

# CONCRETE FLOORS

## A Factsheet from Austin Energy's Green Building Program

Concrete finish floors are good for your nose and your bottom line because they are an energy efficient and environmentally sound option for your home or business.

### Concrete finish floors are a good choice for:

- ❖ **Aesthetics** A wide range of attractive colors and patterns are available (depending on finish type) to compliment any design scheme.
- ❖ **Easy cleaning and maintenance** Only needs mopping and an occasional resealing or rewaxing.
- ❖ **Durability** Concrete never needs replacing.
- ❖ **Energy efficiency** The mass of concrete helps stabilize indoor temperatures and takes advantage of Austin's ideal ground temperature.
- ❖ **Allergy relief** Concrete won't hold dust, mold, dust mites, or pollens like carpeting can.
- ❖ **Keep cool** Concrete stays cool like ceramic tile.
- ❖ **Economics** Concrete finish floors save on long-term costs like energy bills, maintenance, and replacement.
- ❖ **Environmental** Concrete finish floors conserve resources by using the same material to perform two functions--foundation and finish floor.
- ❖ **Flexibility** Allows you to change the look of your home or business by rearranging area rugs/area floor coverings, without the expense of tearing out carpet or tile.

### Price and durability depend on the coloring method used:

- Option 1 - Dye added to concrete mix at the plant. Integral color hides chipping but is not commonly done due to high cost.
- Option 2 - Dye powder sprinkled onto concrete at finish stage and troweled in by concrete installer. Color is slightly below the surface, so minor chipping is hidden, more economical than option 1.
- Option 3 - Color stain applied to the surface of the concrete after it has dried completely. Good for remodeling as well as new construction, unlimited palette, pattern, and price.

### When and how to plan for concrete staining:

- ❖ When planning to use integrally colored concrete, optimize the use of concrete by designing your foundation to use just enough but not too much, since integral color has a higher cost.
- ❖ Scoring and staining is possible for all concrete surfaces: steps, porches, patios, sunspaces, countertops, and fireplace surrounds.
- ❖ Extreme care must be taken at every stage of the construction process when staining is to be employed:
  - Be sure to write all special conditions into your subcontractor specifications/agreements.
  - Supplement this by telling all subcontractors that the floor is to be finished and exposed, and that they are responsible for stains from adhesives, coffee, sodas, and chipping from falling tools or tear-outs. Plumber's adhesive and red chalk are particularly detrimental. Plumber's adhesive will bleach the floor and prevent it from taking the stain properly. Red chalk cannot be removed from the floor—blue chalk is okay. Sawdust, lumber, and construction debris must be kept off the floor at all times as these can draw moisture out of the concrete, affecting the staining process - be diligent and repeat yourself when necessary.
  - Protect the floor after staining with cardboard or silverboard, and make sure you work the replacement costs for these items into your bidding.

MATERIALS

**Central Texas Concrete Finishers and Material Suppliers:**

**Finish Contractors:**

Bravo Design  
Jeff Luce  
(512) 459-4332  
[www.bravoconcrete.com](http://www.bravoconcrete.com)

Concrete by Design  
(512) 851-0679  
[www.concretebydesigntexas.com](http://www.concretebydesigntexas.com)

Concrete Inspiration  
Mia Miller  
(512) 416-7548

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Concrete Floor Staining by Shanon  
Shanon Williamson  
(512) 266-6855  
[www.shanonconcrete.com](http://www.shanonconcrete.com)

Concrete Surface Innovations  
(512) 835-8700  
[www.concretesi.com](http://www.concretesi.com)

Jagger SSC, Inc.  
Thomas Jagger  
(512) 443-7085  
[www.jaggerssc.com](http://www.jaggerssc.com)

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Austin Concrete Solutions  
(512) 301-1385

Concrete Nickel Staining  
(512) 472-6474  
[www.concretestaining.com](http://www.concretestaining.com)

Texas Deco Crete  
(512) 251-4466

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Texas Decorative Concrete  
(512) 251-4466

The Faux Co.  
(512) 266-6966

Creative Concrete Engraving  
(512)930-1770  
<http://www.ccgworks.com>

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Patterned Concrete  
Mary Ross  
(512) 258-9324  
[www.patternedconcreteaustin.com](http://www.patternedconcreteaustin.com)

Coolcrete Designs  
Nancy Modrell  
(512) 451-6830  
[www.coolcrete.com](http://www.coolcrete.com)

Darby Concrete Staining  
Brandon Darby: (512) 585-7220  
Tony Romano: (512) 892-6464  
Office: (512) 912-8000

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Applied Color Concrete  
John Stefanowicz  
(512) 847-9271  
[www.appliedcolorconcrete.com](http://www.appliedcolorconcrete.com)

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**Material Suppliers:**

Construction Supply  
404 W. Powell Ln. #201  
(512) 837-1028  
Local retailer for Scofield, Co., products

Shepler's  
4123 Todd Lane  
(512) 441-7505  
Local retailer for Scofield, Co., products

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Kemiko Company  
Barbara Sargent  
(903) 587-3708  
[www.kemiko.com](http://www.kemiko.com)  
How-to video available - \$19.95

L.M. Scofield Co.  
Concrete Stains & Sealers  
(800) 800-9900  
[www.scofield.com](http://www.scofield.com)

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This list does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by the City of Austin, Austin Energy or the Green Building Program. Please check references thoroughly before employing the services of any contractor.