

Chlorinated Rubber Pool Paints - Application Guide

Chlorinated rubber coatings have been used for more years on more swimming pools than any other type of paint. They are easy to apply and provide a smooth surface that is easy to clean and maintain. As they have been the paint of choice for residential and commercial use, chlorinated rubber coatings also offer the added advantage of *recoatability* over previously painted chlorinated rubber surfaces.

USE AND DESCRIPTION

Chlorinated rubber pool paints are excellent for recoating previously chlorinated rubber surfaces. They will also perform well on bare concrete or plaster. Because of the nature of their manufacture, chlorinated rubber paints are low solids, high solvent products. Therefore, care needs to be taken to apply these paints in a *thin film* to *dry* surfaces. If your pool's paint system has more than 10 coats of paint (over 20 mils), consider sandblasting and stripping back to render.

The key to a successful pool or deck paint is the correct **SURFACE PREPARATION AND CORRECT APPLICATION.**

By following the simple 1-2-3 steps listed below, you're ensuring virtually maintenance-free paint service on your pool.

GENERAL SURFACE PREPARATION

Immediately after the pool is emptied, begin the 3-step process.

STEP 1- Previously painted surfaces should be power washed to remove loose paint or excessive chalking. Scrub the entire pool with a soap/TSP (tri-sodium phosphate) solution to remove all dirt, oils, loose or peeling paint, and chalk. Should any minor repairs need to be made, such as hydraulic cement patch or crack or joint filling, do them at this time. Remember to follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

STEP 2- All surfaces should then be acid etched with a 15-20% solution of muriatic or sulfamic acid to achieve a *medium grade sandpaper finish* on bare concrete or plaster and to remove mineral deposits on previously painted chlorinated rubber surfaces. Neutralize/rinse with TSP.

NOW - VERY IMPORTANT: Before applying a chlorinated rubber pool paint (STEP 3), the pool *must* be **completely dry**. To determine dryness, perform this simple test - Tape 2' x 2' pieces of clear plastic at the deep end wall, floor, and shallow end floor with duct tape. After 3 hours, if *any* condensation appears, wait overnight or 24 hours until *no* condensation occurs. Before applying pool paint, be sure to "box" or intermix containers prior to painting to ensure uniformity of color.

STEP 3- Chlorinated rubber pool paints are best applied by brush or Airless spray. If rolling use a short mohair roller, lay off with a brush after application to eliminate bubbles. Apply chlorinated rubber at recommended coverages. DO NOT apply too thickly. Ideal temperatures for application are between 50°-90° F. Surface temperature should be at least 50° F. If rain occurs during any part of the paint process, allow an extra day of dry time for *each* day of rain. Rain or moisture will affect the top layer of the fresh paint film only by causing a slight "blush". If all previous surface preparation and dry times have been adhered to, you can - 1) either apply a *light* coat of fresh paint, or 2) wipe the affected areas with a small amount of thinner, or 3) after 10 – 14 days drying time, fill the pool.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

I. BLUSHING - FADING - CHALKING

The cause:

- The pool is filled too soon (before five days) before the paint is completely dry, causing a blush over the surface which looks like fading or chalking.
- Super-chlorinated water may cause a "bleached-out" look.
- The "shock" of calcium hypochlorite can cause a white, bleached look to the paint film, leaving a whitish deposit.
- Iron in the water from rust in the filter system may leave deposits and stain the film.

The solution:

- Scrub surface using a solution of soap and water. This will remove surface dirt and deposits.
- Wet with a weak (2-3%) solution of muriatic acid. Acid will remove iron stains without damaging the paint film.
- Solvent wipe affected areas with thinner.
- Check your pool water chemistry daily or weekly for:
 1. Calcium hardness
 2. Total alkalinity
 3. pH
- Extremely corrosive water can ultimately cause deterioration or breakdown of a paint film over a period of years.
- **Be sure the newly-painted pool surface dries at least five dry, sunny days before filling.**

BLISTERING

The cause:

- Applying paint too heavily
- Painting a damp surface
- Filling the pool too soon
- Incompatible paints

II. The solution:

- Apply at recommended coverage rates. Thicker is *not* better in the case of chlorinated rubber pool paints.
- All paintable surfaces *must be dry* prior to painting with chlorinated rubber.
- Wait at least 5 dry, sunny days prior to filling pool.

If in doubt as to what is on the pool, seek technical advice

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