

# Flawless Kitchen Surfaces Indoors and Outdoors

**For kitchens, high demands are placed on the surfaces – in terms of appearance and also resistance. A powder coating specialist supplies the right single-layer systems for both classic kitchens and outdoor kitchens, offering not only aesthetic benefits but also a range of environmentally friendly and high-performance properties.**

The Swiss kitchen manufacturer Forster attaches great importance to the environmental compatibility of its products. They are made of recyclable steel, do not use toxic substances and are virtually free of plastic. These kitchens can also be used in zero-emission buildings (MCS projects) without hesitation.

The smooth surfaces of Forster kitchens significantly facilitate cleaning and also provide less adhesion for bacteria.



Quelle: © Forster Swiss Home AG

Forster wants its kitchens to contribute to the sustainable use of environmental resources. This is also reflected in the design.

Thanks to the high-quality powder-coated surfaces, dirt can be easily removed, even after multiple intensive cleaning with heat and water. As a result, the kitchen remains permanently intact and retains its flawless appearance. Galvanizing and powder coating make Forster metal kitchens resistant to steam and other humid or climatic influences.

Rust formation is effectively prevented, which leads to a long life of the kitchen. Powder coating provides an extremely robust surface of the kitchens. It is very durable and does not chip, even with intensive use and mechanical stress.

For the production of the kitchens, all metal parts, including punching and bending, are processed in a new fully automated plant. A wet chemical pretreatment process is used. In this process, the parts pass through the four zones of degreasing, rinsing, rinsing and VE rinsing. Coating then takes place in two automatic powder coating booths. The coated parts are finally cured in a gas oven. The powder coating is baked into the sheet metal at 195-200 °C. Five employees work in the paint shop. There are 15 color changes per day; approximately 2500 parts are coated during this time. 50 t of paint powder per year are processed in the plant.

## Indoor use

Article 12925 of the POLYFLEX® PES 20 system is used as a single-layer system for coating the surfaces of the interior kitchens. It produces silk-glossy surfaces and is characterized by high chemical resistance. Due to its attractive flow and high elasticity, this powder coating is used for interior applications in the sanitary, air-conditioning, food, kitchen and hospital sectors. It is also suitable for machine and apparatus housings, metal furniture and kitchen appliances. The baking conditions range from 180 °C to 210 °C with a baking time of 13 to 5 min.

## New outdoor kitchen line

The partnership between Forster Swiss Home AG and KABE Farben in the powder coatings sector has already existed for over 10 years. Because of this good starting point, the kitchen manufacturer also relied on the expertise of the Swiss powder coatings specialist for the development of its new outdoor kitchen line. The decision was made in favor of the weather-resistant POLYFLEX® powder coating system PUR-125-GU Soft-Touch. It offers a refined feel and a high quality look that underscores the high quality of Forster kitchens.



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Quelle: © KARL BUBENHOFER AG

The powder coating is baked at 195-200 °C with a cycle time of approx. 7 min.

The coating is UV-resistant and very durable. The powder coating can therefore be used for interior and also for exterior applications. It also offers very good outgassing properties.

The POLYFLEX® PUR-125-GU Soft-Touch powder coating system is used in a wide range of applications in vehicle parts, bicycles, machines, equipment, apparatus and generally in exterior areas.

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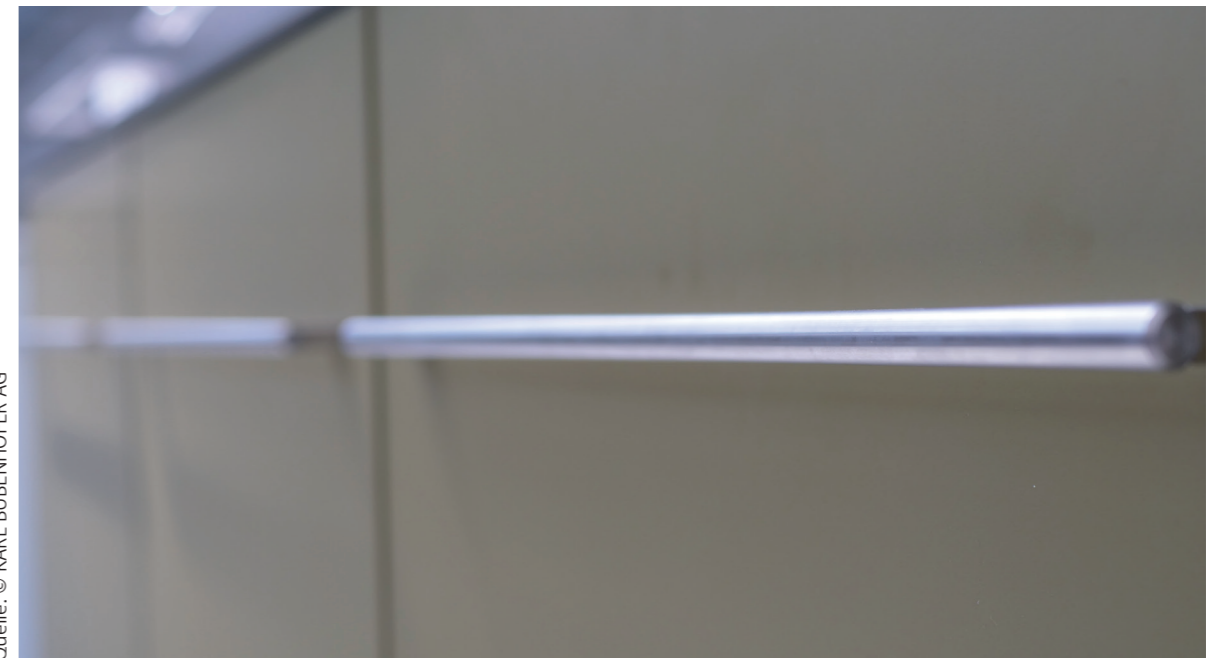
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## Challenge with repeat orders and damage

The challenge in series production is to keep the gloss level constant for the popular matte shades. Even slight variations in different batches can lead to visible color differences. Standard color shades are very easy to match; KABE Farben has a 99 % success rate here. In the case of special colors and metallics, too, the reproduction comes very close to the original in each case.

These challenges are professionally tackled by René Rensi, Production Manager at Forster Swiss Home AG, together with his team and in close cooperation with the know-how of KABE Farben. The aim is always to find the best possible solution for customers, which in many cases leads to extra work and special assignments. Both parties appreciate the co-operation, which is based on a longstanding relationship built on openness and trust and ultimately reflected in the high-quality end products of Forster Swiss Home AG.



Quelle: © KARL BUBENHOFER AG

The special powder coating comes into its own in outdoor kitchens.



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