

## EPOXY POOL COATING SYSTEM General Guide for Pool Care

This pool care guide is for pools painted in AquaSheen epoxy pool paint. It includes useful hints for cleaning and maintenance, and most importantly water balance parameters.

### NEWLY PAINTED POOL FILLING INSTRUCTIONS

- THE POOL SHOULD NOT BE FILLED WITH WATER FOR 7-10 DAYS after painting IN SUMMER and ideally 14 DAYS IN WINTER. Fill using a garden hose.
- FIBREGLASS POOLS - need to be completely full before braces are removed.
- TO BALANCE YOUR POOL WATER - We recommend that you use a professional pool company the first time filling the pool. If this is not possible, then follow the instructions below & take note of balancing parameters further down on this document.
- AFTER FILLING THE POOL DURING SUMMER - filter for 12 hours minimum. SUPER CHLORINATE on the THIRD night and vacuum any sediment from the floor the next morning. Continuous filtration should be carried out for 24 hours, or until the water becomes crystal clear. For salt water-maintained pools, salt may be added on the evening the pool is filled.
- AFTER FILLING THE POOL DURING WINTER - These programs above may be delayed by up to a week.
- Initial additions of pool chemicals or salt should be by 'pre-slurry' in water, and then dispersed as quickly as possible by vigorous agitation across the pool surface. ANY ACCUMULATION OF CHEMICALS ON A NEWLY PAINTED SURFACE CAN CAUSE BLEACHING OR COLOUR STAINING.
- We HIGHLY RECOMMEND a product called LO-CHLOR STAIN & SCALE DEFENCE to be added to a newly renovated pool once filled with water (please follow product instructions). This product helps to reduce corrosion and scaling which is common when running high calcium levels required for painted pools
- When you enter the pool, TAKE CARE WHEN WALKING ON THE DRY PAINTED SURFACE AS IT WILL BE VERY SLIPPERY WHEN WET. Once the pool is filled it will still be very slippery, but the slippiness will go away over time.

## CONCERNS YOU MAY HAVE BUT DO NOT NEED TO WORRY ABOUT

- IF RAIN OR MOISTURE CONTACTS THE SURFACE MORE THAN 3 HOURS AFTER APPLICATION IS COMPLETED, YOUR EPOXY COATING WILL TECHNICALLY NOT BE DAMAGED. If you experience early rain or heavy dew after that period, which results in any milky discoloration or 'bloom' on the surface, this will not affect the lasting properties of the coating.
- This effect is only SURFACE BLOOM; thus it EXISTS ON THE SURFACE AND NOT IN THE COATING. For in-between coats, it is suggested that the surface be allowed to set tack free and then lightly sanded with a 'wet and dry' type abrasive paper, followed by a vacuum-clean and then continue with the next coat. In the final coat this bloom can be removed AFTER FULL CURE by scrubbing techniques, however we recommend to just leave it, as the bloom will generally disappear within a few weeks of the pool being filled with water. If you do want to address it, 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 such as AJAX or VIM.
- Any LEAVES OR INSECTS that may have been TRAPPED ON THE SURFACE during curing may be removed by GENTLY scraping and sanding after full curing of 5 days. Leaf stains on the surface will generally disappear within the first week or so of the pool being filled and chlorinated.
- STAINS may occasionally appear on the pool coating. These are normally yellow in color, and result from excess curing agent leaching to the surface. This will most often occur within one month of filling the pool and will gradually disappear as the pool surface wears in. Thus the stain should disappear within 2-3 months during summer and 3-4 months during winter.
- COLLECTED RAIN OR LEAKAGE FROM THE HYDROSTATIC VALVE during the curing phase WILL NOT HARM THE EPOXY COATING but may leave the BLOOM EFFECT as described above.
- A WHITE POWDERY DEPOSIT on the coating surface GENERALLY INDICATES LOW TOTAL ALKALINITY. Refer to our 'Useful Hints' regarding this further down the page. If these deposits are left to develop without doing anything about it, this may result in reduced life expectancy of the coating due to the abrasive action of pool cleaners on the paint surface. An indication of this problem also is early 'pick-up' of color on the feet of pool users.
- CHALKING is a natural process during the life of the epoxy coating, and is not a result of any defect in the paint or the application process. However by minimizing chalking, the coating life will be maximized. To minimize chalking, total alkalinity should be checked regularly and maintained in the range of 160 -180 ppm ALL YEAR ROUND.

## USEFUL HINTS FOR CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

In much the same way as you might 'cut back and polish' your car from time to time, we strongly recommend that you follow a similar procedure for your pool surface. Epoxy coatings in both salt water and chlorinated immersed conditions work in a 'sacrificial manner'. This means that the coating surface is slowly eroded by the salt or chlorinated environment until after many years it requires renewal.

- TO LOOK AFTER YOUR POOL SURFACE, we recommend that you VIGOROUSLY brush down the walls and floor areas of the pool. A fabricated T-Piece from PVC fittings that can attach to a standard pool broom extension and allows for attachment of standard kitchen scouring pads, has been found to work well. Using a stiff brush and regularly sweeping will do the same.
- AFTER BRUSHING, allow the residue to settle and GENTLY vacuum to waste or coagulate/flocculate before filtration and back-wash. Follow with 8 hours filtration, which should be done monthly during summer and every 6-8 weeks in cooler periods. Following these steps will assist in maintaining a smooth glossy and hygienic (non-algae supporting) surface to the pool water and will greatly enhance the life of the coating. THIS IS PARTICULARLY SO WITH CHLORINATED POOLS
- When using CYANURIC ACID STABILIZER, take care not to exceed 55 ppm, as this will give a false reading of Total Alkalinity. Do not confuse Total Alkalinity (TA) with pH. Should a DUSTY OR WHITE POWDERY SURFACE become noticeable, using the above-mentioned 'T-Piece and Scourer' method to brush and scrub the entire pool surface may remove it. Follow this with 8 hours filtration, and then backwash the filter.
- Finally dose the pool with Bicarb Soda so as to bring the Total alkalinity level back up to 160 ppm.
- The strong focus on TOTAL ALKALINITY (TA) is based on our +30 years experience in the swimming pool industry and with epoxy paint under Australian water and climatic conditions.
- Most test kit recommendations are based on conditions in the USA where it is generally cooler, further from the equator and where it is normal to empty pools in the wintertime and therefore chalking is not much of an issue. Locally we experience harsher UV rays and it is more usual to manage the pool chemistry throughout ALL the year.
- Finally, if your pool water chemistry is managed professionally (normally by a pool shop), it is important that under 'POOL TYPE' you specify EPOXY PAINT regardless of its structure. PAINT REQUIRES HIGHER TA THAN OTHER SURFACES and incorrect specification can lead to the TA being maintained at lower levels than desired. This would result in a faster rate of surface powdering, more pick up on the feet of pool users and shorter life expectancy of the epoxy coating.

## POOL COVERS

Solar Blankets also known as Pool Covers, generally cover 100% of the pool surface. Most pool blankets are a tight fit and do not allow the water to breath. This will trap gasses under the blanket. Usually these gasses will dissipate into the atmosphere and not be an issue, however under a pool blanket they keep building up and become very corrosive. Pool blankets slow evaporation and retain heat in a pool, and this should be their sole purpose. They are not great at keeping pools clean.

So, we would recommend the following:

1. Do not use your pool blanket in winter, as evaporation rates are lower and pools are generally not heated.
2. If you do use a pool blanket, be sure to remove it fully every 5 days max, or at least fold it half over for a full day.
3. A pool blanket should stay as blue as the day you purchased it. If your pool blanket shows white bleaching it's probably happening to your pool as well.

## WATER BALANCE INSTRUCTIONS - VERY IMPORTANT

The most important part of any pool surface, regardless of what type of surface it may be, is by far the water balance.

When correct water balance is maintained consistently there is no reason for your pool surface to wear down other than standard wear and tear. It is **VERY IMPORTANT TO NOTIFY YOUR POOL SHOP, POOL SERVICE OR MAINTENANCE STAFF OF THESE CHANGE IN PARAMETERS.** If a computer is used, surface type needs to be noted as 'Paint', regardless of structure.

pH	7.6 - 7.8
TA	160 - 180ppm
CH	280 - 320ppm
Chlorine	< 3 ppm

- pH should be maintained in the range 7.6 - 7.8
- Test the water regularly for Calcium Hardness. The reading should be maintained in the narrowest possible range 280-320 ppm.
- Total alkalinity (TA) should be adjusted close to 180ppm, and maintained within the range 160-180 ppm.
- Addition of approximately 1kg of Bicarb Soda per 8000 L is usually sufficient for new or fresh water. Thus use 9kg of Bicarb Soda for 72kL or 10kg of Bicarb Soda for 80kL
- Chlorine levels are best kept at a minimum consistent with healthy water. 1-2ppm is ideal. 3ppm or above will shorten the life of Epoxy Coating.

Failing to control the water balance within these ranges will affect the coating and may cause “Chalking” of the surface. Chalking of the surface is a white powdery layer on the surface of the pool.

This is often corrected by fixing the water balance, rubbing the surface clean and filtering out sediment. All other levels may be adjusted as recommended by your professional advisor or supplier.

*With appropriate care, you can look forward to many years of enjoyment from the smooth and beautiful finish of your Epoxy Coating. ENJOY!*

## OTHER INFORMATION

**DATE OF PREPARATION:** July 2020

*Version 1.1*

### **GENERAL:**

The information contained herein is based on data considered accurate and reliable to the best of our knowledge and belief as of the date compiled. However, no warranty is expressed or implied regarding the accuracy of the data or the results to be obtained from the use thereof. AquaSheen assumes no responsibility for personal injury or property damage to vendors, users or third parties caused by the material. Such users or vendors assume all risks associated with the use of the material. It is the user’s responsibility to satisfy themselves as to the suitability and completeness of the information for their own particular use. The users must determine whether the use of the information and data is in accordance with the local laws and regulations.

### **DISCLAIMER:**

The manufacturer of AquaSheen products do not provide warranty for paint failure caused by factors beyond their control. Colours can vary from batch to batch and therefore slight variations in paint colour may be visible.