

# Pool Coating Start-Up Guide

November 2017

Page 1 of 2

An important step-by-step guide to the chemical treatment of pools after **Pool Coating** application.

## TEST THE SOURCE WATER

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Before the pool is coated, a sample of the tap water should be taken to a pool shop who will test for (this is particularly important if borehole water is used):

- pH (not to be below 7.4)
- The presence of iron or copper in the solution. If metals are present, add metal remover. It is advisable to add a metal remover even if no metals are found to be present.
- Total alkalinity. The ideal is 100 ppm. Below this, alkalinity increaser (Sodium Bicarbonate) should be added. Correct Total Alkalinity level helps stabilise pH and Low alkalinity will cause volatility with your pH level.
- Calcium hardness. The ideal is 250 ppm for start-up. Below this, calcium chloride should be added.

Your nearest pool shop will recommend the appropriate products to remedy the quality of the water, but you will need to provide the correct volume of the pool for accurate prescriptions. (You may want to take a meter reading if you are filling from one source with a water meter, just to verify and have an accurate number in future.)

NB! The water quality varies from area to area within the same town/city and rarely meets the requirements needed for a chemically well balanced pool.

## FILLING THE POOL

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1. The completed work should be air cured for 6 days and then vacuum cleaned on the 7th day prior to filling the pool with water.
2. Fill the pool at the deep end. We recommend the use of a deflector on the end of the hosepipe. Usually, an old towel or thick cloth tied over the spout end of the hosepipe suffices as this balloons and hence diffuses the water pressure. The water then creeps up over the still soft **Pool Coating** preventing run marks. It also prevents the hosepipe 'whipping' against the new surface and damaging it.
3. Water should not be sprayed or allowed to run over newly painted surfaces at high pressure. Mist spray exposed walls and stair areas at regular intervals (preferably every hour) while the pool is filling as **Pool Coating** dries intermittently and hairline cracks may occur.
4. Fill the pool in one go to avoid a water-ring from forming. Do not stop the water flow until the pool is properly filled to the middle of the skimmer (weir) or tile line. Avoid mud splashes or dirty water.
5. Whilst the water is filling but before it reaches the curved area where the floor meets the wall add a dosage of about 2kg Calcium Chloride in flake form (dissolved in water) to the existing water mass. Source water with a low Calcium Hardness will draw the required calcium from the **Pool Coating** and cause early etching.

## ONCE THE POOL IS FILLED

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### Day 1

Once the pool is properly filled check the Calcium Hardness again and make the necessary adjustments to achieve a Calcium Hardness level of between 200ppm to 275ppm.

### Day 2 to day 21

1. Start filter. Do not introduce an automatic cleaner to the pool for 3 weeks. During this period use the pool brush only to remove dust and debris. Brush the **Pool Coating** surface with a soft pool brush and backwash at least once a day. Maintain a pH of 7.8. This will aid the curing and hardening process of the **Pool Coating**. The pH of untreated pool water will rise and finally stabilize at about 8.3. (At this point it becomes scale forming)
2. Dose only with small quantities of unstabilised granular dry chlorine, or unstabilised liquid chlorine during this period.

# Pool Coating Start-Up Guide

**November 2017****Page 2 of 2****Day 22**

1. After 3 weeks check the pH and add only 25ml hydrochloric acid per 10 000L of pool water (e.g. 100ml per 40 000L pool) dissolved in a plastic bucket of the pool water in any single 6 hour period with the filter running. Repeat the dose until the pH reads between 7.4 and 7.6. It could take over a week before the pH is corrected. Never use sulphuric acid in the pool.
2. Follow the chlorine manufacturer's instructions for dosing from now on.
3. Stabilise the water if desired. Dissolve the stabiliser granules in bucket of water to form a slurry before slowly adding to the weir with the pump running. Do not add directly to pool and do not backwash for 48 hours.
4. If a salt water chlorinator is installed, add salt to the water and switch on the chlorinator. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions.
5. The automatic pool cleaner can now be introduced to the pool.

**Important information**

Always follow the chemical manufacturers' instructions when adding chemicals to the pool. Chemicals should be added in a controlled way as it is not advisable to overdose with any chemical hoping that the effect will last two weeks rather than one.

Overdosing can damage the **Pool Coating** surface. Overdosing with acid causes etching of the **Pool Coating** surface and destroys total alkalinity. Always dilute acid before dosing, and add while the pump is running to ensure an even distribution.

Overdosing with calcium hypochlorite (dry granular chlorine) causes scale build-up and high pH.

Overdosing with trichloroisocyanuric acid (stabilised chlorine) causes a drop in pH and etching of the **Pool Coating** surface as it neutralises itself by leeching the calcium from the **Pool Coating**. Keep chlorine pills or granules well away from the immediate edge of the pool. Also keep out of direct jet of the aim flow and away from or near the weir.

The use of a gas chlorinator is not recommended. Due to the chemical reactions that take place where the gas is introduced to the water, HCL is formed which causes etching of the **Pool Coating** surface and results in serious staining.

We recommend the use of Sodium dichloroisocyanurate (pH neutral chlorine) as the best way to chlorinate with the least risk of radical pH changes.

Correct water balance is critical to ensure the proper performance of the pool products, protect your investment and obtain maximum enjoyment from your pool.

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