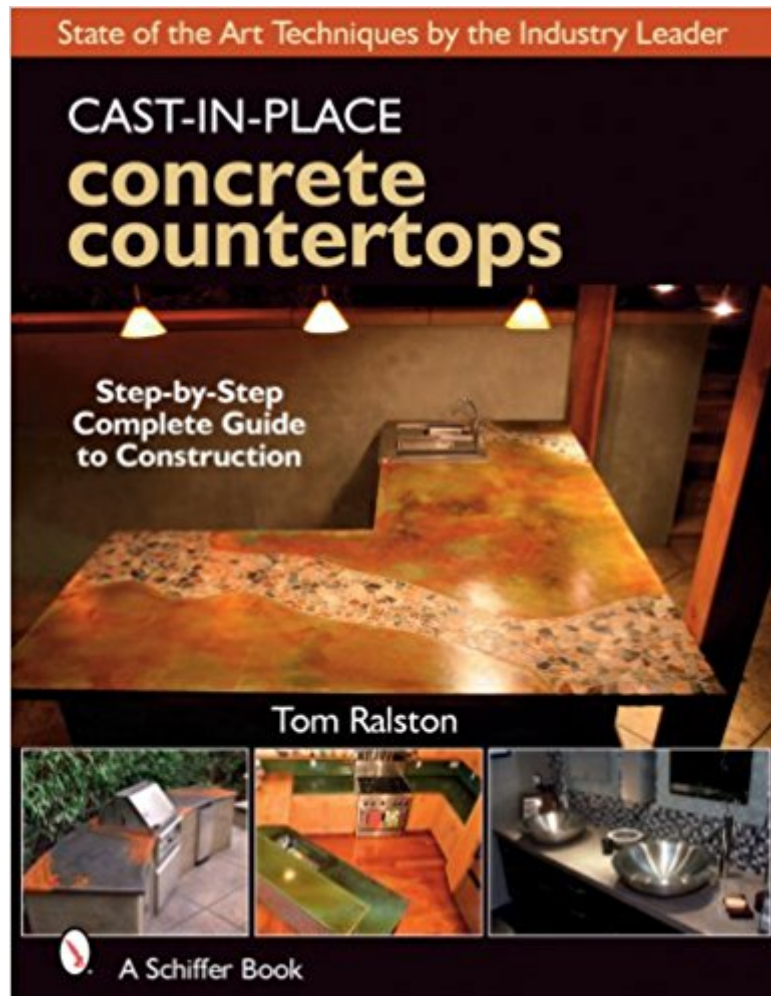




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# Cast-In-Place Concrete Countertops: A Guide For Craftsmen



## Synopsis

Concrete countertops are on the cutting edge of today's interior design and outdoor kitchen trends. Kitchen designers, contractors, architects, and homeowners alike can use this book to learn the detailed process of creating amazing concrete countertops. Here Ralston shows how to plan, execute, and complete a concrete countertop cast-in-place for ease and convenience. This book is a great inspiration for anyone interested in concrete countertop fabrication. Beautiful images of kitchens both indoors and out will inspire you, and step-by-step imagery will walk you through the process of creation.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 144 pages

Publisher: Schiffer Publishing (December 31, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0764329499

ISBN-13: 978-0764329494

Product Dimensions: 8.7 x 0.8 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #290,256 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Materials & Material Science > Concrete](#) #46 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Masonry](#) #55 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Decoration & Ornament](#)

## Customer Reviews

Tom Ralston is a regular speaker at the World of Concrete conference and packs conference rooms and contractors yards across the country when he signs on to speak about his experience in the world of high-end concrete work. He is one of the nation's leading innovators in concrete countertop installation, and in this book he shares his years of experience both in fabricating the countertops and selling high-end jobs.

While I'm sure Tom, his dad, legion of friends and well wishers are all grateful to be found in this book, it does very little for me except cause it to weigh more. I force read through this in less than an hour, twice within the same hour. If I want to see photos of countertops, I will find them on the internet. What I was hoping for was some detailed explanations of what to do when X happens or

when Y didn't happen like it should. The kind of detail one might expect for 28.00. I want that lost hour of my life back. By the way, there are thousands of amazing YouTube videos of cast in place tops that offer far more insight than this book could ever do even absent its genealogy and social patting on the back.

This book is the best. As a general contractor, I now have a good understanding and what to expect in a concrete countertop. Ralston himself is a concrete contractor, and that is what I like most about this book: it is written by a guy that actually does this type of work.

Even in the introduction the author admits a pre-cast in melamine will create better results than a cast in place. Don't bother with this if you want professional results. No DIYer will be able to trowel nearly as smoothly as a precast. Cheng or Buddy Rhodes books address this style.

## On TIME! GREAT PRODUCT

I was really disappointed with this book, for one almost half of it is pictures of countertops, if I wanted that I could just look it up online. I paid to get tips on how to make countertops, and that is one thing this book is lacking. Some of the information isn't even correct, such as the part where it says that Eclipse additive is used to waterproof the concrete, but in reality Eclipse is a shrinkage reducer. Also there are tons of spelling and grammatical errors, which wouldn't be a big deal if there was actual useful information, but it just shows how they apparently didn't put too much time into this book and only wanted to get it published quickly. There isn't one mix recipe in the book, which is something that would be good to know if you are making this kind of countertop. If you want a picture book, then this is a book for you, but if you need to know how to make countertops I would keep looking.

What I mean by work-book is that you have to work-through-this-book, with patience. Having read the other books on the market by Cheng and Rhodes, and various others (of which I easily devoured) I found myself having to put this book down time and again because I simply felt a bit bored with it. Sure, it has useful information, but the instructional pictures could use a bit of work and the text of the book could have been slimmed down a bit. I am not impressed with the designs in this book either. Aesthetically, form and function do not dance here. If your angle is the cast-in-place method, not necessarily a waste of time and money.

I found this book fairly informative, but it lacked adequate details to be a useful manual for anyone making these to a commercial quality. Most of the information given is familiar to anyone used to working with concrete, but I have made a few concrete tops before reading the book and was looking for something to refine my skills and perfect the finish. Advice on the best ways to screed and trowel to avoid colour variations and undulations that only appear after drying for instance. It would also have been useful if metric conversions to all the weights and measurements were included in brackets.

Excellent overview with good illustration. I was disappointed in lack of completeness of detail on how the framing is done and particularly if the bottom of the frame is left in place after the cement is poured or if and how it is removed. I did not find this detail readily available. I am sure others would have other questions but this was the one most important for me. I still do not get it.

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