

## Painting Pickleball Lines - Template Painting

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Here is a quick and clean way to paint pickleball lines on an existing court. Painting new lines on old outdoor courts can be a challenge and can take quite a bit of time, especially your first attempt. It was not worth the effort to mask and hand paint several coats using brushes on the old, marginal court surfaces we had available to us. So, after several trials (one freehand and the other with masking the lines) we found what we think is a fast and easy way to paint clean lines using a simple template and handheld striping spray paint. This would not be something you would want to use on brand new courts, but works good in our situation.

As we started to play pickleball on local tennis courts in Albany and Salem, OR we tried several different methods of painting before we landed on one we think is proficient and adequate for play. We think this is a great, quick way to provide pickleball lines on old courts. On our most recent court we graduated to using a simple template we built that provided strong, clean painted lines using handheld striping paint and only took 1-1/2 hours from beginning to end. Of course that was with 5 supervisory painters and 1 technician. The courts we were able to use were either well-used (as in old) painted courts and/or asphalt neighborhood park courts. So, while we did not want to put a lot of effort into the paint jobs, we did want clean straight lines.



Our template consisted of two 6" x 6' pieces of MDX board. I selected MDX for the straight edges. The same thing could be done with good straight pieces of plywood. I used 6' lengths because this was the length of my pickup bed (very scientific). I used 2" spacers at the ends and the middle and screwed 1" x 2" pieces of cedar (cuz that is what I had) across both ends to maintain the template. I went so far as adding 2 cheap handles for moving the template, but the crosspieces could be used for this purpose. That was fast and easy and cheap, about \$6 for the boards and \$5 for the handles.

The first step was chalk-lining all the lines of the court. We chalk-lined the outside of the exterior lines and the outside edge of the non-volley line. We then simply laid the template on the chalk-lines so the painted area was inside and sprayed the gap. We would leapfrog the template, overlap slightly and repeat. With enough workers, and fewer supervisors, we could have started the painting as soon as the chalk-lines were laid down. (However, from experience, I would be sure the court was correct before beginning the painting - Don't ask!) We ended up masking the last foot of the corners of the court to prevent overspray. In order for the paint to dry, we painted one side, moved to the other side, then went to the non-volley line and then to the end lines. The painting went as fast as the measuring and chalk-lining.

Aligning template with chalk-line	Painting
	

The template provided very clean and straight lines, with no overspray, even though there was a small breeze at times. If the court needs to be repainted, this could be done with 1 or 2 people in a short time. If you are looking for good clean lines on old courts, this method might work for you.