

## **PAINTING SWIMMING POOLS FIBREGLASS POOLS - UNPAINTED OR PREVIOUSLY PAINTED WITH 2 PACK EPOXY**

### **2 Pack Epoxy**

#### **PREPARATION**

*Due to the variety of Fibre-glass pool construction, many fibre-glass pools gradually deteriorate & weaken because of moisture penetrating into the fibre-glass structure. Sometimes osmosis based defects occur in the form of blisters. Check with your supplier for detailed repair details prior to painting. Due to fibreglass being such a doubtful surface, painting of fibre-glass is done entirely at customer's own risk.*

First you must ensure the coating is a 2 pack epoxy. Refer to the Forminex Epoxy Pool Paint data sheet for a simple test to differentiate between 2 pack epoxy/urethane finishes and Chlorinated Rubber finishes. Only proceed with this project guide if the existing finish is a pack two pack epoxy or two pack urethane.

Ensure the existing paint or gelcoat surface is sound. Remove any peeling or flaking paint. Check other areas for signs of peeling or delamination. Small damaged areas may be repaired with Forminex Epoxy Laminating Resin. Exposure of the glass fibre of the laminate or cracking can indicate severe structural problems may have occurred or are imminent. Professional advice should be sought.

Many substances can be deposited on the walls and floor of a pool over years of use. This step is designed to remove contaminants such as suntan lotions, body fats, oils, greases and the like. Wash the surface with FORMINEX POOL WASH using stiff brush or broom. FORMINEX POOL WASH should be mixed 500mls into 20 litres of fresh water for general cleaning. Mix 1:1 with water for heavy deposits of oily or greasy material. Wash 2 - 3 square metres at a time and rinse thoroughly with fresh water as you go. Do not allow FORMINEX POOL WASH to dry on surface.

The following step removes deposited salts and chemicals on the pools surfaces. The surface should be acid etched with a dilute solution of Hydrochloric Acid.

- Ensure you are wearing the correct protective clothing. Rubber Boots, Rubber Gloves and goggles. It is also a good idea to be wearing a long sleeved shirt and trousers.
- Mix the acid solution in a plastic bucket (not metal) and always add the acid to the water NOT the water to the acid. Add 1 part by volume of acid to 2 parts of water.
- Work on a small area at a time, 2 – 3 m<sup>2</sup> is ideal. Apply the acid using a plastic watering can and scrub the surface using a stiff bristled nylon scrubbing brush or broom. When the bubbling reaction stops immediately rinse the area with fresh water. Do not allow the acid to dry on the surface as this will adversely affect the coating.

Neutralise the acid washed surface with a mixture of 1kg FORMINEX ACID NEUTRALISER into 10 litres fresh water. This will prevent residual acid from interfering with the coating being applied.

Rinse thoroughly with clean water to remove any residue of the acid neutraliser. Allow 2 - 3 days at a minimum of 20°C to dry prior to painting (warm, sunny days).

Thoroughly abrade or sand the entire surface to provide key for new coating to adhere. (Surface should have visible scratch marks). Sand paper with 20 – 40 grit is recommended. Failure to properly abrade the surface before painting may lead to premature failure of the new coating system. If using an angle grinder take care not to "dig into" the existing surface. Do not expose glass fibre reinforcing. If this occurs then Forminex Marine Systems Epoxy may be used to repair the damage before painting.

Ensure that all dust from the sanding process is vacuumed up before proceeding

To test whether the surface is dry enough to paint, tape a small square of clear plastic to centre of floor of pool early a.m. & check at noon. If condensation has formed under plastic, further drying is required.

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## PAINTING

Painting should be done during the warmer months, this will assist with curing. Check forecast for a period when no rain is predicted or heavy dew is unlikely. NOTE: If the freshly painted pool is spotted by rain or dew the surface may become bloomed (cloudy looking). If this occurs, thoroughly abrade surface prior to continuing with next coat. If water collects in the bottom of the pool before the coating is fully cured, premature failure may result.

*Early morning to 11am is the best time of day to paint*, as long as the surface is totally dry and the surface temperature is above 10°C. Ideal application temperature 15-30°C. Painting when the temperature is outside this range may damage the coating. Avoid painting in direct sunlight as this will cause paint to dry too quickly. Do not paint if temperature is likely to drop below 10°C during curing period. Remember in cold conditions surface temperatures are likely to be lower than ambient temperatures.

FORMINEX EPOXY POOL PAINT is a two pack product. The mix ratio is 4 parts of Base and 1 part of Hardener. A 4 litre can of Base contains 3.2 litres of base and when mixed with the 1 litre can of hardener (which contains 800ml of hardener) the result is 4 litres of paint. It is best to mix full cans to avoid mixing errors. We stock a range of graduated mixing cups if you plan on mixing smaller amounts but we do not recommend this practice. When mixed the resultant product has a pot life of 4 hours (at 25°C) so only mix what you can use in 1 to 2 hours. Keep the mixed paint in a cool shaded area and out of direct sun or pot life will be dramatically shortened. Add the hardener to the base and mix thoroughly with a wide flat bladed stirrer or "potato masher" type mixed. Ensure that you have mixed the paint thoroughly as failure to do so may result in drying problems.

Always apply FORMINEX EPOXY POOL PAINT at the recommended application rate. Do not apply thin coats as this will result in premature wear of the coating. We have calculated the amount of paint you need for the measurements of your pool. If you have a significant quantity left over then you have not put enough on the surface.

Sweep or vacuum the pool to remove any dust or dirt.

Apply 1<sup>st</sup> coat FORMINEX EPOXY POOL PAINT.

Apply second coat when the surface is firm to walk on. This is usually a minimum of 8 hours. If more than 24 hours passes after the application of the first coat then the first coat should be sanded to provide a key and all sanding dust removed before applying the 2<sup>nd</sup> coat FORMINEX EPOXY POOL PAINT.

A 3<sup>rd</sup> coat of FORMINEX EPOXY POOL PAINT should be applied for badly worn or repaired pools to ensure a good film build over worn/repared areas.

Do not fill the pool until paint is fully cured. This will take 7 days during summer and up to 14 days during colder conditions. Avoid leaving pool empty for extended periods as chalking of paint surface may occur. During the first month of the pool being filled the paint surface is particularly sensitive to strong doses of chemical. It is better to bring the chemical levels up gradually.

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