

## DIY Epoxy Solutions – 4 Easy Prep Steps to Prevent the Epoxy-lypse!

February 2015



*By Molly Keesling*

*Molly Keesling is a full-time college student studying business administration. In her time at UCoat It, she devoted herself to*

*researching epoxy floor applications and creating helpful guidelines for a do-it-yourself audience. Molly's work reflects her values of integrity, dedication and customer service excellence.*

*Outside of work and school, Molly enjoys playing roller hockey, baking, and is a dedicated Detroit sports fan. Molly has a passion for creative writing and an adaptive style that serves many audiences.*

*More of Molly's writing can be viewed on her LinkedIn profile – [www.linkedin.com/in/mollysuekeesling](http://www.linkedin.com/in/mollysuekeesling)*

**Important note: Not all epoxy products are the same. Be sure to consult the instructions of your particular brand before you begin preparation.** There are differences between products. The following are general preparation guidelines that apply to *most* epoxy floors. They are not specific to any one brand of epoxy.

### Step 1:

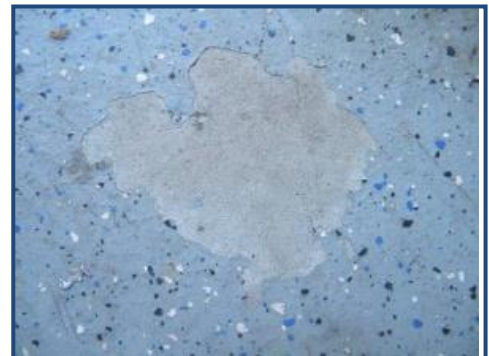
In order for an epoxy floor coating to last, it needs to form a proper bond. This means that there can be no barriers between the coating and the substrate. The first thing you should do to prepare your floor is check

for previous coatings. Any latex paints, tile glue/mastics, or other types of epoxies should be removed from the floor with a grinder or stripper before you begin your application. If your surface is smooth or non-porous, it will need to be scuff-sanded. The epoxy coat will use the texture to sink in and bond with your surface.

What is the epoxy-lypse? A disappointment, a disaster, a catastrophe! You've applied your epoxy coating; it has cured and looks pristine. You pull your car into your freshly finished garage for the first time only to find that the coating lifts and bubbles under your tires! Sounds familiar? This is the epoxy-lypse.

Have no fear, though, friend! In the following piece, you will find the solution to preventing the epoxy-lypse.

Before starting an epoxy project, it is important that you take the right steps to get your floor ready for the installation. Kind of like breakfast is the most important meal of the day, preparation is the most important step of the epoxy floor coating process. With proper preparation, you can avoid lifting, peeling, bubbling, and other misfortunes associated with the epoxy-lypse.



### Step 2:

Thoroughly clean your floor. Start by sweeping away any dust or debris. If you used a grinder or sanded the surface, perform a duct tape test. Test various parts of the floor by sticking a 3-inch piece of duct tape to the surface. If there are any particles stuck to the tape, sweep the floor again. It is also important to remove any

grease or oil stains from the surface. These substances, if not properly removed, act as a barrier between your floor and the epoxy coating, resulting in lifting and bubbling (the epoxy-lypse!). Remove any stains with a heavy-duty degreaser and a stiff bristled broom. Test the spots with small droplets of water. If water beads on the surface of the stain, degrease the area again.

### Step 3:

After you degrease the floor, mix a solution of muriatic acid and water. Perform an acid wash over the entire surface. The muriatic acid will neutralize the alkalinity of the surface, allowing the epoxy coating to bond in right away. Rinse the floor thoroughly. Perform another test with duct tape. If there is any debris stuck to the tape, perform steps 2 and 3 again.



### Step 4:

Most epoxy floor coatings need to adhere to a dry surface. UCoat It (pictured below) is a unique brand of epoxy that uses a damp application. If you are using UCoat It products, you may begin coating your floor immediately after your rinse away the muriatic acid, just be sure the floor is damp with no standing water. If you are using another brand of epoxy, consult the instructions. Most epoxies need a completely dry surface to adhere. Let your floor dry for a few hours before beginning the application process.

Improper preparation is the most common reason that epoxy floors fail. Prep steps are often skimmed over because they are time-consuming. The main focus should not be to complete your project quickly. Your floor will only look as good as the effort you put into the process. If you follow the steps listed above, the result will be a great looking, long lasting floor. By following these steps, you can prevent the epoxy-lypse!

