

# Painted Dropcloth Rug

## Materials

- dropcloth (choose one with a plastic underside)
- sponges (plain kitchen sponges will do just fine)
- paint (you won't need a large amount. Try to have 3 different colors for the accent and 1 base color)
- roller (if you choose to use one for the base coat)
- paint brushes (you can use the cheap sponge, if you like)
- clear sealer (if desired)

*Note: You do not need to use a specific kind of paint. Outdoor or porch paint will hold up the best but you can absolutely use interior paint. If the rug turns out amazing (which it will!) and you do not want it to EVER be ruined then think about spraying a clear coat on top of it to withstand traffic and washing better.*

## Directions

### 1. Iron the dropcloth as best you can.

Don't worry too much, many of the wrinkles take care of themselves when you paint. Just get the worst offenders out, if possible. Most dropcloths come folded up in the package. Those folds need to be taken out as best you can.

### 2. Paint the base coat.

Use two good coats of base paint (the one pictured above uses orange) before you get started with your design. Don't duplicate this color within your later design or your full design won't show up. There is no need to let coats dry in between painting each one because you are just trying to get the drop cloth to soak up the color. It won't seep underneath because of the plastic underside. But, be sure to let the two base coats dry after the 2 coats are applied and before you put in your design.

### 3. Cut your sponges.

To make a design like the one pictured, use multiple variations of triangles. And a small square. Use what will work for what you are trying to achieve.

With this type of design, it's best to go with a basic, geometric shape. You will just build basic shape on top of basic shape on your rug. Keep it geometric and orderly. Or, perhaps you have a plan and are going to go crazy. Go for it.

### 4. Use a pencil and lightly draw guidelines.

Give yourself a basic idea of where to put the stamps. It doesn't need to be detailed. Just an eyeball. It's hard to "undo" paint. Being a bit prepared and planned will save you time in the long run!



## Continued

### **5. Apply stamps.**

Be sure to work bit by bit. If you're trying not to mess up, do the pattern in order (section by section) rather than one color at a time. But, do what feels right to you. If you mess up, cover it back over with orange paint, let dry...try again.

### **6. Seal.**

When you have your pattern and everything dries..seal with a clear sealer.

This is the part that allows you to use whatever paint you want or is on hand.

Be aware that this rug is more of a "floor cloth" in texture. How thick your base paint layer is will determine how stiff the rug is. A thicker base coat will make for a stiffer rug. For many places in your home it is perfect. In your mud room you can just sweep this off and not have to pull out the vacuum. You can make a beautiful "rug" for under your dining room table that can be handle food and use with ease. But, it doesn't have the feel on your feet like a traditional rug would have.