

HOW TO PREP CONCRETE FOR EPOXY & OTHER COATINGS

Tools: Power washer, rubber boots, eyewear, broom, muriatic acid, (purchased at hardware stores) baking soda

Time: Total prep time for a 500 sq. ft. garage 2-3 hours



THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP. To achieve a professional result you need proper floor prep. You may need some additional tools. These can be located at hardware and paint stores, Home Depot, Lowes, and equipment rental stores. **NEVER SKIP THIS STEP.** Concrete needs to be clean and have a good profile for epoxy to bond properly. **If possible prepare concrete by shot blast or grinding.** If not available, the method below is the easiest and least expensive way to achieve proper prep.

STEP 1

REMOVE ALL LOOSE DIRT WASH BY HOSE

Remove loose dirt by sweeping or vacuum. Apply cleaning solution by mop, scrubbing entire area. Especially work areas with heavy soil. Wash concrete using a hose and brush. Using a squeegee or broom remove excess water and let dry 15 minutes.

STEP 2

APPLY MURIATIC ACID

Muriatic acid is safe and effective for profiling concrete. **Use protective eyewear and rubber boots before applying muriatic acid. ALWAYS** pour acid into water.

1. Fill a 5 gallon bucket with 3 gallons water. Add 1 gallon muriatic acid slowly. Mix more if needed. Each batch = 250 sq. ft. @ 3:1
2. Apply mixture with a mop or broom over entire concrete surface Let sit 20 minutes. A foaming action will be observed as you apply.

STEP 3

NEUTRALIZE ACID RINSE CONCRETE

Use baking soda to neutralize acid. Spread a light coat of baking soda over entire concrete surface. Let sit for a few minutes. Rinse surface using a hose, broom or squeegee any excess water. Let dry 30 minutes.

Purchase: 1 large box per 250 sq. ft. (purchase at any grocery)

STEP 4

POWER WASH CONCRETE

IMPORTANT STEP. Power washing is the final step to proper prep. It is important that all concrete be washed carefully and slowly to remove any residue left from the muriatic acid. Use the turbo tip (strongest pressure) inserted at the end of the power washer wand. Slowly pass over the concrete in a circular motion removing any visible residue.

Time: 1 hour per 500 sq. ft. (washing speed)

STEP 5

LET CONCRETE DRY 24 HOURS

Allow concrete to dry for 24 hours. For climates that have additional humidity it may require 48 hours. Last step **MOISTURE TEST THE CONCRETE** (see step 6)

STEP 6

MOISTURE TEST THE CONCRETE

Apply clear plastic (size: 1 sq. ft. x 1 sq. ft.) to the concrete floor. Attach tape across all four sides to hold. Allow 24 hours to see if moisture appears below the plastic.

1. **If no moisture appears begin applying epoxy.**
2. **If moisture does appear you may need to apply a moisture barrer primer, Epoxydoc DOC 500 before applying epoxy.**

You can find DOC 500 under epoxies on the home page



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For more information on concrete repair visit our blog

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