

FACT SHEET

ADD SOME CHARACTER TO THOSE DULL FLOORS

Designs painted on the floor are a unique way to add character and colour to any room in the house.

Your floors, whether they are constructed out of wood or cement, can be brought back from bland to beautiful with original, personal floor designs for a reasonable cost.

A versatile way to perk up any room, floor designs can echo any interior design motif from a heritage style to country charm.

The simple process of floor designing requires more imagination and patience than tools and talent. A few simple to follow directions should ensure success.

- To start, be sure the surface is wax-free, smooth and clean. Before painting go over the floor lightly with a mop dampened with mineral spirits.
- Apply a base coat of polyurethane varnish or stain and allow it to dry for 24 hours. Stains should always be applied by working with the grain of the wood. After a stain dries, it should be covered with a protective clear coating or polyurethane before the design is painted over it.

- Water-based products are also available and may be used as a substitute for solvent-based stains and varnishes. These paints impact the environment less than solvent-based coatings as they contain very low amounts of Volatile Organic Compounds.
- Trace your design onto the floor, fill it in using water- or oil-based paint. Because different effects can be achieved with a variety of painting utensils, it is a good idea to practise your technique on a spare board.
- Try using a pure bristle brush, soft cloth, a small sponge, or even your fingers to fill in the design. After the design has dried, cover the floor with consecutive coats of protective clear polyurethane varnish. Lightly sanding each coat will aid adhesion.
- To keep your design looking shiny and new, wax the surface just as you would any fine hardwood floor.

Next time you contemplate decorating a room, consider the floor. Other than walking on your floors, stand back and admire then – you will not be disappointed with a nice floor design.