

The Truth About Epoxy Garage Floors: What Every Homeowner Should Know



Your garage is one of the most used spaces in your home — yet often the most overlooked. Between New England winters, salt, car fluids, and daily wear, concrete floors take a beating. That's where epoxy flooring comes in. But not all epoxy floors (and not all installers) are created equal. At **Revel Garage Solutions**, we want you to know exactly what you're investing in because the right system can last for decades, while the wrong one can start peeling within months.

WHAT MAKES A BEST PRACTICE COATING? The Foundation of a Long-Lasting Floor

Epoxy flooring isn't paint — it's a professional-grade resin coating system that bonds directly to your concrete, creating a rock-solid surface that resists damage, stains, and cracking that can last a lifetime when best practices are followed.

RESIN COATINGS VS. PAINT

- **Unmatched adhesion:** It bonds tightly to your floor, creating a foundation that won't lift or peel.
- **Chemical & stain resistance:** Spills, salt, and oil? No problem.
- **Durability:** Built to handle daily traffic, tools, bikes, and vehicles without chipping or wearing out.



So you know this is not paint.....now what? What few people know is that this is not a regulated industry and anyone can install whatever they want regardless whether they know better or have your best interests in mind.

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO PROPERLY INSTALL A RESIN-BASED COATING SYSTEM?

- **Assessing the Space:** Inspecting for areas of concern to select the right system for your project.
- **Preparing the surface properly:** to prevent hot tire pickup (a common failure for improperly prepped floors)
- **Correcting defects:** repairing cracks, divots and chips
- **Selecting the right materials for the job:** Different resins have different final properties when cured and it is up to the installer to select the correct materials for each layer (primer, base coat, clear or top coat).

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR WHEN WE ASSESS YOUR SPACE DURING A CONSULTATION?

- Access restrictions (for example, if a basement is being coated)
- Evidence of pitting or spalling, cracks and other relevant damage before we lay coating system
- Moisture vapor evidence based on visible efflorescence and position of the slab relative to the grade—these factors will inform which system is best for your project (standard primer, moisture primer, urethane floor or alternate modular tile). High levels of moisture vapor can cause resin floors to separate from the concrete if steps are not taken to use the right materials during the install process. This is especially a concern in New England with our numerous older homes and wet climate.

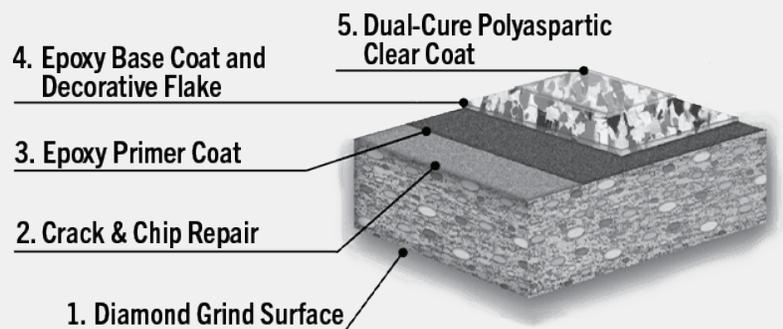
THE REVEL PROCESS: Built to Last

- 1. Prep & Grind:** We diamond-grind every surface to open the pores of the concrete so that the first layer of resin absorbs into the concrete's capillaries. Please note: pressure washing or acid etching are insufficient and a red flag. If an installer offers to do this, walk away.
- 2. Repair & Patch:** Any cracks or pits are filled and permanently corrected before laying any resin.
- 3. Epoxy Primer:** ([Insert primer details here](#))

4. Epoxy Basecoat & Decorative Broadcast:

Industrial-grade epoxy creates a strong foundation. Choose your broadcast material and color blend for custom style.

5. Polyaspartic Topcoat: UV-stable, protective, and glossy finish that seals the deal.



THE MAGIC TOPCOAT: Polyaspartic Protection

Once your epoxy base is in place, we finish it with a polyaspartic topcoat — the key to long-term beauty and protection.

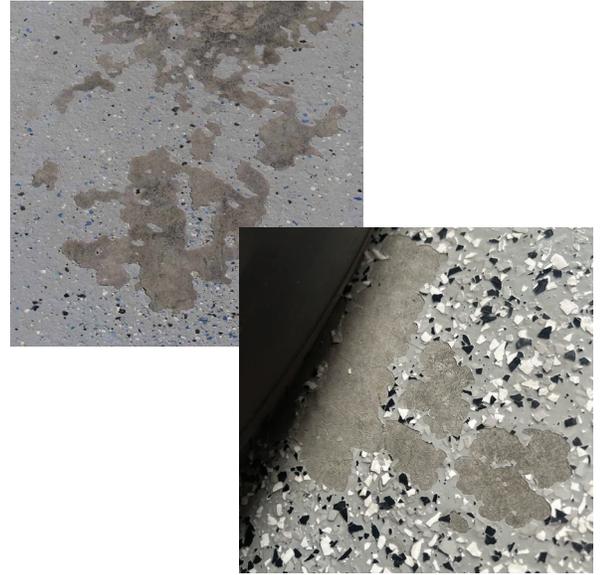
- Scratch & abrasion resistance: Keeps your floor looking brand new, even under daily wear.
- UV stability: Won't yellow or fade in sunlight.
- Fast cure time: Walk on it quickly, without sacrificing strength.
- Beautiful finish: That glossy, showroom-worthy look without the maintenance headache.



Why “ONE-DAY FLOORS” Don’t Last

You’ve probably seen ads promising a new garage floor in just one day. Sounds great, until it starts peeling by next season. Here’s what they don’t tell you:

- One-day floors do not use a primer
 - Rushed prep = poor adhesion. Skipping proper grinding and moisture testing means coatings won’t bond well.
 - Wrong product in the wrong place. Polyaspartic is great as a topcoat, not as a basecoat.
 - No room for error. One-day systems cure so fast there’s no time to fix bubbles, dust, or thickness issues.
 - Temperature sensitivity. New England garages aren’t controlled environments, humidity and cold can ruin fast-cure systems.
- [note about polyurea](#)



WHY WE USE A PRIMER

THE REASONS WE USE A DEDICATED LAYER OF RESIN AS A PRIMER

- An installer’s primary responsibility is getting a bond with the concrete that is consistent and durable, avoiding common failure points. This means having a consistent absorption depth across the entire floor. Anywhere that the first layer of resin doesn’t absorb into the concrete capillaries to the specified depth is where the floor is most likely to debond (a failure.)
- If you only use one first coat (some will refer to it as an all-in-one primer and base coat), when you throw the decorative broadcast material into that coat, that broadcast material is a three-dimensional object which will displace some of the thin resin and change how much that layer absorbs into the concrete, or create areas of inconsistent bonding. Use of a primer gives us a dedicated layer for absorbing into the concrete, and then we lay a second coat of resin as a base coat, which is what we broadcast the decorative material into.
- Additionally, concrete outgasses when the first layer of liquid resin absorbs into the surface. This is a predictable phenomenon. When the liquid resin cures into a solid, those outgassing air bubbles form pinholes in the first layer you install. That occurs in the primer, and then we install a base coat over the primer. Because the base coat is not absorbing into the concrete, it does not cause new outgassing bubbles, and it seals in the existing pin holes. If we did not do this, over long term use of the floor, water would find its way into the pinholes and get under the system, causing dime-to-quarter sized bubbles in the floor (this is another failure that can occur if a primer is not used.)

A primer serves an important function in floor coatings, but not all companies can or choose to offer a primer in their systems. As we mentioned earlier, this industry is not regulated (unlike plumbing or electrical, for example) and anyone can install any product they choose.



WHO DOESN'T USE A PRIMER AND WHY?

1. Installers looking to compete solely on price might skip the primer, since you don't see it as part of the finished system and you wouldn't know if it was there unless you're a well-educated buyer.

2. Installers who mean well but don't know better, often GC's or painters who are trying to offer an additional service but don't have the specialty knowledge to know they are shooting themselves and you in the foot in terms of reliability, will often buy the consumer-grade kits from paint supplies that do not include a primer.

3. One day flooring companies - in order to install a floor in a day, it is not possible to include a primer because of cure time restrictions. This is the tradeoff for a one-day installation, and it has a carry-on effect of reducing reliability

Long story short: a dedicated primer layer is a necessary step, and we will not install a floor without one. Depending on your floor condition, you might hear us refer to a standard primer, a moisture-mitigation primer, or a thicker urethane primer for badly damaged floors.



WHY HOMEOWNERS TRUST REVEL

- Trained technicians with decades of combined experience.
- Free design consultations and transparent quotes.
- Floors backed by product and workmanship warranties.
- Locally owned and operated in Wilmington, MA.
- Proudly serving Eastern Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire homeowners year-round — yes, even in winter!



Choosing Your Ideal Floor

Decorative Finish Options To Suite Your Needs



REV-FLAKE

REV-GUARD

REV-QUARTZ



EASIER TO CLEAN
(SMOOTHER)

MAXIMUM ANTI-SLIP
(MORE TEXTURED)

REV-FLAKE™

COLOR & FLAKE CHOICES

Scan here to view
installed photos



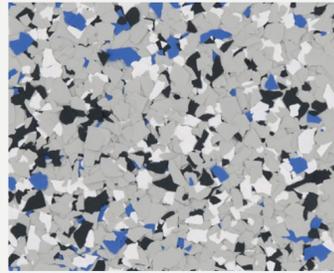
[OR CLICK HERE](#)



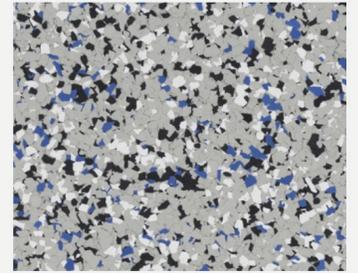
Shoreline 1/4



Shoreline 1/8



Cobalt Granite 1/4



Cobalt Granite 1/8



Madras 1/4



Madras 1/8



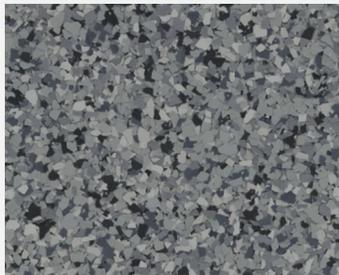
Tidal Wave 1/4



Tidal Wave 1/8



Nightfall 1/4



Nightfall 1/8



Dovetail 1/4



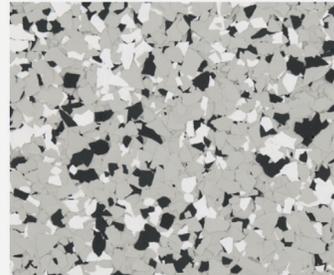
Dovetail 1/8



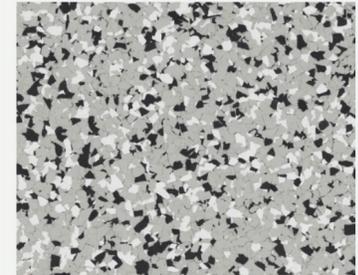
Stonehenge 1/4



Stonehenge 1/8

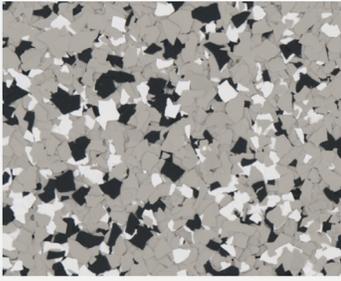


Granite 1/4

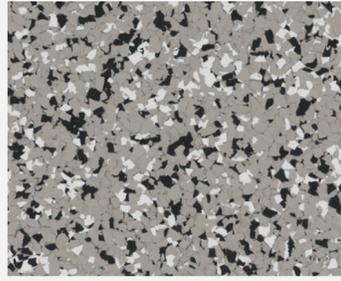


Granite 1/8





Stone Gray 1/4



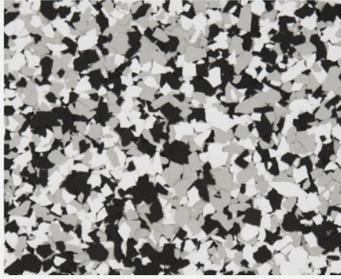
Stone Gray 1/8



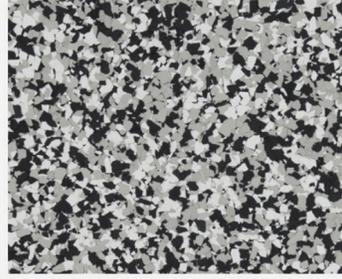
Cabin Fever 1/4



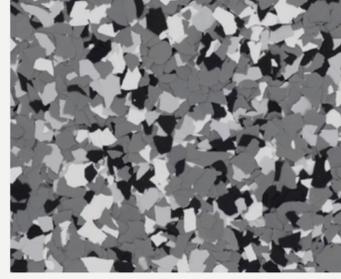
Cabin Fever 1/8



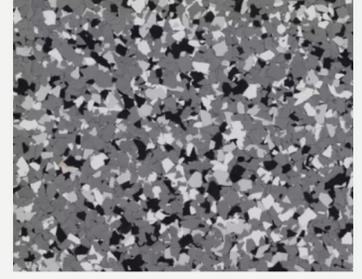
Domino 1/4



Domino 1/8



Wombat 1/4



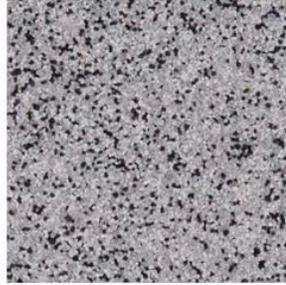
Wombat 1/8

REV-QUARTZ™

OUR MOST POPULAR COLORS



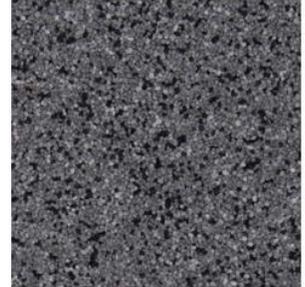
Quicksand
QB-1006



Dalmatian
QB-1007



Eclipse
QB-1008



Twilight
QB-1010

FULL LIST OF QUARTZ COLOR BLENDS



Crystal
QB-1001



Tundra
QB-1002



Solstice
QB-1003



Biscuit
QB-1013



Davenport
QB-1014



Oyster
QB-1004



Oxford
QB-1005



Quicksand
QB-1006



Tradewinds
QB-1016



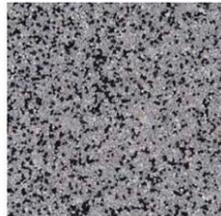
Aquarium
QB-1017



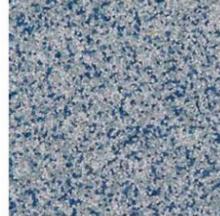
Dalmatian
QB-1007



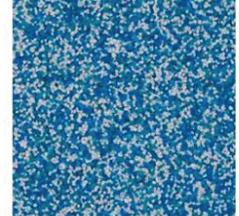
Eclipse
QB-1008



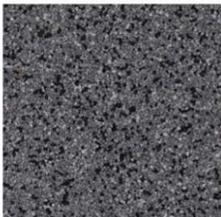
Matrix
QB-1009



Marina
QB-1019



Clearwater
QB-1020



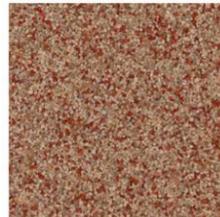
Twilight
QB-1010



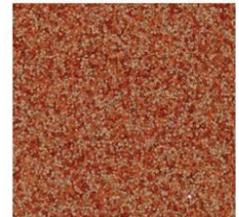
Breaking Dawn
QB-1011



Coconut
QB-1012



Cinnamon
QB-1023



Firehouse
QB-1024



Driftwood
QB-1015



New Moon
QB-1018



Avocado
QB-1022



Lilac
QB-1026



REV-GUARD™

REV-GUARD COLOR CHOICES



BLACK



METAL GRAY



MEDIUM GRAY



SABLE GRAY



TILE BROWN



MOCHA



TAN



DOVER BEIGE



FORD BLUE



SAFETY RED



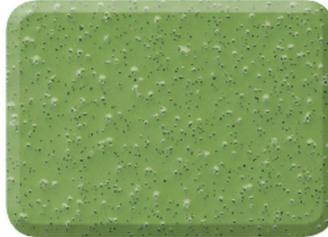
SAFETY YELLOW



WHITE



SKY BLUE



JADE GREEN

The Finishing Touches

Because Fit and Finish Matters

Every garage is unique, and depending on the buildout of your garage and its condition, some of the items may not be relevant for your project. However, often these items are included as part of the scope of work above and beyond the coating of the floor itself. These items may sometimes be necessary, or optional to provide a higher level of fit and finish, but will contribute to costs beyond the basic square foot price of a floor.

STEM WALLS

Sometimes referred to as foundation walls, knee walls, concrete curbs, etc., stem walls are a part of your home's foundation, and in a garage that is at or above ground level, you will often see them ranging in height from almost nothing to 4' tall. The floor is a separate piece of concrete from the walls, and so for most people, the floor is the focal point and what they think of coating when they call us. However, we will frequently match the coating/flaking system up onto the exposed stem walls, paint them a complementary light gray if they're in poor condition, exceptionally tall or if you've selected a Rev-Quartz floor or even install decorative baseboard trim over them for the ultimate finished look.



When the stem walls are less than a foot, we will typically coat the entire stem wall including the horizontal top surface. When the stem walls are more than a foot, we will often snap a chalk line and create a faux baseboard appearance, or paint them with a concrete paint. While it is possible to coat and flake the full height of stem walls taller than a foot, it is less common, and because it's a square foot cost, costs can quickly be more than you might expect.

A few notes: the condition of your stem walls must be acceptable with minimal efflorescence (the white mineral deposit present on the interior of concrete when there is significant moisture vapor pressure present) for us to consider coating them, the stem walls by nature will have a rougher finished texture than the floor, and the warranty does not apply to stem wall surfaces. This cost to coat and flake is typically the same or similar square foot cost as your floor, depending on the condition, and costs vary for painting or more extreme vertical surface repairs. Coating or painting would typically be done on the same day as your floor install, while repairs and carpentry work would require a separate day.

APRONS

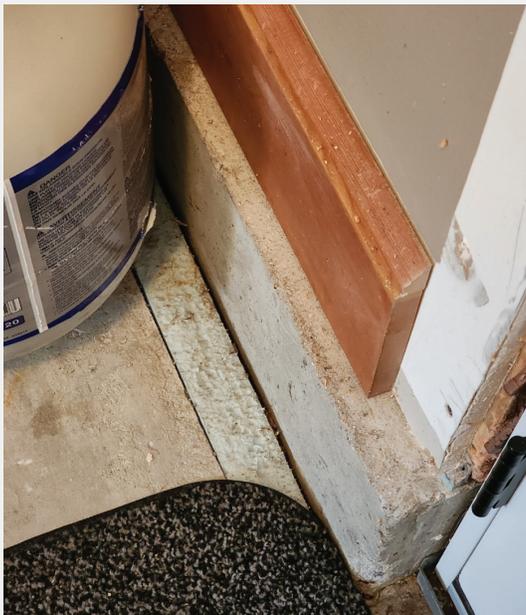
The apron of your garage is the area of the concrete floor that continues out beyond the garage door seal, often 6-9". No matter the scenario, we are not going to continue the resin flooring system beyond the interior of the garage as a reliability best practice.

This means that when your apron is in good shape and is currently presentable, we will not make any alterations to that part of the floor, and we will cut a keyed control joint that gives us an hidden slot to roll the front edge of the product into, maximizing durability. When the area beyond that line is in poor shape, or simply needs to be refreshed, we can either dress it with a decorative brushed Ardex coating, or we can apply more extensive repairs first and then continue with the Ardex coating as a finished surface.

This is a unique and consistent way to deal with an exterior part of your home where people are used to seeing a concrete finish, and allows us to maintain the integrity of the resin coating by applying it only to the interior surface of your floor. This work would typically take place on a day separate from the flooring install, and unlike the garage flooring can only be installed when temperatures are reliably above 40 degrees Fahrenheit, so we will hold off on doing this component of the work from mid-November to mid-March unless there are unseasonably warm conditions.



EXPANSION JOINTS



Expansion joints are seams between sections of concrete that naturally expand and contract as you go through seasonal temperature/humidity changes. In the context of your garage, this refers to the perimeter of the floor where it meets the concrete stem walls. This crack is sometimes seamless, but often will have a small or uneven crack or joint that you may not notice when your floor is uncoated, but would draw your attention when your beautiful new floor is coated. We can either leave that joint or crack as-is if it seamless, caulk it with an elastomeric caulking to prevent water/debris from accumulating, or in cases where foam insulation is visible, cut down the foam insulation to below surface level and use an epoxy slurry to provide a seamless look to the foundation walls. Depending on the selection, this can either be done during floor prep or may take an additional day in advance of the floor install.

CONTROL JOINTS

Control joints are pre-indicated lines that are added when the builder pours your garage concrete floor. These lines will either be saw-cut (preferred) or plastic strips that are inserted just below the surface level, where the concrete then cracks (this can be less visually pleasing and the cracks are often erratic.) If the lines are saw cut, they are typically visually pleasing and functional, so we will leave them as-is and you will still see them as part of the finished surface. When they are plastic strip control joints, often they are ugly cracks that customers would prefer to have sealed/repared before installing the epoxy floor. To correct them, we actually have to cut out the plastic strip, and then fill that cut line with crack repair material. This takes additional time and materials, and would be in addition to your basic floor cost. On rare occasions, we might need to cut new control joints where they don't exist to manage problematic cracking, but that is atypical and in specific scenarios only. This would typically be done during the prep phase of a floor installation and would not add a day to the install timing.



ADDITIONAL CLEAR COAT (Showroom Finish)



When the most smooth surface possible is desired, it is possible to further smooth the finished texture of a floor beyond what a standard single clear coat will already do. This is most typically done in scenarios where wet shoes will not be present such as a showroom or basement floor, as this does reduce the anti-slip capacity of our grip additive material. In addition to being an added cost, this also adds a day to the install of a floor.

ADDITIONAL REFRESHERS FOR YOUR GARAGE SPACE

Service or replace your garage doors with **Revel Garage Solutions** to improve the curb appeal of your home and eliminate problematic, slow or noisy motor function, or rusted out vertical tracks that would otherwise look bad against your new garage floor. Most customers will often benefit from our garage door **Preventative Maintenance Program** - ask your garage consultant if that is appropriate for your scenario.



Give it a fresh coat of paint! It's amazing what fresh paint does to make the garage feel new. This is something you can do separately through your painter, or we can recommend a qualified one to you.

Organize your garage with Revel Garage Solutions. Whether you are future proofing your garage for a growing family or minimizing/downsizing now that kids are out of the house, giving each thing a dedicated home lowers your stress levels when you come and go from the garage every day.



Update the lighting. Just like a fresh coat of paint, replacing those old single-bulb housings on your ceiling with modern 4' LED fixtures makes a drastic difference. This can be accomplished with your electrician, or we may be able to recommend one to you depending on your location. The rule of thumb in the garage is 50 lumens of total lighting output per square foot of your garage space for it to feel like a well-lit space!

READY TO LEARN MORE?

Get the facts before you commit — and avoid costly mistakes down the road.

When you're ready, you can call our team or book directly online for a free in-home quote.

[I'm Ready to Book My FREE Consultation](#)



Revel Garage Solutions flooring is backed by a **LIMITED LIFETIME RESIDENTIAL WARRANTY** against chipping, peeling, and delamination. See warranty for full details.

★ COMPREHENSIVE GARAGE SOLUTIONS

From doors to flooring and storage, we independently source the best products to meet your garage needs.

★ UNMATCHED CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

From consultation to design to installation, our friendly, knowledgeable team is dedicated to making your garage transformation seamless and stress-free.

★ WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK

Revel backs you up with a comprehensive 3 year warranty on everything we install, plus a limited LIFETIME warranty on select flooring, cabinetry and garage doors.