



# How to Paint Concrete

A Patio Makeover by Tania Griffis

Since we've been remodeling for over two years now (can you guys believe it?!?), the inside of our house has improved significantly. The outside, however, is a slightly different story. Yes, we've added some improvements to the back yard, but our front yard has been put on the back burner. Sorry neighbors. Well, no longer! The front yard is up on our "to do" list, and I am SUPER excited about how everything is turning out!

*This post contains affiliate links.*

I have always dreamt of a house with a wide, wrap-around front porch. This house doesn't have it. Boo! But that doesn't mean that I can't get creative with the space I do have. For years I have been looking for an outdoor rug that will fit the narrow front porch we have, and have had no luck. Recently it dawned on me—why not paint a rug on the porch? After doing some research to verify (1) yes, painted rugs are a thing and (2) yes, my husband was on board, I wasted no time getting a plan together.

One of the things I learned while researching about painting concrete is that you have to have a super clean surface to start. A lot of people even went as far as recommending using acid to wash the surface. Yikes. That was a little hardcore for me!

Luckily for me however, I was given the opportunity to partner with Proctor & Gamble to try out their new product, Tide Oxi. I knew Tide was awesome in the laundry room, but I was unsure if it would excel in concrete-cleaning abilities. I decided to give it a shot, however, before turning to acid. Luckily for me, Tide Oxi did not disappoint and no acid was needed, yay!

To get started, we picked up our supplies at Home Depot (of course!). Our supply list was fairly short: Tide Oxi, two scrubbing brushes, a bucket, concrete paint (we went with Behr Premium Concrete & Masonry Waterproofer in Sudden Fog thanks to the recommendation from the paint counter!), painters tape and a small paint roller.

The first thing we did when we got home was to remove the old furniture off the porch. I was SO happy to get rid of all the ugly brown, but you all are going to be grossed out when you see what was hiding underneath all of it. Look how nasty our porch was!

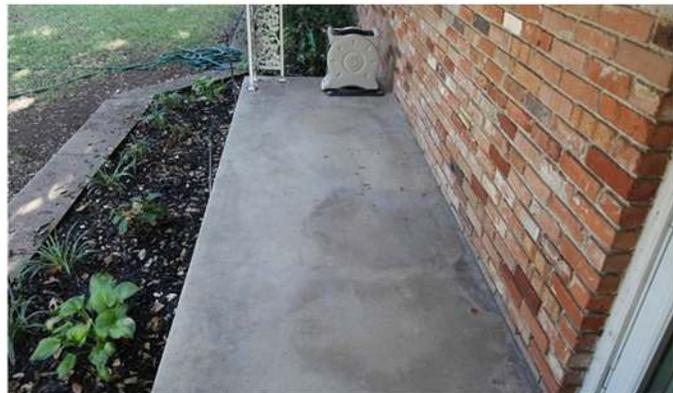


The next thing we did was use a push broom to sweep off all the dirt, leaves and debris we could from our porch. We then mixed the Tide Oxi into warm water. I used a full scoop since our porch was so dirty. I've gotten to work with a lot of cleaning agents and products over the years, and I promise you guys—this was the best smelling one! Both Scott and I were joking that our porch was going to smell like fresh laundry.

After we had our solution mixed, we worked in small areas at a time. Scott would pour some of the solution onto the porch, and we both used these scrubbing brushes to scrub the stains and dirt off.

The directions on the box clearly say to keep away from plants, so we were very careful to not allow any run off into the garden. We would continually use the broom to push all the water down the stairs rather than let it drip into the garden.

It took us about 30 minutes to scrub down the entire porch. Before we could start painting, we had to wait for the concrete to dry completely. In the Texas summer heat, that took about 4-5 hours. Check out how much better things were looking already!



Then it was painting time. We used exterior painter's tape to mark off the edges. I knew I wanted a striped pattern, but didn't want to have to bust out the measuring tape to mark out the lines. No problem! We ended up using a piece of baseboard to mark out the lines. Brilliant right? :) You could also use a long straight-edge ruler like this one. Once we had the entire pattern taped, it was time to start painting!

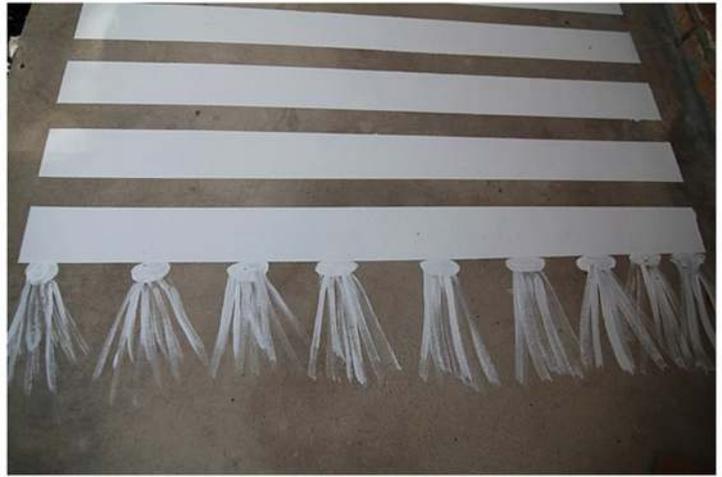
Painting was a cinch with the small roller we had picked up, and using concrete paint was no different than any other paint I've used before. I simply rolled it on—easy! I decided to paint wearing socks so I could keep the concrete nice and clean. I'm partial to not wearing shoes. :)



I did one coat, then the next morning came back and did a second. The dry time was listed at 4 hours, but I waited until that evening to come back and very carefully peel all the tape off. Voila! We had stripes!



It still wasn't rug-like enough for me though. So I decided to hand paint on fringe with this small brush. This was a little nerve-racking since I am not the best freehand painter, but I went with it and LOVE how it turned out. I think the fringe might be my favorite part!



Our patio looked so lovely that we couldn't bear to put our old furniture back. So we purchased some new outdoor chairs and décor and have already spent several afternoons sitting on the porch after work, talking about life. Now we aren't embarrassed to say hi to our neighbors either. :)



I am so thrilled with how our porch looks. I love the stripes and the fringe and how *clean* and fresh everything feels! Lemonade anyone? Ya'll come by! :)

*Disclosure: I was compensated by Procter & Gamble to work on this project. The ideas, opinions, photographs and writing are mine, as always.*