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EPOXY VS. POLYUREA TIPS

We frequently have requests for the pros and cons and differences between Polyurea and Epoxy coatings for garage floors. Below please find some helpful information to assist with your purchasing decisions.

1. Both our SPGX one-part Polyurea and 100% solids www.armorcladepoxy.com coating systems with urethane topcoat are excellent and long-lasting coatings for garage and commercial floors.
2. SPGX Polyurea and Armorclad with the 2-part Military Grade Urethane topcoat have roughly comparable abrasion resistance and resistance to chemicals and common automotive fluids. One is not much 'better' than the other regarding chemical resistance.
3. Armorclad common 3-layer system with primer/100% solids epoxy/2-part Topcoat has an approximate total mil thickness of 20 mils. SPGX applies at approximately 4 mils/coat so an epoxy system is significantly thicker than polyurea. (A mil is 1/1000 of an inch, not a millimeter).
4. SPGX when applied at a single coat in clear or a color has a cost of approximately ½ of Armorclad 3-layer system. If using two coats of SPGX the total cost is about the same as an epoxy system.
5. Armorclad epoxy system takes 2-3 days to install to allow for cure times of the layers which can be problematic if there is no easy/safe way to store belongings out of the garage, or time is limited. Epoxy projects can be installed half one side, and then half the other side but unless there is a natural expansion joint or break in the floor the overlap may be very slightly noticeable, but this can be disguised by the use of the decorative flecks.
6. SPGX cures in 2-3 hours per coat so even a two layer job can be completed in a single day (as long as the floor is prepped in advance), and your belongings can go back inside the same day so if time is an issue, SPGX is an excellent choice.
7. SPGX cures down to about 45 degrees vs 55 degrees for epoxy, so if coating in colder temps the SPGX is a better choice.
8. All epoxies can yellow or discolor over time with a lot of sun exposure. SPGX being a Polyurea does not yellow, so if your garage doors are open a lot and face South or West, SPGX may be a better choice. Even though our topcoats have UV inhibitors in them, the light gets 'through' the clear topcoat and can cause discoloration below it on the epoxy. The UV inhibitors only protect the topcoat from yellowing. Neither coating should be applied beyond the garage door as they are not outdoor coatings.
9. Both epoxy and SPGX can handle decorative flecks. Epoxy, being thicker, allows the flecks to settle in a bit more to the coating and therefore the fleck texture is somewhat less noticeable with epoxy. Both epoxy and SPGX can be used for 'full broadcast' applications, but in both cases two coats of either clear SPGX or Military Grade topcoat are required on full broadcast of flecks.