

7 Crucial Tips WHEN INSTALLING RESINOUS FLOORING

Epoxy floors are commonly used in industrial and commercial spaces. They can be a durable, long-lasting solution for facilities of all kinds. However if epoxy flooring isn't installed properly, it may not stand up to heavy foot traffic, rubber-tired vehicles, or chemical spills.

Based on our experience, here are the top seven reasons why epoxy floors fail:

1 Improper Surface Preparation

Before applying epoxy flooring, the underlying concrete must be clean, dry, and dust-free. In addition, the surface must have a textured profile. To help create a mechanical bond, concrete must always be profiled by diamond grinding, shot blasting, scarifying, or water blasting.

2 Improper Conditions

Relative humidity (RH) levels in concrete are a major obstacle to epoxy floor installations. However, solutions exist to mitigate elevated RH in concrete. The surface must be completely dry! This may sound obvious, but it means no dripping pipes or taps.

3 Contaminated Floors

Contaminated floors are a common problem in food and beverage manufacturing facilities, industrial warehouses, and car service facilities. Before an epoxy coating can be installed, all oils, greases, and residues must be properly cleaned.



4 Weak Substrate

Epoxy coatings can delaminate from the underlying substrate when the epoxy floor product is much stronger than the underlying concrete. If concrete is low quality, the weak concrete detaches from itself – this gives the false impression that the epoxy coating has separated from the concrete substrate.

5 Incompatible Surfaces

The substrate must be compatible with epoxies in terms of both adhesion and tensile strength. Important factors are the substrate's relative humidity and salt levels. In situations where this information is unavailable, it's a good idea to conduct moisture testing and core the concrete for further analysis.

6 Primer Problems

All too often, people assume that epoxy coatings will simply bond to the substrate without any primer, or they use the incorrect primer. Since industrial floors face heavy wear and tear, it's essential to always prime surfaces before applying a coating. *(Note that there are certain instances where products like cementitious urethane mortars can be applied with no primer or base coat. An expert can help determine what is needed for your situation.)*

7 Improper Curing Conditions

The curing process is an important part of a successful epoxy flooring project. Factors like ambient environmental conditions, relative humidity, dew point, and air and substrate temperatures all must be taken into consideration.

Trust the **EXPERTS**

Black Bear Coatings & Concrete has unparalleled experience with epoxy, urethane mortars, and specialty coatings. We partner with clients to understand each site's unique environmental conditions, as well as requirements related to business operations, project timeframes, and budgets. Black Bear Coatings & Concrete takes a team approach to value engineer the best epoxy floor solutions for customers in industries ranging from manufacturing to healthcare, restaurants and food service, pharmaceuticals, and more.



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