

Those faced with deteriorating garage floors have a few options



Cracked concrete garage floors can stem from poor installation. There are few options other than to replace the floor. Decades ago, some homebuilders failed to properly compact the soil -within the garage area- prior to pouring the floor. Nowadays, this is achievable with a power tamper every 8 inches or so when the garage and adjacent house foundation are backfilled during construction. Otherwise, the soil and gravel can settle over time and if any moisture is present allow the floor to erode to a point where the concrete slab has little, if any, support.



Settled concreted garage floors may not stem from poor installation. They deteriorate anyway. Some garage floors are poorly protected against road chemicals and damaging road salt if surfaces are poorly cleaned or not sealed properly. The surface area begins to pit and as time goes on these pits can increase in size until they become bigger depressions. The depressions hold the salt and the cycle continues. If the cracks are significant, it may be time to replace the surface. Contact a concrete contractor to jack-hammer the existing surface, add compacted gravel as a foundation base and pour a new slab. Pricing for such a project averages about \$10.00 per square foot.



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Mildly settled garage floors have pitting that is not too severe. These are manageable with an epoxy coating to level out the depressions for a smooth, impervious surface. Estimates for coating and filling the holes and providing a non-skid surface average \$4.50 per square foot.



There is another option: a rubber garage floor mat system. Such a system will not improve the qualify of the surface but it could delay a more expensive fix for a few years. Consult with an engineer or certified home inspector for further evaluation of the settling and the condition of the garage slab.

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