



**ONE-DAY,
HASSLE-FREE
INSTALL**

5 THINGS HOMEOWNERS SHOULD KNOW BEFORE PURCHASING CONCRETE COATINGS +20 QUESTIONS TO ASK

You want your concrete surface to look amazing, but you also want the process to be smooth, stress-free, and worth your money.

At TORQ Coatings, we've helped hundreds of homeowners transform their concrete surfaces with durable, beautiful coatings. But before you commit to a project, there are a few things you should absolutely know.

This guide covers the five most common concerns we hear from homeowners and how to make sure you get the result you want, without surprises.

 **844-TORQTIME**
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Service Areas >
Chicagoland

1. THE VALUE YOU'RE REALLY GETTING (AND WHY PRICE ALONE IS MISLEADING)

Not all concrete coatings are meant for Midwest conditions, and you will encounter different price points.

Epoxy systems typically cost less upfront. Multi-level polyurea and polyaspartic systems cost more initially, but they're engineered to handle salt pitting, freeze-thaw cycles, moisture vapor, UV exposure, and daily vehicle use, and they last 4 times longer than epoxy.

What a high-quality system actually does:

- Protects concrete from salt damage and moisture intrusion
- Reduces surface wear from tires, tools, and foot traffic
- Resists oil, chemicals, and automotive fluids
- Brightens and modernizes the space
- Expands how you can use the garage — storage, workouts, projects, gatherings
- Makes cleanup fast and easy
- Helps preserve the slab instead of letting it slowly degrade

The bottom line: A high-quality concrete coating makes your concrete last longer, stay cleaner, and remain usable year-round.

2. YOU DESERVE TO KNOW WHAT PRODUCTS ARE BEING USED

(And When You Can Actually Use the Floor)

There's a major difference between:

- Cheap single-layer concrete coating
- Budget epoxy systems
- High-performance, multi-level polyurea / polyaspartic systems

What you should always know:

- What system are you buying?
- Why that system was chosen for your space
- What material is being applied at each layer
- How it handles heat, moisture, salt, and UV
- How long it realistically lasts in Chicagoland conditions

When Can You Walk or Drive on It?

Timelines vary based on temperature, humidity, and system design, but homeowners should always get clear, written guidance, not guesses.

Typical expectations (system dependent):

- Light foot traffic: Next day
- Moving items back: usually within 48 hours
- Vehicles: typically 48 to 72 hours
- Slower systems may restrict use for several days

If a contractor can't clearly explain this upfront, that's a red flag.

3. NOT ALL WARRANTIES ARE THE SAME

A warranty only matters if:

- It clearly states what's covered
- It reflects real-world use
- The company is still around to honor it

Some warranties look impressive but exclude the most common failure points.

Homeowners should always ask:

- What failures are actually covered?
- What conditions void coverage?
- Is the warranty transferable?
- Does it account for Midwest weather and salt exposure?

A transparent warranty sets expectations instead of hiding behind fine print.

4. CERTIFIED INSTALLERS BEAT CHEAP SUBCONTRACTED LABOR

(And Why Security During Installation Matters)

Your floor is only as good as the people installing it, and trust matters when people are working inside your home.

Certified, trained installers:

- Are background-checked professionals
- Follow manufacturer specifications
- Handle moisture testing properly
- Know how to prep the concrete surface
- Know how to fix damaged or salt-pitted concrete
- Apply coatings at the correct thickness and timing

Subcontracted labor changes from job to job. This leads to inconsistency.

Homeowners should also ask:

- Who will actually be at my home and in my garage?
- Are they a vetted, W2 employee or temporary labor?
- Will my garage be left wide open during curing?
- How is my home secured during installation?

5. THE PROS PUT EVERYTHING IN WRITING

A professional proposal protects you, not just the contractor.

Your quote should clearly outline:

- Surface preparation process
- Repair scope
- Coating system being installed
- Timeline and access restrictions
- Warranty terms

If it's not written down, it's not guaranteed.

You also shouldn't be left guessing about pre-installation prep work.

Professional installers communicate:

- What must be moved
- What can stay
- How to stage the space without stress

A smooth project starts with clear expectations.



20 QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE HIRING A CONCRETE COATING COMPANY

1. What coating system are you installing, layer by layer?
2. Why is this system appropriate for Chicagoland weather?
3. How do you prep concrete before coating?
4. Do you test for moisture vapor?
5. How do you handle cracks, spalling, and salt damage?
6. Who will be installing the floor — employees or subcontractors?
7. Are installers background checked, trained, and certified?
8. How long will I be without full use of the space?
9. When can I walk on it?
10. When can I drive on it?
11. Will my garage door be left open during curing?
12. How do you secure the home during installation?
13. What exactly does the warranty cover?
14. What voids the warranty?
15. Is the warranty transferable?
16. How long should this floor realistically last here?
17. What maintenance is required?
18. What happens if there's a problem after installation?
19. Can I see recent local projects?
20. Will everything we discussed be included in writing?

**SCHEDULE A
PROFESSIONAL
CONCRETE
ASSESSMENT
FROM TORQ
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Know exactly what your floor needs before you commit.

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