



RESIN-ATING

by Andy Blackwell, A1 Perfect Plumbing Ltd

As another summer sails into view, my mind, whether I like it or not, turns to DIY. It got a head start this year as, pretty much the moment the clocks jumped forward, my wife decided that our current kitchen worktops weren't up to scratch and that we needed a change.

She had a point! When we bought our new kitchen, we opted for rounded, curved units. It gives a great look, but it also means that you can't put standard laminate on top of them. So, the options were to either fit granite, or quartz, or make it myself. A look at the prices involved quickly narrowed the options down to "make it myself".

At the time I'd just finished writing the Haynes Kitchen Upgrade Manual, and as part of that project I'd looked at concrete worktops; they looked lovely, were hard, heat resistant, and most importantly of all, were cheap to make! Happy Days! Alas, there were issues, the biggest of which was that they weighed a ton, so they had to be made in sections, and it was very difficult to get each section to fit together without an obvious join.

In fairness, granite suffers the same failings as concrete, but with a higher price tag, so we've lived with polished concrete these last six years, during which time we've slowly fallen out of love with it.

The move to resin worktops has been slightly hampered by the fact I've never done it before. So, I've spent the last



month trawling through videos on the subject and practising. It's great that we all have access to these videos but, when it comes to working with resin, almost every one hails from the US., the land of lb and

oz, where people old enough to know better insist on using words like "Stoked", "Yo" and "Yee-Harr"; it's like an educational video, directed by Jay-Z and set within an episode of Dukes of Hazard.