Pool Coating Start-Up Guide

November 2025

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

TEST THE SOURCE WATER

Before the pool is coated, a sample of the tap water must be taken to a pool shop that will test it for:

- 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.
- the ideal total alkalinity is 100ppm. Below this, an alkalinity increaser (Sodium Bicarbonate) should be added. The correct total alkalinity level helps stabilise pH and low alkalinity will cause volatility with your pH level.
- the ideal calcium hardness is 250ppm for start-up. Below this, calcium chloride should be added.

Consult your local pool shop for appropriate water treatment products. To ensure accurate dosing, it is essential to provide the correct pool volume. If filling the pool from a metered source, consider recording the meter reading to verify the volume and retain this information for future reference.

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

FILLING THE POOL

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. A thick cloth or old towel secured over the end of the hose is typically sufficient to diffuse water pressure, as the material expands and softens the water flow. Allowing the pool to fill slowly ensures the water gently rises over the still-soft **Pool Coating**, preventing run marks. This method also minimizes movement of the hose, reducing the risk of it striking and damaging the new surface.
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 continuously in a single operation to prevent the formation of a waterline stain. Do not interrupt the water flow until the level reaches the midpoint of the skimmer (weir) or the tile line. Take care to avoid introducing mud or contaminated water during the filling process.
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

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 the filter. Do not introduce an automatic cleaner to the pool for 3 weeks. During this period, use the soft vacuum brush head and attach it to your creepy pipe 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.
3. Small amounts of acid can be used to maintain a pH of 7.8. Add only 25ml hydrochloric acid (HCl) per 10 000 litres of pool water (e.g. 100ml per 40 000 litre 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.

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Day 22

1. Follow the chlorine manufacturer's dosing instructions from this point onward.
2. Stabilise the water if desired. Dissolve the stabiliser granules in a 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.
3. If a salt water chlorinator is installed, add salt to the water and switch on the chlorinator. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions.
4. The automatic pool cleaner can now be introduced to the pool.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Do not allow metal objects or dead plant matter to lie on the pool floor. This helps prevent staining and deterioration of the pool surface.

Brush your pool daily to prevent algae buildup and maintain a clean surface.

Empty the weir basket daily to maintain optimal water flow and filtration efficiency.

Always add powdered chemicals into the pump weir, not directly into the pool. This ensures better dilution and reduces the risk of surface damage.

Always follow the chemical manufacturers' instructions when adding chemicals to the pool. Chemicals should be added in a controlled manner; overdosing is not advisable, even if it is hoped the effect will last longer.

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 it while the pump is running to ensure even distribution.
- Overdosing with calcium hypochlorite (dry granular chlorine) causes scale buildup and high pH.
- Overdosing with trichloroisocyanuric acid (stabilised chlorine) causes a drop in pH and etching of the **Pool Coating** surface, as it neutralizes itself by leaching calcium from the coating.
- Keep chlorine pills or granules well away from the immediate edge of the pool, out of the direct jet of airflow, and away from or near the weir.
- The use of a gas chlorinator is not recommended, as chemical reactions produce hydrochloric acid (HCl), which causes etching and serious staining of the **Pool Coating** surface.
- We recommend using sodium dichloroisocyanurate (pH-neutral chlorine) as the safest chlorination method with the least risk of drastic pH changes.

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