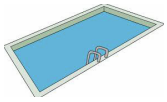
Information Sheet

Makers of Fine Paint Since 1962

Painting Swimming Pools

Care and Feeding of your Painted Swimming Pool

ISSUED: 15 January 2015



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Painting a pool is a task not to be taken lightly. It is an area many paint manufacturers and retailers shy away from because of problems that can occur. The successful painting of a pool is dependent almost entirely on the instructions being adhered to religiously.

You have just spent hard earned money and invested a fair amount of time and effort in painting your swimming pool or spa. Please take the time to read this guide as it will give you some suggestions and guidelines to the maintenance and care of your pool to ensure you maximise the life of your coating. Also ensure you read all the literature on painting your pool and the paint product you are using.

Please remember that we recommend 7 days for full cure (at 25ºC). Normally we recommend against painting outside pools in winter but if it can't be avoided we suggest allowing at least 14 days for full cure.

Initial Problems (prior to filling the pool):

Water Contact: We recommend 7 days for full cure (at 25ºC) before water contact. This refers to filling the pool but also with rainfall. Premature filling of the pool or heavy rain pooling in the bottom of the pool may compromise the life of the coating. In the case of premature filling or heavy rainfall please contact us for advice on how to proceed. Any water collected in the bottom of the pool should be removed as soon as possible.

Rain spotting and light moisture is less of a problem if it occurs more than 6 hours after application of the coating. Rain or dew inside this 6 hour period may result in a milky discolouration or 'bloom' on the paint's surface. This will not affect the durability of the coating as the effect is in the surface only and is more one of appearance than of durability.

If blooming occurs in intermediate coats then allow the coat to dry till it tack free and then lightly sanded with 'wet and dry' type abrasive paper (200-300 grit). Remove the dirt and sanding dust and then continue with the next coat.

If this occurs in the final coat the simplest action is to leave it as is. The bloom should gradually disappear and may not even be visible when the pool is filled with water. If the bloom is significant or the pool colour is one that will show it up then it can be removed, after full cure, by scrubbing techniques or allowed to wear away with normal use. The scrubbing process is best carried out using a plastic scouring pad (Scotch Brite type), or a medium scrubbing brush/cloth with a mild abrasive household cleaned. If left untreated, the bloom will usually disappear within a few weeks of the pool being filled with water.

Leaves, Dirt and Bugs: Any leaves or insects that may be have been trapped on the surface during cure may be removed by GENTLY scraping and light sanding after full cure of 5 days. Leaf stains on the surface will generally disappear within the first week or so of the pool being filled, and chlorinated.

Filling the Pool: Please check with local authorities before filling the pool. Permits may be required. There may also be companies in your area that hire temporary "bladders" for onsite storage of water whilst the pool is being painted.

If you are using bore water to fill your pool please consult a specialist pool supplies company for water testing and recommendations.

Chemical Treatments: Filter for 24 hours minimum and treat water. It is preferable to allow a further 3-4 days before adding the chemicals especially in winter. After adding the chemicals allow overnight for the chemicals to be fully incorporated and then vacuum any sediment from the pool floor. Continuous filtration should be carried out until the water becomes crystal clear.

NOTE: Initial additions of **pool chemicals or salt should be mixed as slurry in water prior to adding to the pool. When added they should be dispersed (mixed in) as quickly as possible** by vigorous agitation across the pool surface. It is most important to prevent high doses of chemical to sit in contact with the painted surface.

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Maintaining the Pool: This information sheet is not meant to replace advice from a pool care specialist or pool and spa's association. For complete advice on how to treat your pool please discuss matters with a specialist pool care company or association. Don't forget to tell them that the pool is painted with an epoxy (Forminex Epoxy Pool Paint) or a 2 pack urethane (Forminex Supergloss) coating.

Chalking: Probably the most common problem experienced with painted pools and spas is that of "chalking". This refers to the formation of whitish powdery deposits on the underwater areas of the pool coating. These deposits are usually an indication of a low "Total Alkalinity".

Depending on many factors this problem may show after a long period of time or in just a few weeks. It is most commonly seen as a powder or stain on the bathers or feet of people leaving the pool. If these deposits are allowed to develop unchecked, this may result in reduced life expectancy of the coating due to the abrasive action of pool cleaners on the paint surface.

Total alkalinity is typically measured in ppm or parts per million. Total alkalinity should be initially adjusted to the upper end of the suggested range (180ppm), and then maintained within the range 160 to 180 ppm. Please discuss your pool chemistry with your specialist pool care company or association if adjustment is required. Remember when adding chemicals to a pool to allow time for them to mix in properly before re-checking measurements.

This "chalking" behaviour is a natural process during the life of the pool coating and is not usually a result of any defect in the paint or the application process. It can however be greatly accelerated by water chemistry. By minimising chalking you can maximise the life of the coating. As part of your routine pool checks you should regularly check Total Alkalinity and ensure it is maintained in the range 160-180 ppm.

Keeping all the pools chemical levels within spec is important however we particularly draw people's attention to the Total Alkalinity as levels as low as 20ppm are acceptable for a healthy pool and it is common to see well kept pools in the 50-100ppm range. That range of Total Alkalinity is acceptable for a healthy pool – just not the best for the pool coating's life.

Cleaning: A regular cleaning program is important for both the health of the water in your pool and the life of whatever treatment has been used on the walls and floor of the pool.

Regular vacuuming of the pool will help keep the pool clean and also remove undissolved solids such as chlorine compounds that may settle out to the pool bottom.

Once a month to once every two months the walls and floor of the pool should be vigorously brushed to remove any chalky deposits present.

Automatic pool cleaner devices make life easy but you need to be aware that as they are a constant abrasive presence in the pool they may shorten the life of the coating by wearing it away faster than anticipated.

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