

#7

Stencil your floor

The floor isn't just a surface to walk on – it can also be a canvas on which to unleash your creativity!

By Lisa Spaarwater
Photographs Francois Oberholster

MEDIUM

QUICK PROJECT GUIDE

Hard labour 3/10
Skill level 4/10
Time needed 1–2 days



Paint colour
Annie Sloan
Aubusson Blue

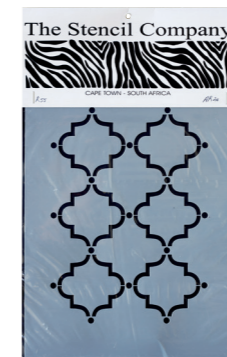
The cupboard drawers between the top and bottom ones were painted with a mixture of Aubusson Blue and Old White, adding more and more Old White towards the bottom drawer.

Paint colour
Annie Sloan
Old White

Paint colour
Annie Sloan
Provence

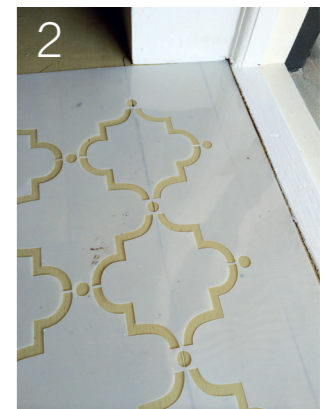
You will need

- Annie Sloan Chalk Paint in the colours Versailles and Provence (1L covers 13m²)
- brush or sponge roller for painting the base coat
- small sponge roller for the stencilling
- medium-sized sponge roller for the varnish
- paint tray
- stencil of your choice
- spray adhesive for stencils (available from hardware or art supplies stores)
- water-based floor varnish with a matte or satin finish



Get started...

- 1 First paint the base coat (Versailles); start in a corner and work towards the door (to avoid painting yourself into a corner!). If you use the paint undiluted and apply it with a large roller, one coat will be sufficient.
- 2 Decide in which direction you wish to place the stencil and where you want to start – this will depend on the stencil design.



3 Spray the back of the stencil with the spray adhesive and stick it on the floor where you want to start; make sure you use enough adhesive to keep the stencil firmly in place.

4 Roll the sponge roller through the paint for the stencil (Provence) and then roll it over the drip tray to make sure your roller isn't too wet.

5 Now roll the paint over the stencil. The paint should be applied fairly sparsely; this will ensure neat outlines and prevent the paint from running.

6 When you're done, let it dry and then seal the floor with the water-based floor varnish. Apply at least three coats.



[STEP IT UP!]

Lisa Spaarwater of Lemon & Lilac Paint Techniques offers the following advice:

- Make sure your floor is clean and completely dust-free. No other preparation (or primer) is needed if you use Annie Sloan Chalk Paint.
- Allow the base coat to dry for at least an hour before you start stencilling.
- Until it has been sealed, wear your socks when walking across the floor to prevent it from becoming dirty.
- If you're worried about going skew with the stencil, make light marks with a pencil so you know where to place it as you go along.

- Keep a small artist's brush handy to neaten up any areas that you're not happy with afterwards.
- If you're inexperienced, cover the base coat with a layer of water-based varnish before you do the stencilling. This will ensure a neater look because it's easier to wipe off mistakes on the already smooth surface. Afterwards, seal the entire floor once again.
- The water-based varnish dries quickly but will be even harder after a few days. Don't place or move heavy furniture on the floor for the first few days.

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