



Swisstrax requested a third-party comparison of the lifetime carbon footprint of the Swisstrax Rubbertrax product and that of the most popular garage floor finishing method, epoxy coating. This comparison revealed several interesting facts.

- Epoxy floors require significant surface preparation of the concrete base in order to get the best possible adhesion of the coating. Manufacturers recommend grinding the concrete surface to achieve the best “grab”.
- Epoxy coatings evolve copious amounts of VOCs in their curing phase, often over 1 lb per gallon of mixed product
- Epoxy floors are not a one-coat solution. Most producers of these products recommend the application of a primer coat, a color coat and a clear topcoat to get the best results.
- Epoxy floors are not durable. It is this lack of durability that has the greatest effect on carbon footprint and cost of ownership.
- A survey of several leading producers of epoxy products revealed that the use warranty averages three years, with some of the more expensive products offering no warranty whatsoever. Rubbertrax is warranted against failure in normal use for twelve years from the time of purchase.

The results of this analysis for a 1200 ft² garage floor with a 12-year lifespan are shown below:

Carbon Footprint, lbs CO₂, Rubbertrax:	197.56
Carbon Footprint, lbs CO₂, Epoxy:	953.73
Carbon Ratio, Epoxy to Rubbertrax:	4.83
Carbon Footprint Reduction, Epoxy to Rubbertrax:	79.29%

Similarly, a total cost of ownership analysis was undertaken, accounting for the material and labor costs of installation of

1. An Rubbertrax floor
2. An epoxy floor installed and maintained by a homeowner (“DIY”)
3. An epoxy floor installed and maintained by a professional.

The results of this analysis are shown below:

Lifetime Cost, Rubbertrax:	\$3,225.00
Lifetime Cost, DIY Epoxy:	\$5,353.35
Lifetime Cost, Pro Epoxy:	\$12,582.49
Cost Ratio, DIY Epoxy to Rubbertrax:	1.66
Cost Ratio, Pro Epoxy to Rubbertrax:	3.90
Total Cost of Ownership Reduction, DIY Epoxy to Rubbertrax:	40%
Total Cost of Ownership Reduction, Pro Epoxy to Rubbertrax:	74.37%

The advantages for the homeowner are obvious.

- Repairs to epoxy surfaces are obvious, unattractive and often do not hold. The only solution for someone who desires a meticulous appearance is to completely grind and resurface the floor. Rubbertrax, on the other hand, is a modular system. Any tiles which become damaged can be easily removed and replaced, making for an invisible repair to the flooring system.
- Epoxy coatings require meticulous surface preparation to give the best appearance. Chips and cracks must be filled and smoothed.
- Rubbertrax flooring, like all of the Swisstrax products can easily bridge minor surface irregularities which would compromise an epoxy coating.
- Epoxy must be applied to concrete that has been expertly cast. Seepage, spalling and efflorescence, all common concrete defects, will cause the epoxy coating to delaminate from the floor.
- Rubbertrax is not bonded to the floor; it rests atop the floor in a uniform, interlocking structural matrix. Common defects in the underlying substrate will not cause the flooring system to fail.
- Epoxy manufacturers are acutely aware of the limited durability of their products, which is reflected in the short or non-existent warranty periods for these floors. By contrast, the Rubbertrax product is warranted for twelve years, well beyond the meager warranties of those epoxy flooring vendors who do offer a warranty.
- For the homeowner who is conscientious of the environmental impact of his or her product choices, Rubbertrax is composed of material sourced entirely from post-consumer waste, providing a durable and attractive reuse of materials which would otherwise end up in a landfill. By contrast, epoxies have very significant amounts of embodied energy from the production process. That energy can never be recovered.
- Finally, as a demonstration of their commitment to reuse and recycling, Swisstrax will buy back the Rubbertrax product at the end of its lifetime for a fair market price, regenerating the source polymers and ensuring that the material in your tiles does not enter the landfill.

For the homeowner, the choice is simple. Investing up front in a durable, environmentally friendly garage tile solution from Swisstrax instead of an epoxy coating, will significantly lower your lifetime cost of ownership and give your home a smaller carbon footprint and a more durable, lower maintenance garage flooring solution.