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How to Broom-Finish Concrete — and Why It's Important

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Drag a stiff bristled broom across the concrete slab or resurfaced area to enhance walkability.



Why You Can Trust Us [▼](#)

Adding a concrete patio is an easy, affordable way to enhance a [blank-slate backyard](#).

Anyone can use [Quikrete concrete mixes](#) to pour a slab and extend their living space outdoors; it doesn't require special training or skill sets — just follow the package's instructions.

But before you get to work, remember: safety first!

Whether you [pour a concrete slab](#) or use [Quikrete Re-Cap Concrete Resurfacer](#) on an existing one, you need to add texture so it doesn't become slippery when wet.

With new concrete, this step happens following most of the finishing. After you've leveled the surface and smoothed it with floats and trowels, use a broom to add a small amount of texture. Do this when the concrete has cured to the point that it is becoming solid, but is still soft.



Resurfacing this concrete slab took years off its appearance, but it's still important to give this slab a broom finish.

Drag a stiff bristled broom — one made from horsehair or nylon — slowly across the surface. Ensure each stroke is consistent, traveling in the same direction and creating tiny ridges in the surface. This makes the concrete safer to walk on, particularly when wet.

When you resurface an existing slab with Quikrete Re-Cap Concrete Resurfacer, the process is pretty much the same.

Just ensure that the concrete is hard enough that the broom won't remove the resurfacer, and not too soft that it wouldn't create the necessary texture.

It may take some practice to find that happy medium between when it's too early to finish and when it's too late, but a good rule of 'thumb' — no pun intended — is to press a finger into the concrete and ensure there's no imprint.



Stick your hand in the concrete. If it leaves an imprint, the surface isn't ready for texture — but it might leave a lasting impression! ([DepositPhotos](#))

And if there's not, then go ahead and lightly score the surface, and that's when the fun really begins.

While textured concrete finishes originated with a need — to keep folks safe from slippery surfaces — they've evolved to become an art.

You can carefully drag a broom in one direction over the concrete as a safeguard, but you also can get creative by adding designs.

Whether you go for the tried-and-true straight drag, or add some character to your concrete with different shapes and colors, you'll end up with a lightly textured surface that's attractive — and safe — to walk on.



The difference between a textured concrete slab and an unfinished one — and the importance of broom finishing — is evident.

Ready to resurface your patio? Learn more about [Quikrete Re-Cap Concrete Resurfacer](#) here!
