



# TECHNICAL PAINT SERVICES

## HOW TO PREPARE AND PAINT A SWIMMING POOL

### Introduction

This document is designed to provide guidance with the painting of your swimming pool, whether it is newly constructed or previously painted.

One of the most common swimming pool surfaces is paint. Pool paint comes in a variety of colours, and is an inexpensive coating compared to other surfaces such as mosaic for example. Technical Paint Services manufacture two types of pool coating; Acrylic and Chlorinated Rubber, both of which are suitable for new construction as well as pools that have been painted previously. Pools that have been previously painted with Epoxy Paint may be re-coated with Acrylic Paint but NOT with Chlorinated Rubber Paint.

Acrylic Paint is a water based paint. This paint can be used on any type of surface, is quick and easy to apply and cleans up with water. This type of pool paint is ideal for commercial applications that are repainted on a regular basis. It should last about 2 - 3 years in typical UK climate, whether outdoor, indoor or covered.

Chlorinated Rubber Pool Paint is a rubber based, high performing coating which, whilst not as durable as Epoxy Paint, is less expensive. It is however, dependable, easy to use and inexpensive pool paint. It is easy to apply, comes in many colours and will last about 3 - 5 years in typical UK climate, whether outdoor, indoor or covered.

Whatever paint you use, it is important to follow the instructions provided, follow recommended safety guidelines and make sure you prepare the pool and the surrounds properly. Preparation is the most important step in pool painting. Without the proper preparation the paint will not bond with the wall or existing surface. **Please note we manufacture special mixes for warmer climates.**

## COMMON PROBLEMS WITH PAINTED POOLS

### My Pool Paint is Fading

Painted pools will begin to fade over time. Nothing will stop this, but you can “brighten-up” the paint with a light acid wash. Muriatic Acid will remove any dirt and chalking that can dull a paint finish. After cleaning the pool with a light solution of Muriatic Acid and water, rinse extremely well and refill the pool.

### My Pool Paint is Chalking

Some painted surfaces will begin to break down over a period of time. The process can result in dull, hazy water, as well as producing a white powdery residue that can rub off on hands, feet and bathing costumes. To prevent this process occurring, water chemistry and water maintenance are essential. The total alkalinity must be in the correct range. If the alkalinity is too low, the pool paint will rub off. Harsh shock treatments will also cause the pool paint to chalk. Use Lithium or a Di-chloro base shock for maintenance. Harsh shock treatments like Calcium Hypochlorite will contribute to the deterioration of the pool paint finish.

## **My Pool Paint has Blisters and Bubbles**

Blistering is almost always caused by improper preparation of the existing surface before application of the new paint. The new pool paint must be applied to a clean, dry surface. If the paint is applied too thick, or if the surface is too hot or warm, or if the pool is not cleaned properly, it will blister. Application temperature will also affect the final result. Where blisters have occurred, the only option is repaint the pool or the spots that have blistered.

## **HOW TO PAINT YOUR SWIMMING POOL**

As stated previously, the most important element to consider when painting a pool is the preparation. There must be no shortcuts if a successful outcome is required. When planning this project you **MUST** allow at least 5 days after completion before filling the pool.

Please follow this step by step guide to successful paint application when using Chlorinated Rubber or Acrylic based paint. Acrylic pool paints can be used on a damp surface, and don't require as long a period of dry conditions before painting. Always consult the Technical and Safety Data Sheets and the product label for handling and application directions.

For all **NEW** pools we recommend that you contact our technical team who will be able to guide you on surface drying times: **0845 230 1244** or **enquiries@techpaints.com**.

For previously painted pools, you must determine the type of pool paint that is currently on the pool. You can use Acrylic Paint on any surface after suitable preparation, but you cannot paint a pool that has been previously treated with Epoxy Paint with Rubber based paint or vice versa.

Drain the water from the swimming pool and remove all debris. Be sure to remove any hydrostatic relief plugs.

Scrape all old, loose pool paint off the pool surface. A high pressure power washer is ideal.

If there are any cracks in the swimming pool shell, they must be cut out with a diamond blade saw or grinder. Cut the cracks 1/4" (6-7mm) deep.

Chip out any divots or loose cement. Caulk the cracks, and patch any large chips or divots with Two Pack Epoxy Filler.

Acid Wash the swimming pool with a 50% water, 50% Muriatic Acid solution. Be sure to scrub the pool walls and floor and to use the correct safety equipment and procedures.

Rinse the entire swimming pool, skimmers, fittings, lights, and stairs completely.

Once the pool has been rinsed completely, re-clean with TSP (Trisodium-Phosphate). TSP is a detergent available from swimming pool suppliers and specialist hardware outlets. Follow the directions on the TSP container. Re-cleaning with TSP will neutralize the acid and remove the glaze from the existing paint. It will also remove any grease, oil or any dirt that the acid did not remove. Rinse with fresh water completely, several times. This is an essential part of the preparation process.

Pump out all residual liquid and remove any left over debris. Remove any liquid from the skimmer and sponge any standing water from low spots around steps and fittings. Allow the swimming pool to dry for 3 - 5 days before painting. Tape off the tile band and fittings with masking tape to prevent getting any paint on the threads, tile or fittings.

Before painting the pool, scrape any remaining flakes from the pool surface, sweep the pool out and sweep or blow any leaves or dirt from the pool surround. It is prudent to check the weather forecast for potential rain or high winds. If there is a chance of rain, you should wait. When you are confident that the weather will remain clement, open the pool paint and mix it well. You may need to use an electric drill with a paddle mixer. Mix for about 3-5 minutes.

Apply paint with a short-pile, solvent resistant roller. Start in the deep end of the swimming pool, working your way to the shallow end. Use an extension pole on your roller for the deep end walls. Mid morning is the best time to paint, after any dew has lifted. Do not apply paint if the temperature is below 10oC or above 24oC. Avoid application of the paint in humid conditions as the paint will not adhere. If you are applying a second coat of paint, wait 2 - 4 hours for Acrylics and 4 - 8 hours for Chlorinated Rubber between coats.

As stated at the outset, the last step is very important. You **MUST** wait 5 days before filling the swimming pool so your new paint can cure completely (3 days with Acrylic paint). If there is rain during that time, remove any standing water after the rain has stopped. Use a sponge and leaf blower to dry the pool. If the rain lasts more than an hour or two, add a day to the cure time. After the cure time, fill the pool *without stopping* until the pool is full.

When the pool is full, restart the swimming pool filter system and adjust the total alkalinity and calcium hardness levels to a minimum of 150 PPM. Resume your normal chemical maintenance programme.

**Finally, ENJOY!**