

COMMERCIAL FLOORS





OUR FLOORS

Epoxy flooring is a great solution for commercial premises, giving a strong and durable finish that can withstand the demands of business impact.

Able to cope with heavy loads, stain resistant and easy to clean, epoxy flooring is popular for retail outlets, offices, animal facilities and vets, cafes, supermarkets, warehouses and premises operating heavy machinery.

A range of designs are available, along with special finishes, depending on the space. Here we look at some areas to consider when choosing epoxy flooring for your business.



IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

HEAVY MOVING MACHINERY

Commercial epoxy flooring is highly durable, giving excellent resistance against the pressures of moving machinery. The recommended finish will depend on the type of tracking being carried out over the floor. For example, areas with heavy forklift or vehicle traffic will require different products and finishes to those with light traffic.

STAINS AND SPILLS

The stain resistance of epoxy resin is ideal for premises where chemicals, oils and food spills may occur. And being impervious to water, it is perfect for use in areas that are exposed to water frequently – such as kitchens, animal enclosures, commercial bathrooms, pools and external areas.

TEMPERATURE CHANGES

In areas that experience extremes in temperature, epoxy flooring is the ideal choice, although it must be specified and installed by professionals to ensure it complies with commercial building codes for temperature resistance.

FOOD PREPARATION

Easy to clean and with slip resistant options, commercial epoxy flooring is popular in the food sector. Because epoxy resin resists microbial growth, it also provides a hygienic surface that is perfect for commercial food settings.



SLIP RESISTANCE

Most commercial buildings are expected to provide slip resistant surfaces for safe movement, especially in emergency access areas. Slip and skid resistant surfaces are also required for pedestrian ramps, stair treads and landings.

With the ability to increase the slip resistant element of epoxy flooring, this is an effective way to maintain practices in commercial premises.

CLEANING ROUTINES

Commercial epoxy flooring should be regularly swept and mopped with a gentle detergent and warm water.

If a highly slip-resistant surface is required, epoxy flooring will stand up to cleaning with more moderately harsher cleaning solutions, making it attractive for the long term. We give specific instructions on maintaining your floor.

WELDING ACTIVITY

Although resinous floors are often self-extinguishing, the heat created through welding can cause the epoxy layer to melt or break down. Welding mats will protect your floor from spark and heat damage.

EXPOSURE TO UV

With long term exposure to direct sunlight, epoxy flooring may yellow (known as ambering). If this is a concern from an aesthetic standpoint, installing a colour flake system with a high-performance clear coat gives UV stability. A common term used in the industry is UV resistant. What this means is that the top clear coat has properties that will act similar to a sunscreen on your skin, but is limited to time and surrounding conditions. The colour of the 'skin', or, in this instance, the base colour of your epoxy floor, also has a massive impact on how effectively the coating can be protected.

Being available for a few years now, we have the ability to UV proof your area. The colours we can do this in are limited but for high UV and unprotected areas, this can be a solid option.

SHOWROOMS & WAREHOUSES



When specifying epoxy for a warehouse or showroom environment, it's important that we assess the potential impact that equipment may have on the floor through chemicals, steel wheels, tight turning, etc caused by forklifts, pallet jacks, trucks and heavy machinery and mechanical works.

The 'fit for purpose' products we recommend will provide stability under foot, meet OH&S considerations and factor in achieving functionality and durability and reliability for many years to come.

We also factor in consideration for line markings, slip resistance levels and chemical resistance. For areas which may experience impact, we use Kevlar products that spread the load of impact resistance.



RETAIL & HOSPITALITY

The choice of flooring in hospitality spaces is very important. Interior Designers are always looking for the latest looks and 'edgy' finishes for their clients, and we can certainly help achieve this. However, there are health and safety standards that must be complied with to pass building inspection.

We have experience in creating the right mix of solutions to accommodate different traffic requirements in different areas of the store. For example maximum slip resistance needs to be applied in traffic areas, and can be relaxed under shelves where it isn't needed and will make it harder to clean.

We understand that time is money, and we coordinate with you to work 'out of hours' to minimise disruption.

Mobility issues can be a constant challenge for aged care residents, making stability underfoot essential to prevent falls. Walking aids and wheel chairs operate better when there is a smooth, firm, slip resistant surface. Epoxy flooring offers a safe surface for residents, visitors and staff in aged care facilities.

SCHOOLS, AGED & CHILDCARE FACILITIES

Epoxy flooring comes in an infinite range of design options including a range of bright colours to create a stimulating and fun environment for our juniors. You can even customise it with your logo or any type of illustrative designs.



ANIMAL FACILITIES

Epoxy or resin flooring is the perfect choice for animal care facilities, because the seamless finish means there are no cracks or joints for bacteria to hide and grow, making it easier to maintain high levels of hygiene. It delivers exceptional resistance to chemicals, bacteria and other contaminants, is aesthetically pleasing and performs well for many years.

Tough Floors has consulted in depth with teams at pet resorts, shelters, councils, welfare groups and private facilities to ascertain the most robust system that does NOT harm the animals' health.

Here are some important considerations:

Outgassing – over time the floor can release gasses that contain a mild odour. This can be quite some time after the floor has been completed and is deemed safe for the animals. Would you want to take this risk?

Permeation – during the coating process the 'smell' travels and can get into absorbent fabrics such as curtains, furniture and other absorbent materials, which means the smell can linger well after installation.

Safety – Solvent-borne systems contain VOCs. VOCs can cause irritations to the throat, nose and eyes. These compounds can also cause breathing problems and have been proven to damage the central nervous system as well as other areas of the body.

Tough Floors uses only a **non-smelly, 100% solids system**, to ensure humans and animals remain safe.



OUR PROCESS

We only adopt a few methods, which are labour intensive, but important for the longevity of your floor.

Mostly, we will mechanically diamond grind using various diamond grinders and the appropriate diamond tooling for your floor (as not all concrete is the same). This process removes the top crust (laitance) and opens up the concrete so that the resins we use have something to 'grip' to.

In some cases, we will degrease an area. This is most common in commercial kitchens and automotive areas where, if not properly prepared, the epoxy will not penetrate effectively into the concrete.

On new floors we prefer to use products that do not contain solvents or flammables, so they can be installed safely without risk or disruption to your family. Solvents are classed as low to no Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC). This means that there are no lingering nasty smells that you get with solvent based products.

An optimal, long lasting finish simply cannot be achieved in one day. At Tough Floors, we do not hasten the process because quality is paramount.

Our extensive database of blogs contains many topics discussing all aspects of epoxy flooring, please visit us at toughfloors.com.au/blog/

For more information on Commercial Flooring, please go to toughfloors.com.au/commercial-epoxy-flooring/commercial-flooring/



DURABILITY

Getting the best results for your commercial epoxy flooring means working with a professional team that knows how to specify and install the epoxy correctly. At Tough Floors, we have considerable experience and tend to exceed the highest standards.

We evaluate the condition of the subfloor and determine the best approach for preparing it to accept the epoxy finish. We also take into account the specific needs of your setting and apply as many coats as needed to deliver a hard wearing and beautiful finish.

NEXT STEPS

Contact us on **1300 882 875** or visit our website toughfloors.com.au for further information or to arrange a 'No Surprises' Quote.

During our consultation process, we'll undertake an in depth assessment of your existing floor, ask a lot of questions about how you will be using the area and what kind of finish you prefer, to make sure we recommend the right epoxy flooring specification and finishes to suit.