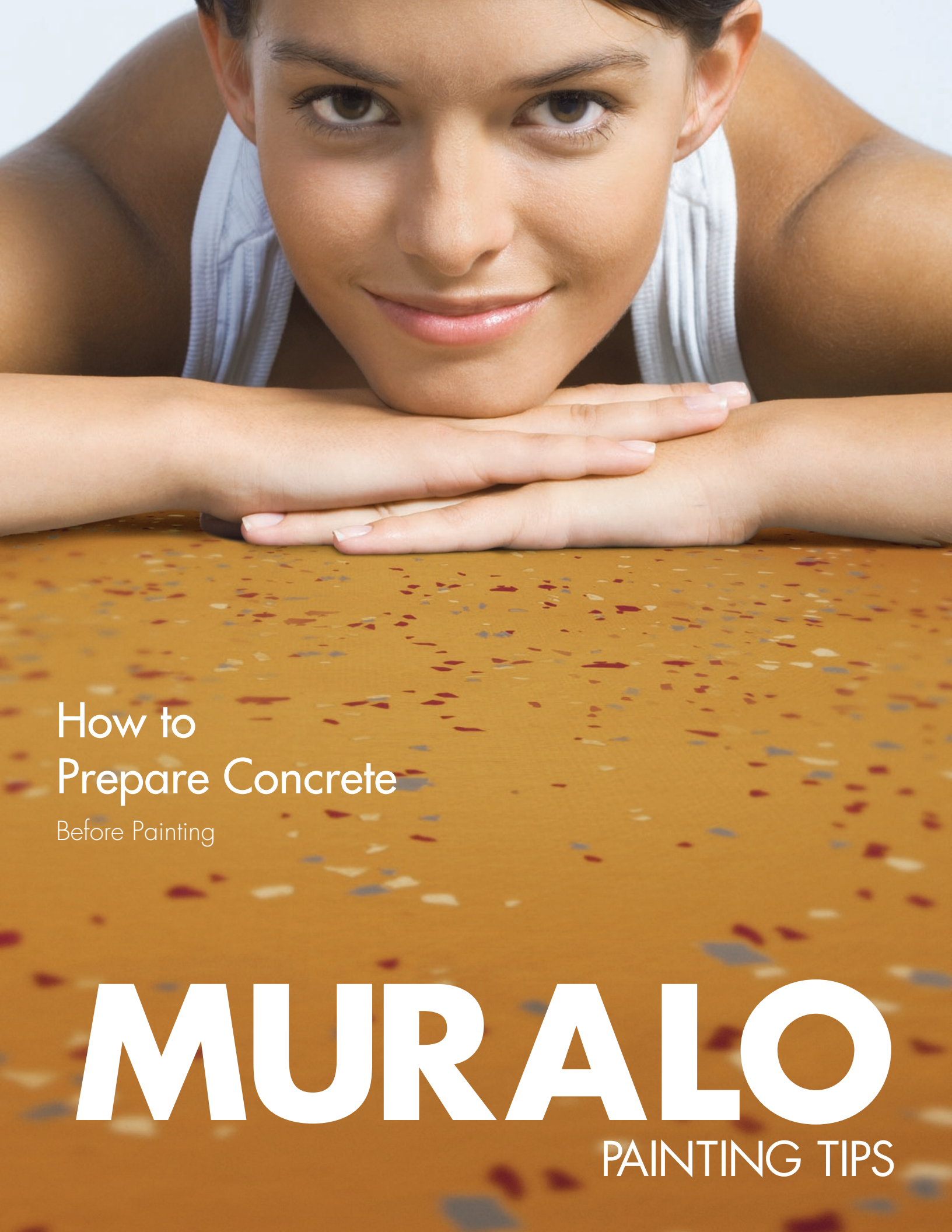

How to Prepare Concrete

Before Painting

MURALO

PAINTING TIPS

BEAUTIFY
your basement

Before painting a concrete floor, the floor should be tested to see what preparation is needed to assure the coating will adhere well.

Materials required:
Cleaning supplies
Muriatic acid
Ammonia
Muralo Ultra Tred Epoxy
Vinyl color chips

Test for the presence of a curing compound. Most concrete floors had a chemical curing agent applied after the concrete set up. Many of these curing agents will prevent good adhesion of coatings. To test for a curing agent, pour a little muriatic acid on the floor. If the solution bubbles, there isn't any curing compound left on the surface or there wasn't one to begin with. If the acid doesn't bubble, then there is a curing compound on the surface that must be removed before painting. Check several different areas of the floor because the curing compounds may have worn off unevenly.

Removing curing compounds. Curing compounds must be removed with either chemical removers or mechanically by floor machines equipped with screeds or shot blasting.

Test for grease and oil Coatings will not adhere to grease and oil. Unfortunately, grease and oils are commonly found on concrete floors. Dark spots are an indicator that grease and oil are in the floor.

Sprinkle a little water on the floor.

If it beads up, grease or/and oil may be present. Note that a curing agent may also bead up water. Another test is to apply a piece of duct tape to the area in question. If the tape pulls away very easily, grease or / and oil are present. Grease and oil must be removed before coating.

Removing grease and oil. Apply granular oil dry compound to the dark spots and areas where it is obvious that oil and grease are present. Let stand overnight. Sweep or vacuum the compound up.

Apply a good commercial oil and grease remover and follow the manufacturers recommendations. Use an electric floor scrubber or a stiff bristle brush. Alternatively, use a strong TSP solution and floor scrubber or bristle brush. Rinse well and allow to dry. The floor color should be relatively uniform. If there are dark spots, put a little muriatic acid on the spots. If the acid bubbles, the floor is probably ok to coat. If the acid doesn't bubble, grease and/ or oil are still present and the floor must be degreased again. Repeat these steps until the floor is completely free of grease and oil.

TESTING
for Moisture

If the concrete is wet, the coating will not adhere properly

If the water is coming from underneath the slab, hydrostatic pressure may cause the coating to lift off. To test for moisture, tape a 2 foot square piece of plastic on all four sides to the floor. Let rest overnight. Inspect the inside of the plastic for water drops. If water is present, the concrete is too wet to paint. Repeat the test after a week or two. If moisture is still indicated, water may be coming up from underneath the concrete slab. If so, the source of the water must be found and the water diverted or coating failure is likely to occur.

Testing for adhesion of existing coatings
Existing coatings do not necessarily have to be removed. It may be possible to coat right over them if they are in sound condition and are adhering well to the concrete. To test adhesion, score the existing coating down to the concrete with a sharp knife. Make five cuts about two inches in length parallel to another about _" apart. Make five more cuts at 90 degrees to the first so you end up with 50 little _ inch squares. Apply duct tape to the area and firmly press it in place. Pull off the tape. If the coating doesn't pull up the squares, the coating is ok to leave in place. If a significant number of squares come up, the coating needs to be removed. It is normal to get a little dry paint on the tape where the cuts were made. This is ok.

REMOVING
Old Paint

Removing old paint lasting with shot, beads or sand Abrasive beads can be used to remove old coatings.

Chemical removers can also be used by following the manufacturers instructions.

Acid etching
Acid etching assures the concrete provides a good surface for the coating to adhere. After the floor is clean and degreased, apply a 50-50 mixture of muriatic acid (20% strength) to the floor. CAUTION; MURIATIC ACID CAN CAUSE BAD BURNS. WEAR GOGGLES, PROTECTIVE CLOTHING, RUBBER GLOVES AND RUBBER BOOTS. ALWAYS ADD ACID TO WATER, NEVER ADD WATER TO ACID. Allow to remain on floor for 15 minutes. The acid will bubble up as it reacts with the concrete. Rinse with water. Rinse again with water and ammonia to neutralize the acid. Rinse a third time with plain water. After the surface is dry, it should feel like medium grit sandpaper. If the concrete is still smooth, a second application of muriatic acid is needed.

QUESTIONS
& Answers

After I clean the floor, what coating should I put on it?

The best coating you can put on our floor is a two part water-based epoxy. Epoxies have excellent adhesion to concrete and hold up well to traffic. They are resistant to most materials found around the house. They resist hot-tire pick-up from car tires in the garage. The coating is easy to use. The product comes in a kit consisting of a quart of activator and 3 quarts of epoxy in a gallon can. Just dump the contents of the quart into the gallon can and mix well. Let stand for 20 minutes to activate the system. Apply with a 3/8” nap roller. Broadcast vinyl colored chips if desired.

We suggest Muralo’s Ultra-Tred Epoxy Kit.

Q&A

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