

## Garage Floor Paint Revisited

Back in January 2005, I wrote about my experience with epoxy coating my garage floor the previous August (2004). It's now been two years on the floor and a year and half of working my project car on top of it so time for an update.

Let's get to the bottom line and then I'll back it up with details. I went with one of the custom – read expensive – two part epoxies with a clear UV coat on top of it by a company back east. As beautiful as it was in the beginning, it is not worth the money for a working garage in bright, sunny California where the garage opening faces west.

### Lesson's Learned:

- Always remember this is paint! I think I said that in the original article but the reality is you drop a wrench it chips, you drop a rear end it really chips. There's no getting around it so be ready... I forecasted this going in so was not upset by this as occasionally I just apply a little touchup and go on with life.
- Floor jacks on "heavy" vehicles will roll up the floor. Funny, I've used the same jack on my project car as I moved it around and repositioned it with no problems at all, but when I recently lifted my Dodge Durango to replace the front shocks, the paint rolled right up in two neat parallel lines. Of course my Durango weighs in at over 4,000 lbs while my project car is less than 1,500 right now less the engine.
- The UV protective coat never counted on direct California sun shine. The instructions gave directions to paint it out to the edge of the garage door but not a clear instruction of what that meant or the consequences. I took it to the end of the slab which extends past the garage door by about four inches. What I now have is four inches of a dirty brown, flaking paint where the garage door line is to the slab edge. The UV coating did nothing except turn brown over time and is now flaking off the grey epoxy. I'm not sure what will happen to the grey epoxy once the clear is all gone but I guess I'll find out.
- Overall color of the floor is consistent based on when it was laid down. So that means when I do major touch up – see floor jack tracks above – that spot is brighter and cleaner than the rest of the floor. Makes for a patchwork look but I guess eventually it will all catch up.



Bottom line... If you're creating a "show garage" then this is probably still the way to go as you probably won't be wrenching on it or have the garage doors open all weekend as you work on your project car. If your like me – after the lessons learned – go to Home Depot and get the best garage floor epoxy you can get and roll it on for about a quarter of the price and it will be easier to touch up and still look better than bare, stained concrete.