



There are a number of ways to set up a pickleball court, ranging from temporary markers to a permanent installation. PicklePave is one way to create a professional-grade court, and you can either hire a contractor to apply it or use it yourself.

The following guidelines address several ways to create a court based on feedback from fellow players. We hope these suggestions will assist you with your project.

Choices for Marking Lines

Sometimes you may find yourself needing to set up an impromptu court. What's the best way to use a street or parking lot for pickleball, and how should you tape a tennis court or gym floor? If you're wondering, "Where do I start?" we've got you covered!

All outdoor courts should be oriented north-south. See the "Suggestions for Outdoor Courts" section on the [USAPA's Court Dimensions page](#) for the reasons why you should avoid an east-west court.

Outdoors

- [Court Link Chalk](#) can last several weeks without heavy rain.
- Court tape works well if your surface is not too rough and is thoroughly cleaned first. There are a few options available depending on your court type: [Court Line Tape \(Masking\)](#), [Heavy Duty Court Tape](#) or [Outdoor Cloth Court Tape](#). Tape could leave residue when it's removed, so as with any bonding agent, we suggest testing tape on a small patch of court surface prior to application to determine ease of removal.
- Vinyl EZ Court Lines such as those from [Wilson](#) or [Oncourt Offcourt](#) work for a demo game.
- [California Sports Surfaces Sanded Acrylic Line Paint](#) and [Line Rite Tape Sealer](#) offer a professional installation.

Indoors

- Generally, tape will be your best option for do-it-yourselfers. See above for tape choices.

Supply Quantities

- If you use tape, you'll need 198 feet per court. The tape options above come in 200-foot rolls.
- If you use chalk, you'll need two chalk sticks per court.
- If you use vinyl court lines, you should use two sets per court for easier visibility.
- If you paint a full court, you'll generally need 20 gallons of [PicklePave Court Surfacing](#) acrylic coating and 1 gallon of [Line Marking Paint](#). PicklePave's spread-rate is about 90 sq. ft. per gallon using a 3/4" nap roller on a textured asphalt surface. Therefore, 20 gallons will allow for two coats of PicklePave per court on either asphalt or concrete surfaces. Both surfacing products can be purchased online and delivered to your court.

Paint Considerations

- 100% acrylic paint works best on outdoor court surfaces. [PicklePave Court Surfacing](#) is specifically designed for pickleball courts.

Painting Outdoor Pickleball Court Boundaries

If you decide to paint court lines, you should use 2" wide tape so the line paint will not mar the court surface. Start early in the morning and let the tape stay down for a couple hours after the paint is applied so it doesn't run.

If you're painting pickleball court lines on a tennis court to make it a multipurpose court, don't forget to tape over the tennis lines so they remain the predominant line. You should leave a gap of 2 or 3 inches where any lines intersect between the two courts.

Place all your painting supplies and equipment on a tarp or large piece of cardboard so you don't get extra paint on the court surface. If a taping machine will be used, you must measure differently than you might think.

Do **not** lay out the snap line based on the outside dimensions (20 × 44 ft) of the court and use a tape machine centered on those lines. If you do, your court will not have the sidelines and non-volley zone line in the right location. Instead, lay out the string based on a 19'10" width and 43'10" length. Lay out the string for the non-volley zone line using 6'11" from the net centerline.

Adjust your measurements so the outside edge of the painted line conforms to the final court dimensions. Re-measure the entire court before putting the paint on the court surface. Use a pencil, not chalk, to mark the locations for all end points. Use two 100' metal tape measures to measure the outside dimensions and diagonals to make sure the boundaries are properly squared off.

For the outside dimensions, the baseline to baseline diagonal distance and half court (net to baseline corner) distances differ from those based on the tape machine distances. Use the table below to pick the appropriate lengths.

<u>Court size</u>	<u>Baseline/Baseline</u>	<u>Net/Baseline</u>
20'x44'	48 ft. 3 ¹ / ₁₆ in	29 ft. 8 ¹ / ₁₆ in
19'10" x 43'10"	48 ft. 1 in	29 ft. 6 ¹ / ₁₆ in

Tape machines come with a centered rod that runs over and uses the snap line as a guide. Use extra tape to hold the snap line in place. Extend the snap line about 2 feet beyond the actual court lines to start and keep the tape machine lined up.

Some rough square foot measurements per pickleball court are:

Non-volley zone (kitchen) - 280 square feet
Service courts - 600 square feet
2" lines - 33 square feet

You can apply [Line Rite Tape Sealer](#) before the paint goes down. The tape sealer will make the lines very sharp by sealing the area left between the tape and the court surface to keep the paint from wicking into that space. After taping the lines, use the sealer and let it dry before applying the line paint.

To aid in painting the 2" boundary lines, use a quart squeeze bottle with a tip. It's very easy for one person to squeeze the paint out and a second to go over it with either a 3" brush or small roller attached to a pole. If you use a portable net on your pickleball court, you can place 3 inch "tick" marks inside the side lines so you know where to put the net. Another tick mark in the center of the court will help you locate the center post. You don't need to paint a center line across the entire court for the net.

Let the paint dry for a full 24 hours before use. Then have fun!

Three people measuring, re-measuring, taping and painting lines for 2 courts take about 6 hours. An alternative to doing everything at once would be to measure and tape in a single day. Measure again the next morning and double check with a clear head.

Other Lining Options

Another option is to create a "masking board" instead of using tape. Here's how:

Chalk the line and assemble two 12-foot 1x4 boards. Use 2 small cleats to space them 2 inches apart. This assembly will be your "masking board." Purchase striping paint in a can and spray it between the boards, moving the masking board down as you proceed.

Note: This method can be tricky since it may be difficult to locate 12-foot boards that are perfectly straight.

Choices for Barriers (Ball Containment)

If you are playing in a street, parking lot or other open space that is not fenced in, you will spend a lot of time chasing balls. To contain your balls, you might want to put up some temporary fencing.

Orange plastic construction fencing works well. It's about \$30 for 100 feet from home improvement stores. Green plastic garden fencing can be a substitute since you can zip-tie the sections together.