

**DO YOU  
KNOW YOUR  
CONCRETE?**



**COATINGS  
FOR INDUSTRY**  
*WORKS. ALWAYS.*



# 7 Things

## You Should Know About Concrete Before Coating It

A concrete floor can hide many secrets. Even if it's new, but especially if it's an existing floor that needs to be re-coated.

The last thing you want is for those secrets to reveal themselves after the coating system has been applied. It could result in a coating system failure, an ugly, damaged floor, and an expensive re-coating process.

To avoid that fate, you need to learn as much as you can about the concrete. So you can specify a coating system that will do the job, and last a long time.

In this e-book, we'll cover the seven questions you need to ask about the concrete you're about to coat, before you coat it.

## QUESTION 1:

# What kind of facility is it?

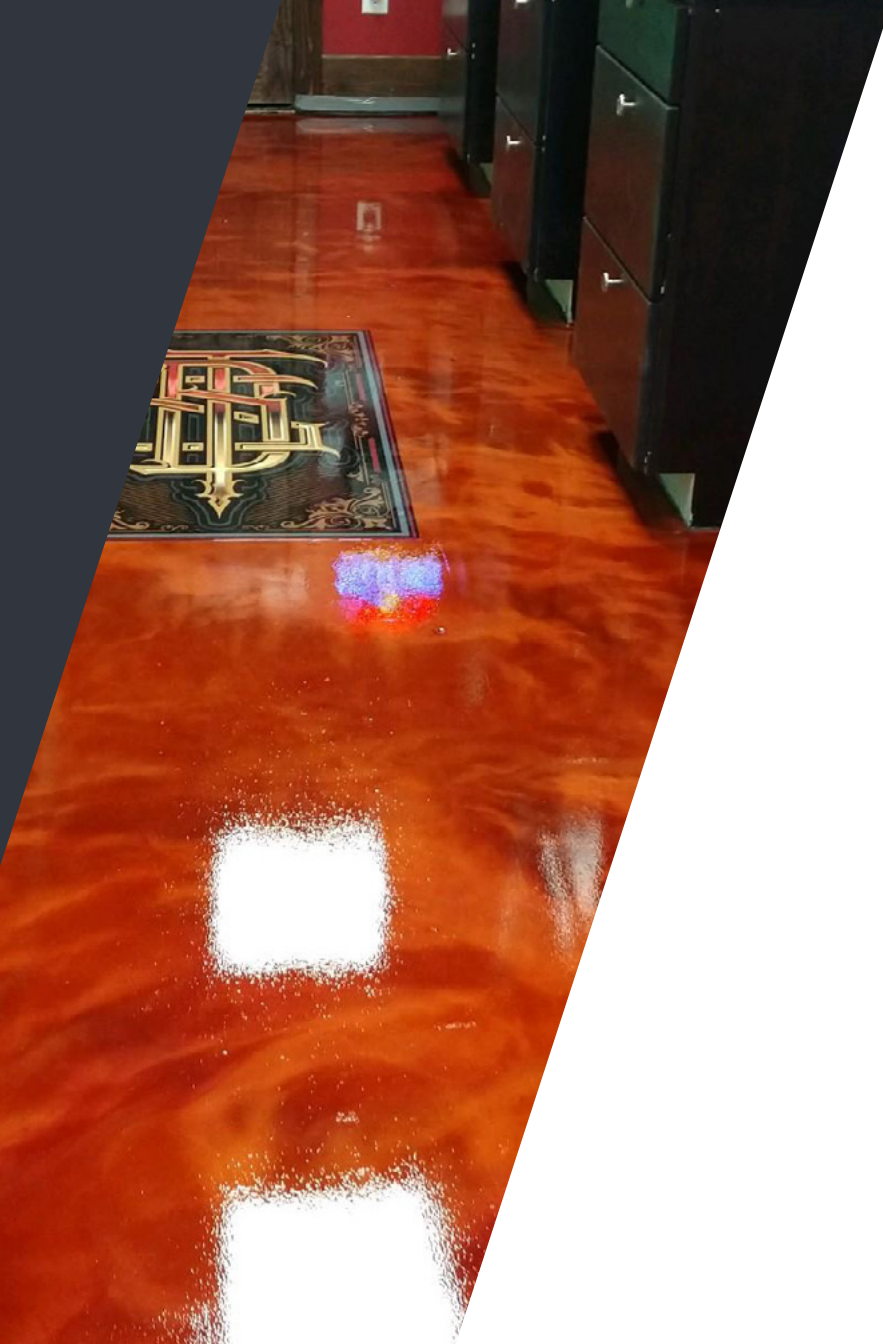
It's the most obvious question, and the easiest to answer. But it should not be overlooked.

Retail facilities need slip resistance, durability, and good looks.

Warehouses need to stand up to fork trucks and have clear markings for pedestrians.

Auto service centers have oil, solvents, and chemicals spilled on them as well as dropped tools.

Every facility type has different specific needs that should be discussed between the facility owner and coating contractor. That will determine the desired performance characteristics of the coating system.





## QUESTION 2:

# Is the concrete new or old?

This is another question that's easy to answer, but far more important than you might think.

If the facility is a new construction project, and the concrete is a new slab, also ask if the concrete can wait the full 28 days to cure, or if the coating needs to be applied sooner than that. Was there form release used for tilt-up panels or a sealer applied to help cure?

If it's an existing facility, find out as much as you can about the building's history and previous uses. That will tell you something about what could be hiding in the concrete.

**QUESTION 3:**

## **What kind of punishment will the floor take?**

Will the floor be subject to heavy wheeled traffic from trucks and forklifts? Will it have oil, chemicals, and solvents spilled on it? What about road salt and UV exposure?

Or will it just be mainly foot traffic? If so, how much?

Knowing what the floor needs to stand up to helps determine the right coating system to protect it.

## QUESTION 4:

# How should the floor look when it's done?

Do looks matter? Does the floor need to help present an image to the public?

Or is it more utilitarian and looks don't matter as much?

The more you know about how the floor needs to look – throughout its lifetime – the easier it will be to meet expectations and create a floor that everyone's happy with.

**QUESTION 5:**

# How soon does the floor need to be back in service?

This applies mainly to existing slabs. Re-coating a concrete floor means it can't be used for a period of time.

The key is to find out how long that period of time needs to be. For some facilities, like warehouses, retail stores, and factories, time is money. In those cases, you'll need to look for a quick Return-to-Service coating system that minimizes downtime.



**QUESTION 6:**

# Will other people be in the facility during coating application?

For existing facilities, it's important to know if anyone else will be in the building during the coating application process. Customers, tenants, even other construction trade crews.

If the building will continue to be in use, you'll want a coating system that offers low-odor and low- or zero-VOCs. That helps protect facility occupants.





## QUESTION 7:

# Does the floor need to be slip-resistant?

Protecting the people who use the facility is one of the most important jobs a floor has.

A grocery store floor has to protect shoppers from slip-and-fall accidents, should they happen to step on an errant grape in the produce section.

On a loading dock, slip protection can be a matter of life and death.

Any floor that will have foot traffic needs to be at least somewhat slip-resistant. The question is how much.





# Putting It All Together

Once you have the answers to all of these questions, you can begin to determine what kind of coating system you need for the concrete floor.

It's important to note that just about every concrete floor is different. Coating systems are not a one-size-fits-all proposition.

If you need help specifying the right coating system for your floor, we'd be happy to walk you through it.

Just contact us at [cficoatings.com/contact](https://cficoatings.com/contact).

