

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 emersion in water, FORMINEX 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 Chlorinated Rubber)
- ✦ When being used in water at temperatures over 32°C (use Supergloss)
- ✦ When there is frequent exposure to direct sunlight ie not covered by water (use 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 determinate with age. Small areas of damage can be repaired by the DIY handyman although more extensive failure of concrete or marblesheen will require professional attention.

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 Supergloss. 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!

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

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