

DIY Epoxy Solutions – Hot-tire Pickup

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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.

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Epoxy coatings are commonly used on automotive floors. Being so, one of the most common questions you will hear from customers regarding epoxy is, “What about hot-tire pickup?” It seems as though everyone has heard of hot-tire pickup, but many homeowners aren’t aware of the exact cause – or how to prevent it. The following guidelines address the causes of hot-tire pickup and the necessary steps to prevent it from happening to you:

1. “Hot” Tires

It is a common misconception that hot tires will “melt” epoxy floor coatings and cause peeling when a car is moved. This is only half correct. The temperature of the tires does have a direct effect on peeling coatings, but the epoxy does not “melt.” Tires become hot while vehicles are driven. When they are parked on top of a garage floor epoxy they can cause the coat to peel. This happens because tires expand slightly when they

heat up, and contract as they cool. When the tires cool and contract on top of the floor coating, the resulting pull can strip the epoxy from the concrete.

2. Paraffin Buildup

The second possible cause of hot-tire pickup has to do with vehicles parking regularly on the concrete before the epoxy coating has been applied. Consistently parking hot tires in the same place can cause a buildup of paraffin over time. Paraffin is a waxy compound used in tire treatments. Paraffin can become embedded in the concrete, causing a barrier when the epoxy coating is installed. This barrier prevents epoxy from properly adhering to the surface, which can lead to lifting or peeling.

3. Prevention

The best way to safeguard your garage floor coating from experiencing hot-tire pickup is to remember the 4 P's: **Proper Preparation Prevents Pickup**. Adequate floor preparation is absolutely essential to quality adhesion and ensured life of your floor covering. To prepare your floor before an epoxy application, clean and degrease the surface. To remove paraffin buildup, use an acid wash followed by a light sanding of the area where the tires sit. Water test the surface. If water beads, there is still paraffin in the concrete and it must be acid washed and sanded a second time. Repeat the test. When the water is able to soak into the concrete, the paraffin has been sufficiently removed.

Another easy way to prevent hot-tire pickup is to purchase the correct product. [This article](#), published in the Journal of Decorative Concrete states that “*Acrylic sealers perform worse than epoxies and polyurethanes when it comes to resisting hot-tire pickup.*” This means that if you are worried about hot-tire pickup, you should choose a product with a urethane base rather than an acrylic one. You may also want to consider a top coat for your floor. Top coats are effective in preventing hot-tire pickup because they eliminate direct contact between the base coat and vehicle tires.

Prevention of hot-tire pickup can be mostly combatted by following the correct preparation steps before applying your epoxy floor coating. Selecting the right product is also a key factor. As a last resort, mats can be used under tires to keep your floor looking pristine. And remember, you can always refer to the 4 P’s: **Proper Preparation Prevents Pickup!**