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"more Share your story I have a new construction home I am building in Michigan with poured concrete foundation walls. I plan to paint the walls in the spring. What is the best type of paint to use on this new concrete? Get home building tips, offers, and expert advice in your inbox Concrete isn't the easiest surface to paint, but adding a fresh coat to an otherwise dull and gray surface can really make it pop. While painting concrete is trickier than painting drywall, and requires more time and tools, it's an easy and rewarding way to spruce up concrete walls, floors, steps, or patios. Because concrete is a porous surface, painting it can be a challenge. But with the right preparation, technique, and paint, you'll be able to accomplish the job. For the best results, follow these steps for how to paint concrete. You might be able to do without primer on other surfaces, but priming concrete is an essential step before you apply any paint. When it comes to painting concrete, not just any paint will do. It's important to choose the right kind of paint—and one that is meant to be applied on concrete. Painting a slab of concrete with the wrong paint can lead to it easily cracking and peeling away. For a long-lasting look, acrylic latex and epoxy paints are the most common choices when it comes to selecting concrete paints. Acrylic latex is a water-based product that mixes and dries easily, and resists fading. While it's not always as durable, so it's best for use on ceilings, walls, or low-traffic areas. Epoxy paint, on the other hand, is more durable and suitable for use on outdoor patios or garage floors. Preparing a concrete surface to be painted is a tedious task than the painting itself. In order to ensure the paint adheres properly, you want to clean the surface thoroughly, wear away any leftover piles of dirt. Fill in buckets with warm water and dish soap. Dip a rag into the soapy solution and scrub away any grime stuck to the concrete surface. If the concrete is caked with debris, use a stiff cleaning brush to scrub the surface until it's clean. If you're working with an exterior concrete surface that's extremely dirty, such as steps or a walkway, you might consider cleaning it with a pressure washer at this step. If you don't fill any cracks in the concrete before you paint it, moisture will seep into those cracks and eventually cause the fresh coat of paint to peel away. To prevent that, you want to fill any cracks or damaged areas with a concrete crack filler. Apply the filler with a caulk gun or with the applicator the filler came with. Before moving onto the next step, wait for the concrete crack filler to completely dry. This can take up to three days, depending on the product. Check the product's instructions for specific drying times. Now that you have a clean concrete surface, you can apply your concrete paint primer. The primer will help fill any small gaps or voids you missed with concrete filler, as well as help create a smooth surface between the concrete and paint. This will ensure that the paint will stick to the concrete. Use a paint brush to apply the primer to corners and edges. Then use a roller to fill in the larger concrete surfaces. If you are painting over concrete that already has paint on it, apply two coats of primer, allowing the first coat to dry completely before applying a second coat. If you are painting a concrete surface that is outdoors, check the weather for the days you plan to paint so that it will have a chance to dry properly. Starting with a paint brush, apply the concrete paint around the edges of the surface. Then use a paint roller to cover the larger areas. Apply at least two coats, allowing for a smooth, long-lasting finish on your painted concrete walls. 4. Applying Concrete Primer Applying a concrete primer enhances adhesion and durability. There are different types of primers for concrete, including Acrylic Polyurethane Epoxy Silane sealers. Acrylic primers are water-based and penetrate concrete, drying faster than oil-based options. Polyurethane primers are effective for correcting imperfections and stains on concrete surfaces. Primers fill small gaps and voids, creating a smooth surface for paint adhesion. A high-quality latex acrylic primer with 100% acrylic binders is recommended for most concrete walls. Using a brush for corners and edges and a roller for larger areas ensures even coverage when applying primer. Two coats of primer are recommended for better adhesion and durability, especially over existing paint. 5. Choosing the Right Paint for Concrete Walls Selecting the right paint is crucial for achieving a durable and attractive finish on your concrete walls. The recommended type of paint for painting concrete is masonry paint containing acrylic resins. Concrete surfaces benefit from paints specifically formulated for them, such as acrylic latex or epoxy paints, which offer properties like durability, adhesion, and resistance to weathering and UV rays. For exterior surface, low lustre, satin, and semi-gloss finishes are preferred. Modern acrylic latex exterior paint is widely regarded as the best option for exterior painting. This is mainly because of its durability and excellent finish. Choosing high-quality concrete paints can improve their appearance and help prevent further damage. Selecting the right paint significantly contributes to the longevity and visual appeal of your painted concrete walls. [elementor-template id="163426"] 6. Painting Concrete Walls Effective painting by using professional techniques are key to achieving a professional finish on concrete walls. Here are some important steps to follow: Use a good primer to create an ideal surface for paint adhesion and to prevent tannin bleed-through. Utilize a brush for corners and edges, and a roller for larger areas to ensure even coverage. It's recommended to apply two coats of primer when painting over existing paint for better adhesion and durability. Acrylic latex paint is preferred for its durability, faster drying time, and is easier to clean, making it an excellent choice for outdoor painting. In the following subsections, we'll delve into specific techniques, such as using brushes and rollers, avoiding lap marks, and applying multiple coats. By following these techniques, you can achieve a smooth
and professional-looking finish on your concrete walls. In how we introduce some extra tips for painting. 6.1. Using Brushes & Rollers Effective use of brushes and rollers can significantly impact the quality of your paint job. A medium brush should be used for edges and corners to ensure thorough coverage. Brushes provide the most control for detailed work, allowing you to carefully paint around the edges of the concrete surface. Rollers are recommended for quickly covering large areas, making them ideal for larger concrete surfaces. For smooth concrete surfaces, it's best to utilize a short-nap roller to minimize paint usage. This ensures that the paint is applied evenly and efficiently. Using the right tools will help achieve a professional-looking finish on your painted concrete walls. 6.2. Avoiding Lap Marks Avoiding lap marks is essential for a smooth, uniform finish. Painting in direct sunlight or extreme heat can cause visible brush strokes or roller marks, so it's best to work in shaded areas or during cooler parts of the day. Using consistent painting strokes and working in sections helps minimize the appearance of lap marks. These simple techniques can make a significant difference in the final appearance of your paint job. 6.3. Applying Multiple Coats Multiple coats of paint are essential for a durable and even finish on concrete surfaces. Typically, two to three coats of paint are required for adequate coverage. Allow the first coat to dry for about four hours before applying the second coat. After applying the second coat, let the concrete surface dry for at least a few days to ensure proper curing. Adequate drying time between coats prevents issues like wrinkling. Apply the second coat of paint in the opposite direction to the first coat to ensure even coverage. Removing bumps or imperfections by sanding or scraping with a paint scraper after the first coat has dried can help achieve a smoother finish. 6.4. Sealing the Concrete After Painting Sealing your concrete walls is a crucial final step in the painting process. It provides an extra layer of protection against moisture, dirt, and wear. Choose a high-quality concrete sealer that is compatible with the paint you used. Wait at least 24 hours between coats to ensure optimal adhesion and finish, with the recommended curing time before applying the second coat of sealer being five to seven days. Allow the sealer to dry completely before resuming activities on or around the concrete. Tips for Exterior Painting on Concrete Walls Exterior painting for concrete walls requires special considerations because of exposure to the elements. The ideal temperature for outdoor painting is around 25°C (77°F); avoid painting below 4.4°C (40°F) to ensure proper drying and adhesion. Before painting, check the weather forecast for the days you plan to paint to ensure favorable conditions. The best weather for exterior painting is mild with low humidity, as higher humidity slows the drying time of paint. To prevent lap marks, it is important to avoid painting in direct sunlight. This is because sunlight causes the paint to dry too quickly. Ensure that ladders are stable and positioned properly to minimize fall risks during the painting project. Assess your environment for potential hazards, such as power lines, and ensure protection for landscaping before starting. These tips will help achieve a professional finish on your exterior concrete walls. Troubleshooting Common Issues Despite careful preparation and execution, issues can arise when painting concrete. Peeling paint often results from underlying moisture issues; it's essential to eliminate the moisture source and remove the affected paint before repainting. Blistering can occur due to moisture, oil, or grease trapped beneath the paint layer, requiring stripping and repainting of the affected area. Addressing these common issues promptly ensures the longevity and appearance of your painted concrete surfaces. Safety Precautions Safety is paramount when undertaking a painting project. Advertisment Add New Question Question How do you waterproof a concrete wall? Gerber Ortiz-Vega Masonry Specialist & Founder, GO Masonry LLC Gerber Ortiz-Vega is a Masonry Specialist and the Founder of GO Masonry LLC, a masonry company based in Northern Virginia. Gerber specializes in providing brick and stone laying services, concrete installations, and masonry repairs. Gerber has over four years of experience running GO Masonry and over ten years of general masonry work experience. He earned a BA in Marketing from the University of Mary Washington in 2017. This article has been viewed 525,734 times. 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So even though it may seem clean, give it a wash before the painting process.To do this, simply take a bucket and mix some warm water with dish liquid. Mix well until it bubbles up and dip a sponge in it. Other than getting rid of dirt, soap water is also great for making your walls gleam.Now time to get to work and scrub off the dirt. Although this may initially sound fun, get ready for some sore arms unless you bring in some extra help.After you're done, give it a good wipe with a clean damp towel. Don't forget the hard-to-reach corners which may require a stool or a stepladder.Fair warning, after the room looks squeaky clean, you may want to ditch the painting project. The room will look great, you'll want to have a drink and call it a day.However, you're only a few steps away from a mega transformation. Hence, get a dehumidifier and remove all moisture from the room.The idea here is to get a complete dry base to work it. 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adhesion of the paint. Use a primer specifically formulated for use on concrete surfaces. Apply the primer using a roller or brush, making sure to cover the entire surface evenly. Allow the primer to dry thoroughly before proceeding to the next step. Choose the right paint: When selecting paint for concrete basement walls, it is important to choose a product specifically designed for use on concrete or masonry surfaces. Look for a paint that is resistant to moisture, mold, and mildew, as these are common issues in basements. Also, consider the color and finish you desire for your basement walls. Darker colors can visually shrink a space, while lighter colors can make it feel larger and more open. Apply the paint: Once the walls are clean, repaired, sealed, and primed, you can begin painting. Use a roller or brush to apply the paint, starting at the top and working your way down. Apply two coats of paint for a more durable and uniform finish, allowing each coat to dry completely before applying the next. Take care to avoid drips and streaks, and use a brush to cut in along the edges and corners. It is worth noting that painting concrete basement walls is a labor-intensive process that requires careful preparation and attention to detail. However, with proper planning and execution, the end result can be a beautifully painted basement that adds value and functionality to your home. What type of paint is best for concrete basement walls? Source: www.houselogic.com When it comes to painting your concrete basement walls, there are a few important factors to consider. Concrete is a porous material, which means it can absorb water and moisture. This makes it prone to cracking, peeling, and mold growth if not properly treated. Therefore, it's crucial to choose the right type of paint for your basement walls to ensure long-lasting protection and a beautiful finish. The best paint for concrete basement walls is an epoxy paint or a waterproof masonry paint. These paints are designed specifically for concrete surfaces and have excellent adhesion properties. They create a durable and waterproof barrier that protects the concrete from moisture, stains, and damage. The first step in painting your basement walls is to prepare the surface. This involves cleaning the walls thoroughly to remove any dirt, dust, or debris. You can use a pressure washer or a stiff brush and detergent to ensure a clean surface. Once the walls are clean, it's important to let them dry completely before applying any paint. Next, you'll need to apply a primer to the walls. A high-quality primer helps seal the concrete and provides a smooth base for the paint to adhere to. Choose a primer that is specifically formulated for concrete surfaces to ensure optimal results. Apply the primer with a roller or a brush, making sure to cover the entire surface evenly. After the primer has dried, you can begin applying the paint. Epoxy paint is a popular choice for basement walls as it creates a strong, durable, and waterproof finish. It is resistant to damage from moisture, chemicals, and abrasion, making it ideal for high-traffic areas like basements. Apply the paint with a roller or a brush, starting from the top and working your way down. Make sure to apply multiple coats for best results, allowing each coat to dry completely before applying the next. Another option for painting concrete basement walls is waterproof masonry paint. This type of paint is specifically formulated to resist water penetration and is ideal for basements that may be prone to moisture issues. Waterproof masonry paint is available in a range of colors and finishes, allowing you to choose a style that suits your basement decor. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for application, and apply multiple coats as needed. In addition to using the right type of paint, it's also important to consider proper basement ventilation to prevent moisture buildup. Installing a dehumidifier or improving the basement's ventilation can help reduce humidity levels, preventing mold and mildew growth. To summarize, the best paint for concrete basement walls is either epoxy paint or waterproof masonry paint. Both options provide durable and waterproof protection, ensuring the longevity and beauty of your basement walls. Proper surface preparation, including cleaning and priming, is essential for optimal adhesion. Apply multiple coats of paint for a smooth and even finish. Don't forget to consider basement ventilation to minimize moisture issues. By following these steps and using the right paint, you can transform your concrete basement walls into a beautiful and functional space. MASPW500 Masonry Paint White 500ml, 500 \$22.5 Are there any specific techniques or tips for painting concrete basement walls? Source: shopliquidrubber.com Painting concrete basement walls can be a great way to freshen up the space and add a pop of color. However, the process can be a bit tricky, as concrete is a porous material that requires special treatment for optimal adhesion and durability. Here are some techniques and tips to help you achieve a successful paint job on your concrete basement walls: Clean the surface: Before painting, it's important to thoroughly clean the concrete to remove any dirt, dust, or debris. Use a stiff brush and a degreaser to scrub the walls, and then rinse them thoroughly with clean water. Allow the walls to dry completely before proceeding. Fill any cracks or holes: Inspect the walls for any cracks or holes, and fill them with an appropriate concrete patching compound. Smooth out the patching compound with a putty knife and allow it to dry according to the manufacturer's instructions. Sand the patched areas lightly to ensure a smooth surface. Apply a concrete primer: Concrete is a porous material, so it's crucial to use a primer that is specifically designed for concrete surfaces. The primer will help seal the pores and create a smooth, uniform surface for the paint to adhere to. Apply the primer using a brush or a roller, following the manufacturer's instructions. Allow the primer to dry completely before proceeding. Choose the right type of paint: When selecting a paint for your concrete basement walls, it's important to choose a high-quality, moisture-resistant paint that is specifically formulated for concrete surfaces. Look for a paint with excellent adhesion and durability, as well as resistance to water, mildew, and scuffing. Use the correct tools: For painting concrete walls, it's best to use a combination of brushes and rollers. Use a brush to cut in along the edges and corners, and then use a roller to apply the paint to the larger areas. Opt for a roller with a medium nap to ensure good coverage and a smooth finish. Apply multiple coats: To achieve a solid color and to ensure the paint adheres well to the concrete, it's recommended to apply multiple coats of paint. Allow each coat to dry completely before applying the next one, and be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding drying times. Allow for proper ventilation: When painting a basement, it's important to ensure proper ventilation to help the paint dry and cure properly. Open windows and use fans to provide adequate airflow. Also, consider using a dehumidifier to control moisture levels in the basement, as high humidity can negatively affect the paint's adhesion and durability. Consider adding a sealer: Applying a sealer on top of the paint can add an extra layer of protection and enhance the durability of the finish. There are various types of sealers available, such as acrylic sealers or epoxy coatings. Consult with a professional or the paint manufacturer for guidance on the best sealer for your specific project. In conclusion, painting concrete basement walls requires proper cleaning, priming, and the use of high-quality paint and tools. By following these techniques and tips, you can achieve a beautiful and long-lasting finish for your basement walls. Frequently asked questions Yes, you can paint concrete basement walls. Painting the walls can help improve the overall appearance of the space and make it feel more inviting. It can also help to seal the concrete and protect it from moisture and damage. It is important to use a paint that is specifically designed for concrete surfaces. Look for a high-quality interior latex paint that is labeled as suitable for concrete or masonry. This type of paint is formulated to adhere well to concrete and provide good coverage. Yes, it is important to properly prepare the concrete walls before painting. This may involve cleaning the walls with a solution of water and mild detergent, scrubbing away any dirt or grime, and allowing the walls to dry completely. You may also need to fill in any cracks or holes with a concrete patching compound and sand the walls to create a smooth surface for painting. Using a primer before painting concrete basement walls is highly recommended. Primer helps to create a smooth and even surface for the paint to adhere to, and it can also help to improve the coverage and durability of the paint. Look for a primer that is specifically formulated for use on concrete surfaces. You can apply the primer to the concrete basement walls using a brush, roller, or sprayer, depending on your preference and the size of the space. It is often recommended to use a brush or roller for smaller areas and a sprayer for larger areas to ensure even coverage. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions on the paint can for best results. So you've decided to paint that concrete wall starting back at you like a blank canvas. It's time to transform that drab slab into a vibrant masterpiece—or at least something that doesn't make your neighbors raise an eyebrow. Whether you're looking to add a splash of color or just cover up those unsightly stains, painting concrete can be a fun adventure. Just remember, it's not as easy as slapping on a coat of paint and calling it a day. In this article, you'll discover: The tools you'll need to avoid painting disasters How to prep that wall like a pro Tips for choosing the right paint and technique A few common mistakes to dodge Prepping your concrete wall's like getting ready for a first date: it needs effort, attention, and maybe a bit of elbow grease. Clean surfaces and repairs ensure your paint sticks like a cookie. Start with cleaning. Use a pressure washer, if possible, to blast away dirt, grime, and any stubborn stains like a superhero fighting evil. If that's not handy, a scrub brush with warm soapy water does the trick. Give it a thorough rinsing and let it dry completely. Note: it's essential to eliminate all dust and debris; otherwise, your paint might not stick. According to a study by the National Association of Home Builders, proper surface cleaning can improve paint adhesion by up to 30%. Next, inspect for damages. Fill in cracks and holes with a concrete repair compound. Make sure it's smooth and flush with the wall's surface. Grab a putty knife for precision, and don't forget to feather the edges for that polished look. If the wall has larger issues, consider using a patching blend that matches the surface. Waiting for at least 24 hours for repairs to cure ensures a solid foundation for your paint. Remember: a well-prepared wall is the secret to painting success, just like using good brushes saves your sanity. Selecting the right paint can feel like a quest for the holy grail. You want something that sticks, looks good, and can handle whatever Mother Nature throws at it. A few key paint types stand out for concrete walls: Acrylic Latex Paint: This versatile option offers durability and is moisture-resistant. It's a great choice for indoor and outdoor applications. It can last up to 15 years with proper care. Epoxy Paint: This heavy-duty type is perfect for high-traffic areas. It's tough as nails and stands up to chemicals, stains, and moisture. Expect it to last between 15 to 25 years, depending on the conditions. Masonry Paint: Designed specifically for porous surfaces, masonry paint allows the wall to breathe while preventing water damage. Keep an eye on the manufacturer's lifespan claims, which often range from 5 to 10 years. Concrete Stain: If you want to retain the natural look of concrete, a stain can add color while allowing the texture to show through. Expect vibrant colors but prepare for a shorter lifespan of 2 to 5 years without a sealer. Choosing a color? Keep these pointers in mind: Think About Lighting: Dark colors can make a space feel cozy, while light shades can make walls appear larger. Consider the wall's exposure to sunlight, too. Sunlight fades colors in about 2 to 3 years. Use Samples: Test a few swatches. Paint small patches on the wall and observe them at different times of the day. Grab a cuppa and watch how the colors change. Pair with Decor: Choose a color that complements your other design elements. You don't want your wall to clash with your grandmother's vintage couch or your neon flamingo figurine. Consider Maintenance: Lighter colors show dirt and stains while darker colors can hide imperfections. Think about your cleaning habits before making that final choice. After all, it's easier to maintain a wall that doesn't look like it threw a mud party. Painting a concrete wall isn't just a simple roll-and-done job. It's an art form, requiring the right techniques to bring your vision to life. Let's dive into the tools and processes that'll make your transformation a masterpiece. Paint Roller - Grab a robust, thick-napped roller to handle that rough surface. A standard ¾-inch nap works wonders for textured concrete. Brushes - Stock up on various sizes of brushes for corners and edges. A 2- to 4-inch angled brush does the trick. Paint Tray - Don't forget this essential piece. It keeps your roller and brush primed and ready. Pressure Washer - For a clean slate, this beauty removes all dirt, grime, and potential wall drama. Concrete Repair Compound - Fill holes and cracks with this. It's like a little spa treatment for your wall. Drop Cloths - Protect your floors, furniture, and your sanity. You don't want paint splatters to become your new decor. Painter's Tape - Precision is key. Use tape to create clean lines and avoid paint mishaps that look like abstract art. Move all furniture away and cover the floor with drop cloths. Your floors aren't in the mood for surprises. Use a pressure washer or scrub brush with warm, soapy water. It's like giving your wall a refreshing shower. Studies show proper cleaning improves paint adhesion by up to 30% (PCA). Patch up any cracks and holes with a concrete repair compound. Ensure the repairs are smooth and flush. Think of it as a foundation for good looks. Apply painter's tape around edges and corners. Tape is your best friend when it comes to achieving those crisp lines. Using a primer made for concrete, apply it thoroughly. Primer helps the paint stick and enhances color vibrancy, making you feel like a pro. Pour paint into the tray, load up your roller, and begin painting. Work in sections for even coverage. Be bold, but aim for finesse. After rolling, use your angled brush to tackle corners and edges. That's where the magic happens, creating that polished look. Wait for the first coat to dry, then apply a second coat if needed. This ensures the beautiful color really shines through. Once the paint dries, carefully remove the painter's tape. It's like unveiling a masterpiece, minus the dramatic flair. Clean your brushes and rollers. Store leftover paint for future touch-ups and enjoy your newly painted wall. Celebrate by throwing some confetti or just admire your work! These painting techniques ensure your concrete wall looks fabulous while contributing to a resilient finish. Keeping your painted concrete walls looking sharp isn't rocket science, but it does require a bit of elbow grease. Regular maintenance can fend off fading and peeling - the nemesis of gorgeous walls. Cleaning every three to six months helps maintain that fresh-off-the-roller look. Use a mild detergent mixed with water. Scrub using a soft-bristle brush, then rinse thoroughly. A pressure washer can speed up the job, but hold off if your paint likes to party too hard and peel away. Check for chips or scratches periodically. If you spot imperfections, grab your touch-up paint and a small brush. A little dab here and there can keep your walls looking pristine. Heck, make it a routine every six months! Consider applying a sealer every 1-2 years. Sealants can protect against moisture and stains. The right sealer extends the life of your paint. Use a water-based sealer for the least hassle during application. Avoid harsh cleaning tools. Steel wool? No thanks. It's way too abrasive and can ruin your paint job faster than your buddy's bad jokes. Stick to softer materials; think sponges, cloths, and the occasional soft-bristle brush. Got sunny spots? Protect those walls from UV rays with exterior paint containing a UV-resistant coating. It prevents fading. According to the American Society of Concrete Contractors, UV-resistant coatings can extend the life of paint by up to 30%. Temperature fluctuations can affect paint performance. If you live somewhere hot and humid, monitor the weather and avoid extensive cleaning or maintenance when moisture levels are high. Staying cool helps your paint last longer. Act quickly if you see mold or mildew. Clean it promptly with a mix of vinegar and water to keep your walls healthy. A little proactive maintenance goes a long way in home care. These simple maintenance tips can keep your painted concrete walls vibrant and ready for whatever you throw at them - except maybe a mural. So there you have it: you're now armed with all the tips and tricks to turn that drab concrete wall into a masterpiece. Just remember prep is key - think of it like putting on your best outfit before a big night out. If you skip the prep you might end up looking like you rolled out of bed. Choose your paint wisely and don't forget to channel your inner Picasso while applying it. And let's not forget about maintenance because nobody wants a wall that looks like it's been through a paintball match. Keep it clean and fresh and your concrete wall will be the envy of the neighborhood. Now go forth and paint like the creative genius you are! Updated for 2025: This guide has been refreshed with the latest techniques, expert advice, and essential tips to ensure your concrete painting project delivers a durable, long-lasting finish. Painted concrete isn't just for looks. It can also help protect your concrete from weathering, crumbling, abrasion and general wear and tear. But before you start painting your concrete, a fair amount of preparation work is required to pull off the perfect finish. As concrete is a porous surface that can trap dirt and moisture, it's essential to clean and seal it before painting. Benefits of Painting Concrete Beyond Aesthetics While painting concrete enhances its appearance, it also provides several practical benefits: Moisture Resistance: A properly painted and sealed concrete surface prevents water absorption, reducing the risk of cracks and mold growth. Improved Durability: High-quality concrete paint adds a protective layer, shielding against foot traffic, stains, and environmental damage. Temperature Regulation: Light-colored concrete paint can reflect heat, keeping outdoor surfaces cooler in the summer. Dust Control: Bare concrete floors can create dust, but a layer of paint seals the surface, making cleaning easier. Concrete Painting Summary Ensure your concrete is free of moisture using moisture metre. Strip off old paint with a wire brush and scraper then fill any cracks and holes with concrete filler. Clean your concrete with trisodium phosphate and rinse away with a power washer. Apply masking tape around your concrete's edges. Paint around your concrete's perimeter with your concrete paint, then use a paint roller to fill in the rest. Wait to dry and scrape lumps. Apply your final paint coat. Once dried, remove your paint tape and admire your work! Concrete Painting Supplies You'll Need: Trisodium phosphate Hose or Pressure washer Metal-bristle brush Concrete filler Wire brush Paint scraper Handheld sanding tool Putty knife Concrete paint Paint roller Paintbrush Read more about the painting tools you will need here. How to Paint Concrete in 11 Steps! You're thinking of painting concrete surfaces to refresh your outdoor spaces, another option to consider is concrete pavers. Concrete pavers are durable and stylish and require less maintenance than painted surfaces. Whether you're creating a patio, pathway or driveway, these pavers are functional and beautiful for any outdoor project. For larger landscaping needs, such as building durable retaining walls, explore the high-quality Concrete Sleepers in Adelaide. They offer a robust and versatile solution designed to withstand the test of time while enhancing your outdoor aesthetics. Whether you're painting a concrete patio, floor or concrete retaining wall, the painting method is pretty much the same. Here's a guide on the difference between Follow these 11 steps on how to paint concrete for a professional-looking finish that will last: Step 1 - Check Your Concrete for Moisture Before painting your concrete, use a moisture metre to test for moisture on the surface. Alternatively, you can place a plastic bag on your concrete and check for condensation after 24 hours. If your plastic bag has any moisture, the concrete is too wet to paint. You'll then need to use specific products, or contact a professional restoration company, to dry and seal the concrete before painting. Step 2 - Strip Off Old Paint If you're repainting your concrete, there's a good chance you'll see peeling paint or bubbling paint. Strip off all the old paint using a scraper and wire brush. Step 3 - Patch Damaged Areas with Concrete Filler Many homeowners who own concrete floors or other surfaces are likely to see some wear and tear over time. Damage is bound to happen, whether it be from foot traffic, pets, harsh chemicals or other causes. Fill in any cracks, gouges or holes in your concrete with a patching compound. This will give you a nice, even surface to work with. Once dried, sand the area smooth with medium-grade sandpaper. Step 4 - Clean Your Concrete In addition to removing any debris caused by the patching and sanding, you need to clean your concrete surface to remove any grease, oils or other contaminants. Begin by pouring trisodium phosphate (TSP) onto your concrete and scrub with a metal bristled brush. After 20 minutes, the TSP should begin to bubble. This means the dirt and grease are breaking down and can be rinsed away with a hose or power washer. Once you've thoroughly rinsed your concrete, wait for 24-48 hours until it has dried up completely. Step 5 - Use Painter's Tape to Mask Off Edges! If you're painting a concrete floor, it's essential to mask off its perimeter to avoid getting paint on neighbouring surfaces. To do so, run a line of painter's tape around the edge of the area you're painting. Step 6 - Prime Your Concrete Epoxy primer is a popular option for concrete, as it absorbs well into porous surfaces and creates a sturdy grip for your paint to adhere to. It's also extremely durable - perfect for concrete that experiences a lot of wear and tear. To apply, use a paint roller or brush to spread the primer evenly over your concrete surface. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions on how long you should wait before applying your coat of paint. Step 7 - Paint Around Your Concrete's Perimeter Stir your paint well and use a medium brush to apply paint around the edge of your concrete. This will provide good coverage when working on corners, edges and other tight spaces. We recommend Masonry paint for concrete as it offers excellent durability and resistance to weathering. In areas susceptible to water damage like your home's exterior, the paint's binding properties will help waterproof your concrete. Step 8 - Use a Roller to Paint Your Surface Now it's time to roll on the concrete paint over the rest of your concrete surface. For smooth surfaces, use a short-nap roller as you'll need less paint for an even finish. Rougher surfaces, meanwhile, can be painted with a long-nap roller as they're designed to hold larger volumes of paint. If you're painting your floor, ensure to start from the farthest corner of the room and work your way back towards the door. Painting in this fashion will avoid trapping yourself at the corner of the room. Step 9 - Scrape Away Excess Paint Once the paint has had enough time to dry, use a putty knife to smoothen out any lumps or bumps on the surface. You'll then want to sand rough spots and sweep away all remaining debris. Step 10 - Apply your Top Coat Once your concrete surface is smooth and ready, apply a topcoat to finalise your paint job. This time, you'll want to be firmer with your roller, applying more pressure to cover any holes that the first paint coat couldn't. Wait until dried. Step 11 - Remove Your Painter's Tape Finally, you'll want to remove the painter's tape around the edge of your concrete. If done correctly, you should have a clean and professional-looking paint job! While these steps are broadly applicable, when painting concrete retaining walls for example, a few additional considerations are key. Ensure thorough cleaning to remove outdoor grime and moss. Choose a paint and primer designed for outdoor use, offering enhanced durability against weather elements. Applying a waterproof sealant can also be beneficial, providing extra protection for your retaining wall against moisture and wear. Common Mistakes to Avoid When Painting Concrete Even with careful preparation, mistakes in painting concrete can lead to poor results. Here's what to avoid: Skipping the Primer: Concrete is porous, so applying paint without a primer can lead to poor adhesion and peeling over time. Not Checking for Moisture: Painting over damp concrete can cause bubbling or flaking. Always check for trapped moisture before starting. Using the Wrong Paint: Not all paints are designed for concrete. Use masonry or epoxy-based paint for durability, especially in high-traffic areas. Applying Thick Coats: Thick layers take longer to dry and are prone to cracking. Always apply multiple thin coats for a smooth, long-lasting finish. Painting Concrete - FAQ Can you paint directly onto concrete? As long as your concrete is clean and prepped correctly, you can paint directly onto the surface. This is applicable for exterior surfaces such as concrete patios and garage floors, as well as interior concrete surfaces like kitchen counters and floors. However, you'll need to ensure that the concrete is free of moisture or existing sealers that could prevent the paint from properly sticking to the surface. How long does it take for concrete paint to dry? This will depend on the type of paint you use, but most paints will take between 12-24 hours to dry completely. Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully, and avoid walking on the painted surface until it's fully dry. If you're planning on driving on your painted concrete, we recommend letting paint dry for at least 72 hours. Can I paint over old concrete paint? If your old concrete paint is in good condition, you can paint over it with a new coat. However, you will need to remove any loose or bubbling paint first before painting over the surface. How do you get paint to stick to concrete? Concrete paint will struggle to adhere to your concrete's surface if it's not prepared correctly. You'll either need to etch the surface or use a concrete primer to help the paint stick. If you're painting a concrete area susceptible to wear and tear, we recommend epoxy primer as it's more durable and can be easily absorbed. Troubleshooting Common Concrete Painting Problems Paint is Peeling or Flaking: This usually happens due to moisture trapped in the concrete or improper surface preparation. Always check for dampness before painting and use a primer to improve adhesion. Uneven Coverage or Streaks: Using the wrong roller type or applying too much pressure can create streaks. Opt for a short-nap roller for smooth surfaces and a long-nap roller for rougher concrete. Paint Looks Too Thin or Transparent: If the coverage is too light, apply additional thin coats rather than one thick layer. Allow proper drying time between coats for the best results. Newline Painting - Interior and Exterior Painting Services For the better part of a decade, Newline Painting has provided high-quality interior and exterior painting services to homeowners across Australia. Our team of professional house painters in Melbourne has you covered on all concrete surfaces, providing you with a long-lasting finish that will transform your home's appearance. We cover everything, including Presale House Painting, Fence Painting, Bedroom Painting, Garage Painting, and more! If you're interested in learning more about our services or would like to book a free quote, contact us at 1300 991 368 or book one on our website. Here are some tips about hiring interior house painters. We operate across Melbourne, including South Melbourne, Berwick, Hampton, Flemington, Brighton East