for any dust/lint or small air bubbles, and use your tweezers to remove the debris or puncture the bubble. Once the debris and/or bubbles have been addressed, the area should fill back in and self-level in a minute; you'll have about an hour to remove any debris before the epoxy starts to harden. **Note:** Giani's Epoxy does not require a blow torch or heat gun to release any excess air because it has been formulated with air release agents. Repeat the above process until all the sections of your countertops have been topcoated.



If you have a section longer than 6 feet, move on to mixing and applying the next set of epoxy right after completing the section so that the 2 batches flow together properly where those sections meet. Be sure to use a new stir stick with each new epoxy set to prevent contamination, and clean your tweezers with a paper towel and nail polish remover (acetone). Also, be sure to set your roller on a surface that will not leave any debris behind while mixing the next set. The empty epoxy can from the first set will work just fine.



IMPORTANT: Remove the tape precisely between 1 to 2 hours after you've finished applying the epoxy. If you remove the tape earlier, then the epoxy may continue to self-level onto an appliance, and if you remove the tape later, then it may create jagged edges and become cemented into the epoxy.

Very slowly remove the tape in order to prevent any debris from falling into the still tacky epoxy. You may need a step stool to reach the tape above the backsplash so that you don't touch the countertop edge. Be sure to leave any ceiling fans turned off and windows closed to prevent any dust or lint from blowing onto the epoxy as it settles. Do NOT attempt to remove any debris from the epoxy after one hour because removal will create a divot in the final finish and the epoxy will not fill it back in. If this occurs, the debris can be buffed out in the future once the epoxy has fully cured.



We recommend waiting 24 hours before applying clear acrylic caulk around your backsplash or sink. Wipe up any epoxy which may have fallen into your project's walking area with a rag and nail polish remover (acetone) in order to prevent tracking the epoxy into other areas of your home. You can also take off your shoes to prevent tracking epoxy. Again, if you get some epoxy on your floor or cabinets, then wipe up with nail polish remover. If you get epoxy on your skin, you can safely remove it with vinegar on a paper towel, followed by soap and water.

WHEN CAN I USE MY COUNTERTOPS AGAIN?



Once applied, the epoxy will be tack free in 6 to 8 hours. You can use your dishwasher after 24 hours. After 2 days, you may use your counters, but it is recommended to wait the full cure time of 7 days (time it takes for your finish to reach its maximum hardness) before cleaning your counters with anything but mild soap and water. **Food Safety:** Once Giani Ultra Epoxy fully cures, it's completely inert.

EPOXY DISPOSAL:

Dispose of empty product containers properly. Do not use sawdust or other fine cellulose materials to absorb any waste Epoxy Activator. Do not dispose of the Epoxy Activator in the trash containing sawdust or other fine cellulose materials as spontaneous combustion may occur. Do not dispose in a liquid state - the two cans can be mixed and cured in small quantities to create a non-hazardous inert solid. Unused, unmixed Giani Ultra Epoxy Resin and Epoxy Activator have a shelf-life of 1.5 years when stored in the sealed containers.

CAUTION! Large pots of curing Giani epoxy can get hot enough to ignite surrounding combustible materials and give off hazardous fumes, and will harden and cure in a short time. Consequently, place any quarts of mixed, unused epoxy in a safe and ventilated area, uncovered without a lid, and away from people and combustible materials. Dispose of the solid mass only if the cure is complete and the epoxy mass has cooled, which typically takes about 8 hours. Follow federal, state, or local disposal regulations. The disposal guidelines above may not comply with the laws and regulations in your area. If you are uncertain, refer to local and national regulations.

CARE & MAINTENANCE:



Only use mild dish soap and water, the Giani Cleaner, or a gentle window cleaner such as Windex®. Never use harsh chemicals such as bleach, household cleaners, Magic Eraser®, Pine Sol®, disinfectant wipes, or any abrasives such as Comet® or Soft Scrub®. Do not use polishes or granite cleaners. Even diluted solutions of a cleaner and water will wear down the durability of the topcoat over time. Never use harsh natural cleaners such as vinegar, rubbing alcohol, hand sanitizers, air freshener oils, or essential oils. Never use scratch pads.

Cutting Boards & Hot Surfaces: Just like granite and Formica, it is not recommended to cut or chop directly on Giani. You'll want to use a cutting board for any food prep. Using a knife over Giani can scratch the surface. Although Giani is heat resistant up to 150° F, we recommend always using a hot pad or trivet for items directly from the stove or oven.



Stains: You can remove stubborn stains with rubbing alcohol. If that doesn't work try nail polish remover (acetone) and a paper towel.

UV Rays: If possible, minimize direct, all-day UV contact. All epoxies exhibit some UV effect over time; Giani's epoxy UV effect will be minimal, however, we recommend minimizing direct UV contact if possible. If you have a window which provides all day direct sunlight on your countertops, then close its blinds while you're away from home.

Please note: Even if you follow the application instructions to a T, your Giani may show signs of wear if you don't follow these proper care instructions. With the proper care, Giani will last as long as any conventional countertop.



When your project is finished, send us your "Before & After" pictures because they will inspire others! Tag us on social media or email us pictures! Let us know if you have any questions and enjoy your countertop makeover!



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION:



KEEP FROM FREEZING. IF FROZEN, LET THAW.

During the winter months, epoxy is at risk for freezing due to the cold temperatures it may be exposed to during warehouse storage and delivery. Frozen epoxy can sometimes be tricky to determine initially because your cans won't feel cold to the touch - however, the epoxy will exhibit a grainy/slushy texture. But not to worry, the epoxy will completely recover! We recommend allowing your epoxy to recover at room temperature for one week before applying. **DO NOT apply the epoxy if it appears clumpy or frozen. Apply at 72°F - 75°F.**



FIRST AID INSTRUCTIONS

Inhalation: Remove source of exposure or move person to fresh air and keep comfortable for breathing. If exposed/feel unwell/concerned: Call a POISON CENTER/doctor.

Skin Contact: Rinse/wash with lukewarm, gently flowing water and mild soap for 15-20 minutes or until product is removed. If skin irritation occurs or you feel unwell: Get medical advice/attention. IF exposed or concerned: Get medical advice/attention.

Eye Contact: Remove source of exposure or move person to fresh air. Rinse eyes cautiously with lukewarm, gently flowing water for several minutes, while holding the eyelids open. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing for a duration of 15-20 minutes. Take care not to rinse contaminated water into the unaffected eye or onto the face. If eye irritation persists: Get medical advice/attention.

Ingestion: Rinse mouth. Do NOT induce vomiting. Immediately call a POISON CENTER/doctor. If vomiting occurs naturally, lie on your side, in the recovery position. Give 3 or 4 glasses of water to drink. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person.



EXPOSURE CONTROLS/ PERSONAL PROTECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Eye Protection: Wear eye protection with side shields or goggles. Wear indirect-vent, impact and splash resistant goggles when working with liquids. If additional protection is needed for entire face, use in combination with a face shield.

Skin Protection: Use of gloves approved to relevant standards made from the following materials may provide suitable chemical protection: PVC, neoprene or nitrile rubber gloves. Suitability and durability of a glove is dependent on usage, e.g. frequency and duration of contact, chemical resistance of glove material, glove thickness, dexterity. Always seek advice from glove suppliers. Contaminated gloves should be replaced. Use of an apron and over-boots of chemically impervious materials such as neoprene or nitrile rubber is recommended to avoid skin sensitization. The type of protective equipment must be selected according to the concentration and amount of the dangerous substance at the specific workplace. Launder soiled clothes or properly disposed of contaminated material, which cannot be decontaminated.

Respiratory Protection: If engineering controls do not maintain airborne concentrations to a level which is adequate to protect worker, a respiratory protection program that meets or is equivalent to OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134 and ANSI Z88.2 should be followed. Check with respiratory protective equipment suppliers. In poorly ventilated areas, a cartridge mask NIOSH approved for organic vapors is recommended under the following conditions: emergency situations, when product vapor concentration is greater than 20 ppm for a period longer than 15 min., during repair and cleaning of equipment, during transfer or discharge of the product.

Appropriate Engineering Controls: Provide exhaust ventilation or other engineering controls to keep the airborne concentrations of vapors below their respective threshold limit value.

LIMITED MATERIAL WARRANTY:

Giani, Inc. warrants, for a period of 12 months from the date of application, if applied during the paint's proper shelf life (paint has a shelf life of 2 years - this epoxy has a shelf life of 1.5 years), that its products are free of defects in material and workmanship, when applied and maintained in accordance with surface preparation and application recommended by Giani. This limited warranty covers a one-time fulfillment of replacement material(s) or a product refund excluding shipping costs. After 12 months, customers are expected to maintain their countertops, garages, cabinets, appliances, and furniture/projects, and take the proper care as listed under the FAQ/Instructions and cover any damages that ensue if care is not maintained.

This Warranty Does Not Cover:

- Dissatisfaction with the color, finish/shine, or application process. Problems or damage due to application or maintenance other than as recommended by Giani in its printed labels and instructions.
- Labor costs (as these are D.I.Y. kits and designed for use by anyone and does not require the use of a contractor or professional painter).
- Damage due to accidents or damage caused by chemicals not approved for exposure by Giani, Inc.
- Usage of third-party paints over any Giani product, such as other topcoats/epoxies, other than as recommended by Giani in its printed labels and instructions.
- Minor chips or wear from excessive impact or friction.
- Returns, exchanges, or refunds from a retail store or an online marketplace other than gianigranite.com.

This warranty requires that the customer provide pictures and answer a series of questions to determine if there are defects with any of Giani's paints and let us assess how to provide a positive solution on how to fix any issues so that it does not keep happening. **Please contact us at info@gianigranite.com if you are concerned about your Giani product.**