

# TERRAFIN



by *Swiftsure*

Fine Cabinetry Since 1974

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Green never looked so good

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In response to the growing awareness of the need for environmental responsibility, Swiftsure has been developing the means to apply the principles of sustainability to its products and production methods. Following years of research on the subject, we are proud to unveil the fruits of these labours; TERRAFIN, our new line of “green” cabinetry.

## *What makes a kitchen “green” ?*

There are numerous factors that contribute to the reduction of the “carbon foot-print” of a new kitchen. First, we consider the proximity of both raw material supply and sub-manufacturing in order to minimize transportation and the attendant carbon emissions. Then we address the concern for sustainability of natural resources by ensuring that we use resources and materials that are renewable. We examine our production techniques and finishes and look for ways to eliminate off-gassing. We select finishes that are odourless and pose no hazard to the health of our customers and that of our production staff. We also try to locate production facilities that are close to our customers and encourage our employees to walk or cycle to work.

## *Raw materials*

The casework of a cabinet comprises the largest proportion of the natural materials used in its assembly. With TERRAFIN we chose a manufacturer within 300 miles of Victoria. This product is laminated using soy-based adhesives and thereby has no formaldehyde added in the manufacturing process.

The countertop featured on the island in our prototype kitchen was manufactured less than a mile from our Design Studio in Victoria. Using charcoal-coloured cement in a polished concrete monolith, 85% of the aggregate consists of glass obtained from the local re-cycling centre. The finished surface is smooth and the glass adds a translucent luster to the counter that is both functional and attractive. With the stainless steel gas cook top installed the combination is quite striking!



## *Sustainable products*

For our TERRAFIN facades, we use bamboo and other plantation woods. They are both environmentally sustainable and esthetically compatible. We selected suppliers who own their own plantations to ensure their invested interest in sustainability. Bamboo, one of the fastest-growing species, produces veneers that are available in a variety of colours and patterns, providing our designers with an expansive palette. In the case of the dark-wood veneers, only two of these trees are harvested per acre of plantation in order to sustain the production stocks. This constitutes responsible forest practice, a criteria which we demand in our TERRAFIN line. The juxtaposition of veneers and grain orientation produce handsome and elegant cabinetry.



## *Water-based finishes*

*Green Guard* certification is the new standard by which most industrial finishes are now judged. For our TERRAFIN line we have chosen to use water-based finishes exclusively. Gone are the days of extended off-gassing from noxious, solvent-based lacquers and the costly process of disposal. Water-borne technology has developed to the point where we can achieve comparable finishes in terms of durability and luster. Our products now can be installed within 7 days of finishing without a trace of off-gassing. All our TERRAFIN finishes, stains and lacquers are *Green Guard* approved and certificates will accompany every kitchen installation.

The quartz counter top shown above has a non-porous surface and is *Green Guard* certified for safe food preparation and air quality levels. This product is available in a wide variety of colours and patterns. All the custom stainless steel incorporated in this prototype kitchen is fabricated within 1/2 mile from our production facility.

# ...the prototype



Swiftsure's prototype TERRAFIN kitchen can be seen at our Design Studio - 2551 Rock Bay Avenue.

## *Natural beauty and design integrity*

Over the decades since the 1970s, Swiftsure has remained faithful to its commitment to superior craftsmanship and design. There is something about a Swiftsure kitchen that is immediately identifiable. Our customers often tell us how much they enjoy using their kitchens and appreciate the compliments of their guests.

Our designers have taken the unique characteristics of the materials selected for TERRAFIN and produced an elegant composition of textures, natural grains and finishes that, while innovative, retains that unmistakable ‘Swiftsure’ look. We foster design integrity - in which the beauty and attributes of our natural resources are celebrated in the finished product; and environmental integrity - in which the selection and preparation of each component is conducted with protection of the environment as the prime consideration.

