OTTAWA COMMERCIAL EPOXY

Polyaspartic & MMA

Fast-cure polyaspartic, polyurea and MMA systems: what data sheets say about cure, cold rooms and overnight jobs

4 Expert Answers from Coatings IQ

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Q1

Why would an Ottawa contractor suggest MMA over epoxy?

A contractor may raise MMA (methyl methacrylate) when a facility cannot stay closed long enough for epoxy to cure, or when the job has to go ahead in the cold. One MMA brochure (2010) lists cure to service in about one hour, and the same source says it cures down to approximately -29 degrees C. One epoxy data sheet lists foot traffic at 24 hours, light vehicles at 72 hours, and heavy traffic at 7 days, and sets a minimum application temperature of about 10 degrees C.

Those two differences are why it comes up. It comes up for facilities that cannot close long enough for a full cure. The cure window from the data sheet governs; the contractor must confirm the actual schedule against the specific product they plan to use, because figures vary by product and by conditions on the day.

There are other things to weigh. The Ontario Fire Code (O. Reg. 213/07, s.4.1.5.2) says open flames, sparks or heat shall not be permitted in an area where flammable or combustible liquids are stored, handled or used, unless controlled in a manner that will not create a fire or explosion hazard. Whether a specific MMA product is a flammable liquid depends on its Safety Data Sheet, Section 9. Under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, s.38(1.1), an employer whose staff remain on site during the work shall make a copy of the SDS readily available to workers who may be exposed; ask the contractor for the SDS before work begins.

We found no independent Canadian published prices for MMA to give a range. For comparison, published 2025-2026 contractor ranges put commercial epoxy at about $8 to $15 per square foot installed. A contractor recommending MMA should be able to show you the product data sheet and SDS, explain the surface profile they will prepare (ICRI concrete surface profiles are the reference), confirm the moisture test method they will use, and tell you exactly what the data sheet says about return to service for your traffic type.

Before you commit to any system, ask the contractor to show you the specific data sheet cure times for the traffic your floor will carry, so you can plan your closure around the product rather than around an estimate.

Q2

Can a freezer stay cold while an MMA floor is installed in Ottawa?

One MMA (methyl methacrylate) brochure from 2010 says the system cures in about one hour and cures at temperatures down to about -29 degrees C, which is why MMA comes up for cold-storage work. Whether the freezer can stay cold during installation, however, depends on several factors that the contractor must confirm before you sign anything.

The cure-time figure comes from one brochure and the product data sheet for your specific MMA product governs. Ask the contractor to show you the data sheet for the exact product they plan to use, confirm the temperatures it allows for application and cure, and confirm whether the slab temperature inside a running freezer meets that threshold. A freezer floor that is at or near -29 degrees C is at the edge of what that one brochure describes; a colder slab or a product with a different limit changes the answer entirely.

There are other practical matters worth raising before the work starts:

- Read Section 2 of the SDS for each MMA product for hazards such as sensitisers. If the freezer shares air handling with food storage or food prep areas, ask the contractor how they will contain fumes and ventilate the space, and check with whoever licenses or inspects your facility about working near stored food.
- Ontario Fire Code s.4.1.5.2 prohibits open flames, sparks or heat near flammable or combustible liquids unless controlled in a manner that will not create a fire or explosion hazard. Ask for the SDS Section 9 flash point for the MMA primer and resin; some MMA resins and primers may be flammable liquids.
- R.R.O. 1990 Reg. 851 (Industrial Establishments) s.11 requires that a floor used by any worker shall not have a finish that is likely to make the surface slippery. Ask the contractor what anti-slip aggregate, if any, is broadcast into the MMA system for a freezer floor where condensation or ice can form.

Before you sign the contract, ask the contractor to show you the data sheet for the specific MMA product and walk you through the temperatures it allows, so you know whether the freezer can stay at its operating temperature during the work.

Q3

What is polyurea and is it used on Ottawa commercial floors?

Polyurea and polyaspartic coatings are sold as fast-curing floor systems, and published contractor prices group them together.

Ask which product a quote actually specifies, and request its data sheet so you can compare cure times, application temperatures and surface-profile requirements directly.

Published 2025-2026 contractor ranges put polyaspartic and polyurea commercial work at about $6 to $15 per square foot installed. Your quote will differ depending on slab condition and the prep required, the number of coats and system thickness, whether anti-slip aggregate is broadcast in, cove base linear footage, job size, and whether work is phased or scheduled after hours.

A few points worth knowing before you hire:

- One manufacturer's data sheet lists light traffic return at 24 hours and vehicles at 7 days for a polyaspartic system. The data sheet for your specific product governs; ask the contractor to confirm the closure window against it before you schedule.

A fair quote should include the product name and data sheet, the surface profile the contractor will achieve, moisture test results and what happens if the slab fails, the number of coats, anti-slip texture details, the closure schedule tied to the data sheet, and proof of liability insurance.
You can submit a project request through the form on this page and contractors listed in the Ottawa Construction Network directory will reply by email.

Before you commit to a system, ask the contractor to show you the specific product data sheet and walk you through how the cure schedule fits your planned closure window.

Q4

Polyaspartic or epoxy for a Kanata showroom that can close one night?

Neither data sheet we read reopens a floor to traffic within a single night. One polyaspartic data sheet lists dry to touch at two to four hours, light traffic at 24 hours and vehicles at 7 days; one 100%-solids epoxy data sheet lists foot traffic at 24 hours, light vehicles at 72 hours and heavy traffic at 7 days. The only system we found with a figure of about one hour is MMA, in a brochure from 2010. So a one-night closure has to be checked against the data sheet for the exact product the contractor proposes, before you plan around it.

What else shapes the schedule: the size of the floor, how much surface preparation is needed, the room temperature (one polyaspartic data sheet sets a minimum surface temperature of about 4 degrees C), and whether the slab needs moisture testing before coating. Ask whether moisture testing is in the schedule, because in-situ probes have to be in the slab before a reading is taken.

For a showroom, the floor also needs to look good under display lighting and handle foot traffic, rolling carts and any vehicle movement if cars or equipment are displayed.

Ask for proof of liability insurance and references on similar commercial showroom floors. Published 2025-2026 contractor ranges put polyaspartic and polyurea commercial work at about $6 to $15 per square foot installed, at or above epoxy ranges of about $8 to $15 per square foot; your quote will differ based on slab condition, prep, anti-slip texture and the closure plan.

Before a contractor visits, pull together the floor's history, any records of old tile or adhesive, what spills and traffic the floor sees daily, and a clear picture of exactly how many hours the space can be closed.

Disclaimer: This guide is provided for informational purposes only by Ottawa Commercial Epoxy. It does not constitute professional advice. Always consult qualified contractors and your local building authority (the City of Ottawa or your own municipality), and Ottawa Public Health for a food premises, before starting any floor coating project. Read the product's data sheet and safety data sheet before work starts. Information is current as of November 15, 2026 and may change. Visit **ottawacommercialepoxy.ca** for the latest answers.