

## Tips for Creating Your Dream Space by Sara Shragal

### Resurfacing your patio

The patio has always been a popular place to entertain. In recent years, with homeowners cooking outdoors during summer months and beyond, the patio has become even more of a gathering place. So, it's only natural to want to spruce up your existing patio with a brand new surface. And, depending on the current condition of your patio, giving it a facelift is not as daunting a project as you might think.

First, you will need to assess the condition of your patio. If it's still in fairly good condition, you might be able to get away with a good power washing before resurfacing. If there are some smaller cracks, you can fill those with an epoxy filler and some sealant. And while that may sound like an easy job, it's really something you should hire a contractor for because it requires widening the cracks before filling.

In some cases, a power washing or some touch-ups probably won't be enough and you'll need to add a layer of concrete. While some folks are handy enough to lay concrete, it's a job best handled by a professional. Whether you take that job on yourself or hire a contractor, you don't have to settle for plain old gray concrete for your patio. You can pour concrete over your existing flooring and then color or texturize it in any number of colors or patterns.

If your patio's surface is in good shape and you don't need another layer of concrete, there are a number of resurfacing options available. Some options for resurfacing include:

- Bricks and Pavers – You can lay decorative or antique-looking bricks and pavers on the flooring. Get creative with your patterns to make an eye-catching design.
- Deck tiles – Almost instantaneously, you can transition your patio to a deck by installing snap-together deck tiles made of wood or weather-resistant materials.
- Natural stone – You can go from ordinary to elegant by surfacing the floor with slate or travertine.

With a little creativity, you can take your existing patio from drab to fab with a resurfacing project. And if your patio is in good shape to start with, you can do so with minimal costs and labor. Add to that the years of life you'll add to your patio, and resurfacing makes good dollars AND sense.

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