PROS & CONS OF EPOXY, POLYURETHANE AND POLYUREA-POLYASPARTICS

PARAMETER	EPOXY	POLYURETHANE	POLYUREA-POLYASPARTIC
Cost	Inexpensive relative to Polyaspartic	Moderately expensive to expensive	Expensive
Gloss/Sheen	High gloss.	Variable sheens available (from matte to high gloss).	High gloss.
Chemical Resistance	Moderate to high chemical resistance.	High chemical resistance.	Extreme chemical resistance.
UV Resistance	Low UV resistance; ambers/chalks over time if exposed to sunlight.	High UV resistance.	Extreme UV resistance
Usability	Medium pot life. Moderate to difficult to apply. For experienced applicators only.	Slow to moderate cure rate, so relatively easy to apply over an epoxy-primed surface.	Short pot life, so difficult to apply. For experienced applicators only.
Odor	Low or medium odor (scent additive typically required for interior use).	Product dependentfrom low odor to highly odorous.	Low to high odor (not recommended for occupied interior use).
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)	Low VOC Hydro Epoxy to no VOC 100% Solids Epoxy.	Product dependent; from low to medium VOCs.	Ultra-low to no VOCs.
Moisture Resistance	Hydro Epoxy is highly resistant to moisture and is used as a moisture- mitigating primer coat.	Moisture resistant when cured but not designed for direct to concrete .	Moisture resistant when cured but not designed for direct to concrete .
Solids Content	100% solids epoxies; hydro epoxies have lower solids content (~70%).	Medium solids content (~50-70%).	High solids approaching 100%.
Thickness	Can be applied as thick or as thin as desired.	Only thin film builds up to 6 mil dry film thickness (DFT).	Thin to moderate film builds up to 12 mil dry film thickness (DFT).
Waiting Time Between Coats	4 – 24 hours for 100% Solids Epoxy and 12 – 24 for Hydro Epoxy.	6 – 24 hours.	1 – 2 hours.

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Return-to-Service (Foot Traffic)	24 hours.	24 hours.	24 hours.
Return-to-Service (Vehicular Traffic)	Long; up to 5 days.	Long; 4 - 7 days.	Quick; 48 – 96 hours.
Primary Usage	Primarily used as a primer, build and color coat. Interior installations only for color coat.	Primarily used as a color coat or topcoat where high UV, chemical and abrasion resistance is required.	Primarily used as a color coat or topcoat where high UV, chemical and abrasion resistance is required.
Pros & Cons	Produces an extremely durable coating. However, most 100% solid epoxies have a short "pot life" and "cook" in the pail and are not UV stable. Because of this, this product is best left to the professional installer. 100% solids can be used to repair and build uneven surfaces. Hydro epoxies provide deep substrate penetration and may be used to mitigate substrate moisture problems.	Older technology. Does not provide the binding strength or millage of an epoxy. But can be applied over an epoxy primer to provide a durable, application- friendly (long pot life), UV and stain resistant flooring. However, susceptible to plasticizer migration from tires creating stains, so never used where cars are parked for extended periods. Never to be applied direct to concrete.	The quick curing characteristic of a polyaspartic allows for 1-2 day installations that can be applied in colder (or hotter) temperatures. Prevents plasticizer migration and has very low VOCs. However, this coating type requires experienced applicators due to application time of 10 – 30 minutes and is more expensive than epoxies and polyurethanes. May be applied direct to concrete if moisture content is less than 1%
Installation Locales	Primarily used as a primer and/or color coat in interior spaces not exposed to UV light (warehouses, manufacturing facilities, parking lots, chemical storage areas, laboratories, airplane hangars, washrooms, showers, garages, basements).	May be used as a color coat for interior or exterior spaces. Never to be used direct to concrete and where vehicles are parked for extended periods (i.e., not for use in garages).	May be used as a color coat or clear coat in all applications, especially where extreme UV and chemical resistance is required. Excellent for garages and all industrial settings.

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