

## Understanding | *Richlite*

*Richlite* is an incredibly durable material made from paper, ideal for a variety of uses. Developed over 70 years ago for industrial tooling, the innovative surface material's mottled appearance, honed look, leathery feel and warmth complement a range of interior and exterior applications.

Nonporous, heat and water resistant, the paper composite material can withstand everything from food preparation environments to the harsh outdoors. No dyes are added to the material, and all of the paper is either post-consumer waste recycled or sustainably harvested FSC® Certified paper.

## Choosing *Richlite* for your Jack Trench Kitchen

We commonly clad our kitchen doors with *Richlite*. With the options of our *JT Classic* or *JT Original* designs, the paper based material would be clad onto a substrate with a finger pull detail routed through. Once buffed to a leather finish, two coats of *Osmo* oil will be applied. There are a few points to consider when choosing *Richlite* for your kitchen fronts:

### *Colour consistency*

As *Richlite* is a natural product, the mottled consistency can vary from sheet to sheet. It's not uncommon for some areas of a sheet to appear lighter than others. Just like natural wood & veneer, the sheets have a grain direction which needs to be considered over vast areas. We will always do our utmost to ensure that the overall colour is as consistent as possible.

### *Ageing over time*

*Richlite* reacts to its surroundings, whether that is through direct sunlight, or the way the material is treated when cleaned. The beauty of the material is that the mottled effect will patinate more as the kitchen ages. This should certainly be considered when choosing *Richlite*, if compared to our *Corian* kitchens that will remain crisp and clean, the paper based material will change and transform over time, enhanced by the signs of wear and patina as it ages and is used. *Please ask us for more information on this if you would like to see examples of each colour changing.*

### *The look and feel of Richlite*

Like all materials, *Richlite* does scratch. The surface will show wear in areas of greater use - similar to how metal, leather or linoleum behaves. Because of its composition of resin and decorative kraft paper, the colour goes through the full thickness and any marks will look burnished and warm over time. The material is non-porous and fairly stain resistant, however when left on the surface for an extended period things with a high alkalinity, like soap, bleach or beetroot can cause stains particularly in the lighter colours. One chemical that is particularly corrosive to *Richlite* is dishwasher tablets, so be sure to dry all kitchenware & utensils as much as possible before they come in contact with the material.

Over time all of the *Richlite* colours get deeper, darker and warmer, this is most noticeable in colours like Maple Valley which starts off as a light honey colour and will deepen into a rich amber colour, and Grays Harbor which starts as a mid-grey, shifting to a darker green/brown gunmetal grey.

### *Using Richlite for worktops*

Unlike our *Corian* worktops, *Richlite* is not a seamless material, but joins are like a fine hairline. The sheets have a direction, so seam placement and orientation are important, but the oversized sheets (up to 3660 x 1525mm) mean that long spans can come out of a single run of material without needing to make any joins.

When considering *Richlite* for a worktop material you should expect these zones to take much more traffic than the material on kitchen fronts, so extra consideration should be taken with all of the points noted above.

As with all of our materials present on our *JT Designs*, a full aftercare package will be handed over to you when your kitchen is complete. In this package we will advise the best way to treat your kitchen to ensure it's kept to its full potential for as long as possible.

