

G-Floor Shop Floor Covering

A simple matting that can transform concrete or shield floor coatings



WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY TERRY McGEAN

The presence of motor vehicles tends to turn concrete floors into an ungainly mess as dirt, fluids and other debris embed themselves in the rough, porous outer layers.

We had opted to use an epoxy floor coating in our shop, and were quite pleased with the results—so much so that we wanted to keep it looking fresh, which can be tricky in our shop, which also serves as a display area. We discovered an interesting solution that turned out to be suitable for non-coated floors as well.

G-Floor is a roll-out floor covering made from PVC, with the consistency of pliable rubber. It's like matting, and can be used as such to cover particular areas or put down wall-to-wall; the covering can be left loose or fastened to the floor with adhesive for a more permanent surface if so desired. Although it is often used on bare concrete, it also makes a good protective covering for coated floors.

The manufacturer claims that the

G-Floor material has been produced specifically to resist the substances most likely to wind up on a garage floor, like road salt, engine oil and other lubricants, brake fluid and even battery acid, and goes on to say that since these substances cannot penetrate the surface of the 100 percent PVC matting, they clean up easily without staining. The floor also serves as a moisture barrier between the concrete and the vehicle parked above.

G-Floor's roll-out flooring is offered in several different patterns and colors (check www.g-floor.com to see them all), though properties do not vary with color or pattern. It's also offered in several widths: 7.5-, 8-, 9-, and 10-foot, though length can be ordered to suit; larger widths include an area to overlap, or the covering ends can be butted together.

We were introduced to the product while seeking something to protect the floor in the lift area and found G-Floor at

Griot's Garage (www.griotsgarage.com) in specific dimensions, selecting a 17x7-foot mat in slate gray with the coin-top pattern. Our lift area is the space most likely to get stained, or worse, chipped by dropped tools or parts. We also liked the idea that a mat could be pulled outside and hosed off for quick cleanup.

After using that mat for several months, we liked it enough to go back looking for more and found that larger sections could be ordered through some vendors. We got a 10x24-foot roll in the same coin-top pattern in slate gray for the area just inside the rollup door. It's a high-traffic space shared with service vehicles, and we wanted to cover it during normal workaday operations. As with the smaller mat, the larger section rolled out easily, and flattened out in a day. Now we can roll heavy items in and out, park salt-covered trucks and handle greasy parts without having to worry about the floor coating. ☺