

SHOPPING FOR A NEW FLOOR COATING?

HERE ARE 10 IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

...to ask every company during the estimating process

❏ Can you do a 1-day polyurea-polyaspartic coating installation?

The correct answer is: "We can, but we'd rather do it right." If moisture levels in your concrete exceed 1% (and most do), applying a 1-day polyurea-polyaspartic coating direct-to-concrete can lead to blistering and peeling. Because these systems use less material, about ½ a commercial-grade application, 1-day installations are less durable too. Contractors love 1-day installations because less material and less labor equal greater profit. But let the buyer beware.

We moisture-test all surfaces first. Based on your concrete conditions, we select a floor coating solution that best fits your needs, ensuring you get a durable, long-lasting floor coating.

❏ How and why do you test concrete moisture levels?

Although the visible signs of high moisture include white efflorescence and dark spots, all concrete retains moisture. As such, contractors must test moisture content (using calibrated meters) prior to the coating application. If moisture readings are high, only a moisture-mitigating primer will provide the substrate penetration needed to prevent delamination over time.

As a first step, we always assess moisture content using a calibrated SSPC-recommended Tramex moisture vapor transmission meter to determine the best primer coat for your unique space.

❏ What types of coatings do you use?

Your contractor should have access to all coating product types: epoxies, polyurethanes and polyurea-polyaspartics. Each coating type provides distinct advantages and disadvantages and should only be selected for use based on close assessment of your unique space.

We use Eco-Corflex industrial-grade epoxy, polyurethane and polyurea-polyaspartic coatings, developed, tested and improved over two decades of in-field use. Visit www.eco-corflex.com.

❏ What's the difference between an epoxy and polyurea-polyaspartic?

Epoxies can be applied thickly and are superb primer and color coats. Though highly durable, they offer low UV resistance and may chalk over time. Conversely, polyurea-polyaspartics are quick curing and provide extreme UV & chemical resistance...but aren't recommended for direct-to-concrete application. They're perfect as color and clear coats for garages and industrial settings.

Our line of Eco-Corflex industrial floor coatings includes a large selection of high-end epoxies and polyurea-polyaspartics.

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❶ How do you prepare the concrete?

The prospective contractor should use a professional diamond grinder to achieve the proper concrete surface profile (CSP). Degreasing and cleaning may also be required. Using acid etching with a floor buffing machine is an indicator of an amateur applicator.

We use professional diamond grinders with dust-reducing, OSHA-approved HEPA vacuums to minimize concrete (silica) dust on the job.

❷ How do you repair existing cracks in the concrete substrate?

Your contractor should know that there are two types of concrete: concrete that's cracked and concrete that's going to crack. Whether 30 days old or 30 years old, expansion and contraction will occur. Because of this, cracked concrete must be repaired with a flexible elastomeric filler to mitigate inevitable concrete shifting.

Our installation teams are highly trained in proper surface treatment and crack repair.

❸ Where can I find your technical data sheets for the products you're using?

A "technical data sheet" (TDS) is an industry-required document that describes the technical characteristics of a coating product. Beware of contractors that won't willingly provide TDS' when asked. For your own health and safety, you're entitled to see the TDS for every product used in your home or commercial space.

Technical data sheets (TDS) and safety data sheets (SDS) for all our products are available at <http://www.eco-corflex.com/data-sheets/>

❹ Does your company use zero- or low-VOC products?

Today's premium coatings are environmentally friendly. Unfortunately, many contractors still use "older" products with high-level volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Ensure your prospective contractor uses zero or low-VOC coatings as rated by an approved ASTM international test method. If the contractor doesn't know the VOC level, ask to see the TDS.

Our entire line of Eco-Corflex coating products is rated zero or low-VOC.

❺ Can your coatings be applied in extreme hot and cold temperatures?

When selecting a coating product for use, it's critical that prevailing environmental conditions be considered. Coatings are affected by temperature and humidity extremes, dew accumulation, and poor air circulation. Your contractor should be able to work year-round, but product knowledge is critical.

Our installation team is properly trained to select the right coating products for use under varying environmental conditions.

❻ What is your warranty?

Compare warranties offered by each contractor. Warranties can be notoriously vague and very limited in scope.

We offer comprehensive and competitive warranties for your peace of mind.