

Benefits of Powder Coating Outdoor Kitchens

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Although powder coated steel has been around since the 1960s, it was mostly used by the automotive industry and industrial manufacturing. Hailed for its durability, affordability, and environmentally friendly finish, it has since found its way into interior and exterior design markets. The shiny colored metal surfaces once reserved for refrigerator doors and bike frames are showing up as sleek finishes for countertops, suspended wall shelving units, and modern furniture – including outdoor kitchens.

Powder coating differs from liquid paint in that it allows for much thicker coats without the risk of running or sagging. With liquid paint, horizontal and vertical painted surfaces often have differences in appearances, while powder coating provides our outdoor cabinetry with a sleek, smooth, and consistent appearance. It is electrostatically applied (sprayed) as a free-flowing dry powder onto the stainless steel surface and then cured in ovens to form a durable, smooth finish.

Equally important are the environmentally friendly advantages of powder coating:

- **TGIC-free**
- **does not contain harmful volatile organic compounds (VOCs)**
- **reduces finishing line emissions**
- **produces far less harmful waste by-product than liquid paint**
- **complies with environmental regulations**
- **does not generate airborne pollutants**
- **does not pose a significant health risk**
- **easy to dispose of since it does not contain hazardous materials**

Some traditional powder coat formulas include a chemical compound called TGIC (triglycidyl isocyanurate), which acts as a curing agent as it blends with the polymers and pigments. In 1998, TGIC was classified as a mutagen, or an agent capable of causing genetic mutation, in Europe. As a result, Europe restricted sales of TGIC-based products. As a commitment to being environmentally conscious, Trex® Outdoor Kitchens™ is excited to offer TGIC-free powder coat formulas for our outdoor kitchens. TGIC-free powder coat is friendlier to the environment and boasts an enhanced electrostatic charge – meaning increased adherence of the product with less coats required.

In general, powder coatings are available in an almost limitless range of colors and textures. The powder itself is a mixture of pigment and resin. To reduce powder coating colors fading from the sun, Trex Outdoor Kitchens uses a type of outdoor-rated powder coating based on Super Durable Polyesters (SDPs), which has superior durability when compared with standard polyester. SDPs also provide better humidity and corrosion resistance, making this type of powder perfect for the outdoors.

To ensure complete coverage, we start with our cabinet doors completely disassembled and hang the sections from a steel rack. Once sprayed, the rack is wheeled into the oven for curing. The parts cannot be “over baked,” but under-curing will produce an inferior finish. Our Quality Control team inspects each section to ensure complete coverage and proper curing have been attained before moving them to our packaging phase.

Trex Outdoor Kitchens uses powder coat finishes to lock in color and protect cabinet doors and drawers from chips, spills, stains, and unsightly fingerprints. In geographic areas where high winds, tidal surges, extreme heat, and humid, salt-laden air can impact the integrity of most materials used in cabinetry, the powder

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coating process provides a strong defense against corrosion and further protects Trex Outdoor Kitchens. Trex Outdoor Kitchens warrants the powder coating for seven years.

In addition to selecting a stainless steel outdoor kitchen, adding a powder-coated touch of color allows for additional creativity while ensuring a lasting look that reduces corrosion and rusting. Aside from its beauty and resilience, this method of painting remains an eco-friendly option adding to a home's investment as well as peace of mind.

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