

THE PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERIES

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Product Review: The Complete Garage Floor Covering System

The *Complete Garage* floor conversion crew completed my second garage floor in July of this year. They had previously done an 800 square foot stand alone garage on my property four years ago which has worked so well that I decided on a new surface for my working garage which is part of my house and where I do almost daily automotive work.

The project took three working days to complete the various steps, including a significant amount of prep work on the concrete surface. The crew will diamond grind and bead blast the concrete surface plus treat cracks or spalling. I opted for the polyurethane treatment and there were an almost infinite number of color combinations available. I chose a salt and pepper combination that gave me a lighter floor than the original concrete, allowing me to see grease and oil spills as well as escaping car parts, much easier.

To date I have experienced no damage to the floor coating from any automotive fluids. I do use cardboard panels to roll my floor jack on when jacking up the rear end of Corvairs but I have also repeatedly rolled a floor jack around with an engine and transaxle on it with no scarring of the surface. One area of concern I had was how to repair dings or chips in the material. The installation crew left me with a container of the color mixture and instructions on how to use hard fingernail polish to repair chips. I practiced this method but to date have not needed to repair anything. The material seems to dent slightly rather than chip when a heavy object is dropped on it (and I have done that). Welding slag will melt the material slightly or turn it brown, so that is to be avoided.

If you have shelves that would stay in place during the work, keep in mind they will get dusty from the prep work, and one of the treatments has a powerful vapor residue for about 24 hours, so be prepared for that.

Depending on what quality of material you choose, the current price ranges from \$4.50 to \$5.50 per square foot. If you have a really bad concrete surface there is additional treatment available. You can visit their website at: complete-garage.com.

Overall the floor treatment from The Complete Garage is something I would highly recommend for minor or major garage floor use; it's like buying a quality tool!

Chinese Miniature Light Bulbs:

The 1157 light bulbs currently being sold are mostly made in China and there appears to be an occasional manufacturing flaw. One of the filaments in the two filament bulb may either be built touching the second filament or will bend over when hot and touch the second filament. The result will be a crossing of current between the tail light/dash light system and the brake light/turn signal system. Two recent examples included a cruise control system that shut off when the headlights were turned on (the cruise thought the brakes had been applied) and in another case the dash lights came on when the brake

pedal was depressed and one turn signal would quit after a few seconds of operation. If you encounter a strange electrical occurrence, check the bulbs in both the front and rear sockets that use a two filament bulb. A missing ground in a socket is also fairly common and will cause strange electrical situations.