

Goodbye Ugly Popcorn Ceilings

The once-popular, texturized finish known to many as "popcorn ceilings" was applied to properties prior to the 2000's. The trend then turned towards a cleaner and more modern look.

If you have a home with a popcorn ceiling you might be considering having it removed and you can either do it yourself or contract with a company that specializes in the removal.

If you opt to do the job yourself, take all safety precautions and also protect your floors and furnishings. You will need a scraper (think a 4" or 6" mud knife), a ladder or scaffolding, and a spray bottle filled with water. The hard part comes after the removal process when you have to clean up the debris you've scraped off.

Completely cover your floors and furniture with plastic and make sure to turn off your furnace or air conditioner, so as to not get the debris in your system or the effects of the forced air blowing all the debris into the air you are breathing.

To get started spray a two-foot by two-foot section of the ceiling with water and let it soak before going in with your scraper.

To make the process go faster, you can spray the next area before scraping - then that section will be ready when you are done scraping the first section.

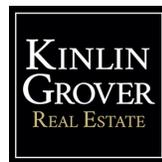
Before starting the job be sure to invest in some protective goggles, a face mask, plastic covering, and old clothes you can toss out as soon as you are done.

After you finish scraping off the old popcorn texture you can sand, prime, and apply the new paint. Repair any damage to the ceiling before applying the new paint by using drywall tape and joint compound before sanding.

Another important step is to check for asbestos before you begin the removal process, especially if your home was built prior to 1980. To test for asbestos you can purchase test kits online or at hardware or home improvement stores.

While this is a pretty simple process, it definitely requires a bit of elbow grease and considerable clean-up. You may want to get estimates for having it professionally done before you commit to doing it yourself.

However the job is done, once the job is complete you will no doubt love the new look and it will make your house look much more up to date.



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