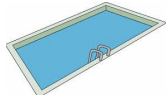




Painting a Swimming Pool






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.

Shipway Spescoat and Topline Paint have many decades experience in these types of coatings and in the painting of pools and similar structures. We have developed this range of literature to assist you with your pool painting projects. These suggestions are made for good reason and not just to improve our sales figures! If you take shortcuts or ignore any of the instructions regarding the surface preparation or the actual painting requirements e.g. climatic conditions etc. You are very likely to encounter problems.

Please read all the documentation and listen to our staff. Take time to ask questions and most importantly bring us accurate measurements of your pool and any details of any unusual issue with your pool. The more we know the better we can assist you.

There are 3 main types of Pool Paint; 2 Pack Epoxy, Chlorinated Rubber and 2 Pack Polyurethane.

For permanent immersion in water, Forminex 656 Epoxy Pool paint is undoubtedly the best choice. We recommend Epoxy in all cases except:-

-  When being applied over existing chlorinated rubber coatings (Use Forminex 340 Chlorinated Rubber)
-  When being used in water at temperatures over 32°C (use 677 Supergloss)
-  When there is frequent exposure to direct sunlight ie not covered by water (use 677 Supergloss)

Fibreglass pools, depending on how they are constructed, can cause major problems as they age. Fibreglass pools start to breakdown as soon as they are installed and have a limited life span. Poorly constructed Fibreglass pools often contain moisture within the glass or have been made from inferior resin, which may result in osmosis blisters or black spot. Fibreglass pools still however need to be painted and epoxy provides the best barrier from excessive moisture intake. Specialist advice is sometimes needed.

Concrete and Marble Sheen pools generally fair better with age, however both can deteriorate. Small areas of damage can be repaired by the DIY handyman although more extensive failure of concrete or marblesheen will require professional attention.

One particular problem to note for owners of older marble sheen pools. When the pool has been emptied and dried out sometimes the marblesheen can blister. These blisters are large, thick blisters and produce a drummy sound when tapped. These can occur at any time before or during the painting process but more frequently after some time dried and exposed to the sun – in other words after the paint has been applied. Of course this can be blamed on the paint but it's an unfortunate consequence of the age of the marblesheen and the facts just been dried out after years of being saturated. It can be repaired and fixed but there is no real way to know if this will happen or not when the pool is drained. It's not common however – we usually only see one or two examples of this in a year. When your pool is emptied you can tap the bottom and walls and listen for a drummy sound. If you hear this sound or start to see blisters form please contact us for advice.



Painting a Swimming Pool

Why does Shipways recommend Epoxy over other options?

Epoxy finishes last longer than Chlorinated Rubber and many years worth of experience has shown that they are more forgiving of DIY application mistakes than Chlorinated Rubber finishes. Epoxy finishes do have two main areas of weakness and that is that they tend to chalk above the water line and are not the best option where hot (over 32°C) water is involved where they can tend to soften. In these cases we recommend 677 Supergloss. 677 Supergloss is also excellent for fountains and decorative ponds.

Chlorinated Rubber is a slightly cheaper option but does not last as long. If a pool is painted with chlorinated rubber then in a perfect world we would like you to remove it and apply epoxy. Often this represents a lot of work and an expense people are not prepared to undertake so we have a complete guide on the use of chlorinated rubber too!

Why did we sell you too much paint?









We didn't. If you gave us accurate measurements of your pool (and its a regular shape) then there isn't much room for error. The product data sheets give figures for coverage in square metres per litre of paint so you can check our figures.

It is quite possible to paint 2 coats on a pool using less than we have recommended and still have the job look good just by pushing harder on the roller and spreading the paint out further. However if the measurements and calculations are correct and you end up with 30-50% of your paint left over then it has been applied too thinly. The job will look great but it will not last as long AND there may be other problems that arise.

I need to use the pool over the weekend! Why Cant I?

Pool painting is a critical process and problems can arise all too easily. Temperature and weather conditions need to be ideal. The pool surface needs to be properly dry – prior to painting. The paint takes time to dry and cure properly. All of these factors mean that the job cannot be rushed. Painting damp concrete or filling a pool too soon will lead to problems.

For further information please see the following Project Guides:-

-  Unpainted Concrete and Marble Sheen Pools with Epoxy
-  Unpainted Concrete and Marble Sheen Pools with Chlorinated Rubber
-  Concrete and Marble Sheen Pools previously painted with Epoxy
-  Concrete and Marble Sheen Pools previously painted with Chlorinated Rubber
-  Fibreglass Pools - Unpainted or Previously Painted with Epoxy
-  Fibreglass Pools previously painted with Chlorinated Rubber
-  Bath Tubs, Tiles, Spas and Laminates
-  After Painting Care - Care and Feeding of a Painted Pool