# How to Paint Concrete Floors

Pull up the carpet and paint the concrete underneath for a clean, inexpensive floor. This works in any room with a concrete slab.



*Before (left) and after (right)*

## Tools

- [ ] Utility knife
- [ ] Large pry bar (wrecking bar)
- [ ] Hammer
- [ ] Hand sander
- [ ] Putty knife
- [ ] Scraper
- [ ] Vacuum, broom and dust pan
- [ ] Mop and bucket
- [ ] Paint roller with an extension pole
- [ ] Microfiber roller covers, 5/16" nap
- [ ] Dust masks
- [ ] Safety glasses
- [ ] Work gloves

## Supplies

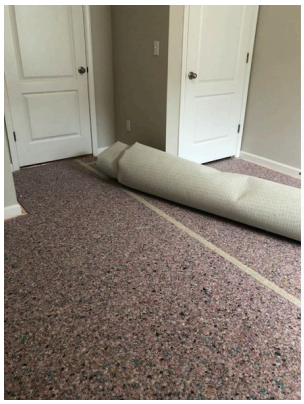
- [ ] Paint stripper for concrete, Rust-Oleum

- [ ] Concrete and mortar repair
- [ ] Sanding discs
- [ ] Dish soap
- [ ] Tack cloth
- [ ] Painters tape
- [ ] Concrete and masonry bonding primer (clear), Behr
- [ ] Porch and patio floor paint in Park Avenue, Behr
- [ ] Paintable caulk and white paint for the trim

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## Step 1: Tear out the carpet and pad

Take everything out of the room. Start in one corner and peel up the carpet. Cut it into smaller pieces with a utility knife so it's easier to carry out. Then pull up the carpet pad.





## Step 2: Remove the tack strips

Use a wrecking bar to pry up the tack strips. It's much faster than a hammer. The strips are nailed into the concrete, so you'll see holes along the edges of the room once they're out. You'll fill those in Step 4. The strips are sharp, so wear gloves and real shoes.



## Step 3: Clean off paint and adhesive

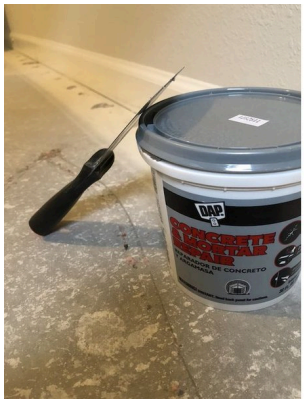
You'll probably find paint splatter, carpet adhesive, cracks and holes under the carpet. Use paint stripper for concrete to remove the adhesive and paint. Follow the directions on the container and wear proper safety gear, because it has a strong smell. Anything you can't get up now, you'll sand or scrape in Step 5.

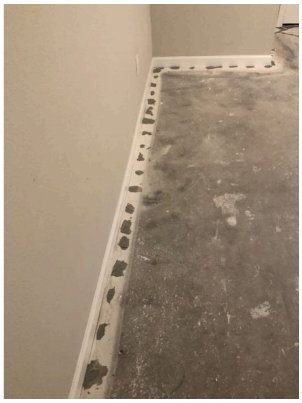





## Step 4: Fill holes and cracks

Sweep the room so you can see every hole and crack. Fill them with concrete filler and a putty knife. Let it cure overnight.



## Step 5: Sand or scrape the high spots

Put on a mask and safety glasses. Cover the vents and open the windows so dust doesn't travel through the house. Once the filler is fully dry, sand down any high spots of filler, leftover paint and carpet glue. A scraper works too. You don't have to get every bit of paint up. Two coats of floor paint will cover it.

## Step 6: Check your trim

Look at the gap between the baseboards and the floor now that the carpet is gone. If the gap is large, either remove the trim and reinstall it lower after painting, or add shoe trim after painting to hide the gap. If the gap is small, a bead of caulk along the bottom will make it look seamless.

## Step 7: Clean the floor

Sweep and vacuum, then mop the whole floor with dish soap and water. Go over it with tack cloth to pick up the last of the dust and hair. Make sure the concrete is completely dry before you prime.

## Step 8: Tape the baseboards

If you're keeping your baseboards in place, cover the bottom edge with painters tape. It makes priming and painting much easier.




## Step 9: Prime

Roll on concrete and masonry bonding primer with a roller on an extension pole. Start in the corner farthest from the door and work your way out so you don't trap yourself. You can pour primer right on the floor and roll it out, or use a paint tray. Follow the dry times on the can.





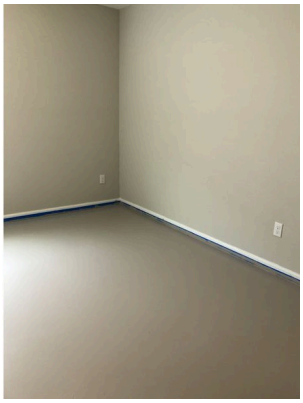

## Step 10: Paint

Roll on two coats of porch and patio floor paint with a 5/16" nap microfiber roller cover for a smooth finish. I had my paint tinted to Park Avenue, a warm gray. Wait a few days before you put anything back on the floor, and follow the dry times on the can.









## Step 11: Seal if needed

Masonry sealer isn't needed for most indoor floors, and my floors held up well without it. If you're painting a high traffic room without a rug, add a masonry sealer. Outdoor concrete always needs one.

## Step 12: Finish the trim

If you removed your baseboards, reinstall them now. Run a thin bead of caulk along the bottom of the trim to hide any gap, then touch up the trim with white paint.

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