

Coat Your Garage Floor with Epoxy This Weekend



Step	Details	Important Notes
Surface Preparation	Remove all items from the garage and sweep thoroughly. Address grease, oil, or chemical stains with a concrete degreaser. Inspect for cracks and imperfections and fill them with a concrete patching compound. Clean and ensure the surface is even.	Fresh concrete should cure for at least 28–30 days before applying epoxy.
Etching or Grinding	Apply a concrete/masonry cleaner or etcher, scrub with a stiff brush, rinse thoroughly, and allow the floor to dry completely. If the floor has an old coating, grinding is recommended for better adhesion.	Surface should feel like medium-grit sandpaper and be free of loose particles.
Moisture Testing	Use the plastic-square method to check for moisture levels over 24–48 hours. Proper moisture levels are critical to successful epoxy application.	Moisture issues may require applying a moisture-barrier primer.
Epoxy Selection	Choose from three main types—water-based epoxy for easy application, solvent-based epoxy for stronger adhesion, or 100% solids for professional-grade durability. Water-based epoxy is the most DIY-friendly for a weekend project, while higher-grade options like Polycuramine offer enhanced performance.	Always use a true two-part epoxy (resin + hardener) and avoid single-part epoxy paint or acrylic floor paint for long-term durability.
Application	Mix epoxy components (resin and hardener) as directed. Apply the first coat while maintaining a wet edge. For a second coat, ensure the first coat is fully cured, and if adding decorative flakes, do so while the first coat is wet.	Maintain optimal temperature and ventilation during application (60°F–85°F) and use proper protective gear like gloves and eyewear.
Cure Time	Allow light foot traffic after 12-24 hours and vehicle use after 48-72 hours. Full cure takes 7+ days, depending on the product.	Avoid disrupting the curing process by maintaining airflow and monitoring room temperature and humidity.
Maintenance	Sweep regularly and mop with a pH-neutral cleaner. Avoid acidic or highly alkaline cleaners. Address stains or spills immediately. Monitor for signs of wear and make touch-up repairs as needed.	Proper care extends epoxy lifespan up to 20 years. Use floor mats under heavy equipment and vehicle tires to prevent damage.