



**EASY CEMENT-PROTECTION FLOORING**

**VINYL GARAGE FLO**

BY Tom Morr

PHOTOGRAPHY RICK PÉWÉ AND TOM MORR

**T**HE GARAGE MAHAL CRAZE proves that many guys spend more time in their vehicle's home than in their family's home. Here we look at garage rehabbing from the ground up. "Aftermarket" garage flooring is popular, especially for people whose existing slab is stained and cracked. Options include paint-on epoxy coatings as well as tiles (both adhesive squares and plastic snap-together types). Another style is a roll-out vinyl mat. This is a good combination of affordability, ease of installation, and floor protection.

One of the more popular vinyl solu-

tions is G-Floor. This chemical-resistant polyvinyl material is available in three thicknesses: Standard (0.055 inch), Commercial (0.075 inch), and fatter-than-a-nickel Industrial (0.085 inch). Roll widths are 7½, 8, 9, and 10 feet. Four patterns—ribbed, diamond tread, coin, and levant—come in a choice of seven colors. (A clear-vinyl version is also available to help protect epoxy-coated and tile floors.)

**LAYING IT DOWN**

Straightforward installation is one of G-Floor's biggest benefits. Cleaning out the garage likely takes longer than laying the G-Floor. A few specifics:

- Large cracks and bumps in the cement will show under the vinyl. For best results, garage prep should include cement

patching, stain removal, and sweeping.

- G-Floor is shipped either in rolls or folded in boxes. If possible, lay out the flooring on a clean driveway in the sun to allow the folds or curls to relax. In colder weather, the material will flatten within three days of its being laid out.
- Seams can either be overlapped (10-foot-wide pieces include an "overlap flap" of unpatterned material), or butted if flatness is desired.
- If pattern consistency is a priority, cut the material at the seams to line up the ribs, coins, or diamond treads before cutting at the perimeter.
- G-Floor expands and contracts up to 2 percent with temperature variations. So the manufacturer recommends leaving a ¼-inch gap around walls and other obstructions.



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**1 BEFORE:** This garage features loosely organized chaos and a 45-year-old slab. Cracks and chips have been patched multiple times.

**2** G-Floor can be ordered once the garage is measured. (It's available at membership warehouses and from online retailers.) This garage's dimensions were just under 18x18 feet, so a 9x44-foot roll gave some margin for error.

**3** The manufacturer recommends rolling out the mat from front to rear. We did the opposite to assess the situation without having to work around the garage-door tracks right away.

**4** Air bubbles are swept out. This lets the G-Floor lie as flat as possible prior to cutting.

**5** Use a carpet or utility knife to cut the G-Floor; the industrial-thickness version is a challenge for normal scissors. At the perimeter, we used a straight edge to crease the material, then cut the vinyl flush with the walls. A few days later, we fine-tuned the cuts after the G-Floor had, like, totally relaxed, dude.

**6** To butt pieces together, fold both G-Floor pieces back and apply carpet-seaming tape to one side. The taped piece is then laid flat, and the other piece is butted up tight. (We used double-sided tape to secure the G-Floor's leading edge to the cement under the garage door.)

## SOURCE

BETTER LIFE TECHNOLOGY  
913.894.0403  
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# WORKING

- Letting the material "float" prevents bubbling. However, indoor/outdoor double-sided carpet tape or commercial adhesives can affix the vinyl permanently.
- After installation, coating the G-Floor with a nonslip vinyl dressing will improve its stain-resistance and appearance. Cleaning options include household mopping products approved for vinyl, or you can drag out the G-Floor and hose it off.

G-Floor's instant-gratification coefficient is higher than other garage-floor options. It covers existing stains and dings, won't pull up on hot tires, traps drips, bars vapors, and cushions your feet. However, G-Floor can also draw attention to how bad the rest of the garage looks in comparison. It's a first step for gearheads who aspire to cable-TV garage glory.



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