

Best Epoxy For River Table

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Right Epoxy For Your Bar Top

Epoxy is considered by many the ideal protectant coating for your bar top. With the right epoxy, you can create a non-slip, clear, easy clean surface that not only protects the underlying wood but also produces a refined and beautiful finish.

Epoxy is a synthetic resin that can be manufactured with different qualities to suit different industrial or crafting needs. Choosing the wrong epoxy can result in an uneven finish, bubbling, chalking, and even cracking. In this article, we hope to provide you with all the information you need to choose the best bar top epoxy for your bar.

Types of Epoxy

Most epoxy resins have protective qualities such as water resistance and scratch resistance. However, there are specific features of epoxy resins which make them particularly practical for bar tops.

Thickness of epoxy

A thin watery epoxy is ideal for bar tops. Thinner epoxies will auto-level after pouring, reducing the risk of an uneven coating. Due to the potential for during application of the epoxy, it is essential that your bar top has a rim around the edge and that you thoroughly check for any holes or cracks in the surface.

Reactive heat

After mixing the two epoxy parts (usually called part A and part B), the chemical reaction will produce a lot of heat. The greater the thickness of the epoxy layer you apply (not to be confused with the thickness of the epoxy itself) the greater the amount of heat produced, for example – a 1/2 inch thick layer will get hotter than a 1/4 inch thick layer.

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Heat can cause the final surface to be cracked or uneven, so if you require a thick coating of epoxy, it is recommended that you either use a heat resistant epoxy, or apply the epoxy in successive layers, waiting for a few hours between each application (depending upon the drying/hardening time of the epoxy).

Slow yellowing and UV resistant

Epoxies tend to cloud, yellow, and even chalk in reaction to UV light. Therefore, if you wish to maintain a clear finish on your bar top, you should consider a slow yellowing epoxy. Slow yellowing is often achieved via UV resistant additives in the epoxy formula.

It is especially important to keep the epoxy out of UV light while it is curing. Not only will the UV light result in a clouded yellow finish, but the temperature from the light may cause air pockets to form in the wood, causing bubbling in the epoxy.

Additionally, a varnish, clear acrylic, or other UV resistant coating may be applied to the epoxy after curing to give extra protection for bars with a lot of natural light.

Glossiness

This factor comes down to aesthetic preference, but before purchasing you should consider how glossy you would like your epoxy coating to be. Few bar top epoxies offer matte or satin finishes; therefore your choice is only in the degree of glossiness!

Heat and chemical resistance

Many epoxies do not react well to heat. When a hot object, such as a cup of coffee, comes into contact with the epoxy it may cause morphing, denting, or clouding of the surface. Some epoxies are heat resistant and would be an ideal choice for bars that serve hot drinks.

Chemical resistant epoxies are useful if you need to use particularly corrosive or alcoholic cleaning agents to remove tough stains from your bar top.¹

What Resin Do You Use For River Tables?

Pouring epoxy resin river tables require certain types of epoxy and certain techniques. Most coating epoxies require thin pours of no more than 1/8 to 1/4" per application. Because many DIY epoxy river tables are much thicker than 1/8 inch, multiple layers must be used or a thinner, slower curing epoxy must be used.²

¹ <https://www.consumermentor.com/best-bar-top-epoxy/>

² <https://epoxycountertopdiy.com/deep-pour-resin-for-diy-epoxy-river-tables/>

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Is Epoxy Resin Self Leveling?

After you mix the hardener and the resin, pour it out onto your clean, dry surface. If you leave it alone, ArtResin will naturally self-level to 1/8" on a level surface but you can spread it exactly where you want it to go using a flat object, like our reusable spreaders. They're the perfect thing to spread the ArtResin evenly and efficiently.

You can also use a disposable foam brush if you only want to apply the resin to specific areas of your piece. This technique is known as Selective Embellishment.³

Why Is Epoxy So Expensive?

Epoxy is generally more expensive than resin, due to its strength and formulation requirements. Resin is more popular for craft and jewelry making, due to its lower cost. Remember, however, that you get what you pay for.⁴

What Does Epoxy Resin Not Stick To?

Epoxy will not stick to mold-release compounds recommended for use with epoxy, and polyethylene sheeting, like disposable paint tarps and sandwich bags. Epoxy does not stick to the shiny side of packaging tape or paraffin wax.⁵

How Thick Can You Pour Epoxy Resin?

ArtResin was designed as a surface coating as opposed to a casting resin. It was designed for thin applications and naturally self-levels to about 1/8". As long as you pour in 1/8" layers, you can go as thick as you like.

The reason we recommend this thickness is two-fold: first, it allows the bubbles to escape properly, and second, it avoids any excessive overheating of the resin.

So for best results always pour in a 1/8" layer, and you're good to go!

TIP: Keep in mind that ArtResin's 72 hr cure time is based on a 1/8" layer, so if you do pour thicker it may take longer to cure.

³ <https://www.artresin.com/blogs/artresin/is-artresin-epoxy-resin-self-leveling>

⁴ <https://www.pcepoxy.com/what-is-the-difference-between-epoxy-and-polyester-resin/>

⁵ <https://www.systemthree.com/pages/faqs>

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How To Apply Multiple Layers Of Epoxy Resin:

You have two choices when pouring multiple layers:

1) The first is to pour your initial layer, torch out the bubbles, cover and wait 3-5 hours until your ArtResin reaches a jelly like stage. At this point, you can pour on the next 1/8" layer, torch out bubbles, cover, wait 3-5 hrs and repeat until you reach the height you desire. This method is especially handy when pouring into a mold or a dam.

2) The second option is to allow the first layer to fully dry, then give the overall piece a light sanding, and then pour on the next 1/8" layer. Torch out bubbles, cover and let this layer dry. Repeat these steps as many times as you'd like.⁶

What Is The Best Epoxy Resin For Wood?

When it comes to creating a beautiful wooden table top, the epoxy resin is off the charts, period. While there are stains and the like are fairly popular solutions, they are not the most long-term options available, often requiring regular touch-ups.

I personally think that Pro Marine Supplies Epoxy is the top option, but a DIYer might want to keep reading for a more convenient option.

Furthermore, could you create something gorgeous like river table using only wood finishes? I think not. This is where having some good epoxy resin would really come in handy. That is why I have taken the time to thoroughly list 12 best epoxy resins for wood that I have used, highlighting what each one does the best. I also provide a quick comparison table as well as a more thorough buyer's guide to help you decide.

Pro Marine Supplies
East Coast
SRC Crystal Clear
MAS Clear Table Top
TotalBoat Table Top
ArtResin
RTG Bar & Table
Countertop Epoxy
Dr. Crafty
Premium Epoxy
Superclear Epoxy Resin
Primaloc Premium⁷

⁶ <https://www.artresin.com/blogs/artresin/how-thick-can-i-pour-artresin-epoxy-resin-7>

⁷ <https://woodimprove.com/best-epoxy-resins-for-wood/>

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Supporting Docs:

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