

# How-To POUR A SMALL CONCRETE PAD

Whether it's for a shed, stair landing, dog kennel or hot tub, a small concrete pad is an easy and inexpensive home improvement project. This guide will set you up to complete a small, weekend undertaking for any pad measuring less than 100 square feet.

## Recommended TOOLS & MATERIALS

### Form:

- 2x4s
- Nails/Screws
- Stakes
- Spray paint
- Hammer
- Saw

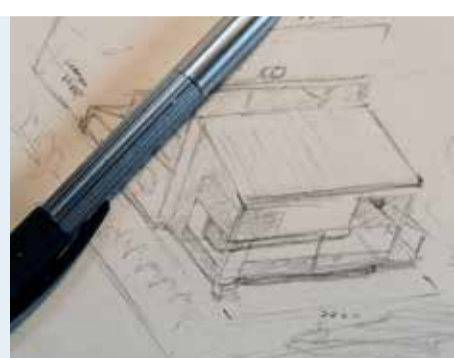
### Concrete Pad:

- Concrete mix
- Concrete mesh
- Shovel
- Rake
- Trowel
- Broom

### Safety Gear:

- Rubber/Work gloves
- Safety glasses
- Long-sleeve shirt
- Full length pants
- Work boots

**PLAN & LAYOUT** Determine the size of the pad you need, taking into consideration any steps or other extra space requirements. Mark this area off using stakes or spray paint.



**EXCAVATE** For a pad to sit 2" above ground level, you'll want to excavate roughly 6". Make sure to remove enough soil outside of your marks to accommodate formwork, 4" should do the trick.

**PREPARE THE SUBGRADE** Using a rake, level the subgrade and remove any large debris, before dampening the soil with water. Next compact the base and add sand, gravel or crushed stone. You should now be approximately 2" below grade.



**FORM** Using straight lumber, create a form with inside dimensions equal to your planned pad. Once placed, drive stakes 8" into the ground at 2' intervals on the outside of the form.

## Pro-Tip

Make sure the stakes are flush, or below, the form to simplify leveling.

**POUR** Mix your concrete and add enough to fill half of the form before leveling it out. You'll want to add concrete-reinforcing steel mesh to strengthen your pad and improve its useful lifespan. Then, pour in the remainder of your concrete.



## Pro-Tip

When working with concrete, wear a long-sleeve shirt, safety glasses and rubber gloves. Concrete can, and will, cause chemical burns. Safety first!



**LEVEL** Using a 2x4 cut longer than the span of your form, level (screed) the concrete in a smooth back-and-forth, sawing motion, making sure to remove excess concrete and fill any voids. If a water sheen appears on the surface, this is normal and can be ignored.

## Pro-Tip

You're ready for the next step if pressing hard into the concrete only leaves a 1/4" depression.

**FINISH** Using an edging tool, create smooth round edges. For larger pads, joints should be added every 4'. Once the concrete is partially hardened, which varies dependent on mix consistency and weather, lightly broom the concrete to create a non-slip surface.



**CURE** Depending on weather, leave the form in place for several days before removal, and stay off the pad until fully cured or you risk damaging all of your hard work.

Completing your own concrete project is rewarding. Done correctly, you'll be left with a finished product that will withstand years of use. If you have any questions or concerns, you can stop by your local Intermountain Concrete Specialists to speak to one of our qualified experts or give us a call today!

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