

# GUIDANCE NOTES - HOW TO PAINT A SWIMMING POOL

Painting your pool is no small feat, every care should be taken to keep the surface clean and dry throughout the painting process. Always remember that a pool is a specialised structure and should not be treated as just another wall to paint. If you come across any hiccups or have any questions we're happy to help. We strongly recommend you contact our friendly technical services team on 01482 328053 for specification and guidance before making a decision. Here is some basic advice on painting your swimming pool.

## Prior to painting

Newly constructed pools should be allowed to dry out thoroughly before painting (normally at least 28 days) Moisture content of concrete should be below 7% prior to application of any coating. Surface preparation is key! The surface should be free from nibs, cavities and other imperfections. Any mould or oil stains must be removed.

**For Bare Concrete:** The Surface should be cleaned using high-powered pressure washing to remove any external contaminants. Following this, the wet surface should be cleaned using Coo-Var Acid Etch. The Acid Etch Solution should be diluted 3:1 with clean water, then applied to the surface using a sweeping or turks-head brush. The operator should wear suitable PPE when using this product. On contact with the concrete the solution should vigorously foam. Once the foaming has subsided, the surface should be hosed down with clean water to wash away any loose particles until the washings are totally clean.

**For Previously Painted Concrete:** Check for compatibility with existing coatings, incompatible coatings will likely result in blisters and peeling. If compatibility is uncertain, please contact Coo-Var Technical Services Department. If incompatible, remove existing coatings mechanically prior to painting and treat as bare substrate. Old perished chlorinated rubber coatings must be removed by thorough scraping. If compatible, thoroughly clean and degrease the existing coatings, rub the existing coatings with sandpaper of 120 grit to ensure maximum adhesion between the coats. Dust off and degrease the surface again; thoroughly inspect the surface, double check the condition and make any necessary repairs, ensuring the surface is thoroughly cleaned prior to painting.

**Allow at least 24 hours to thoroughly dry after any cleaning process (Please ensure the moisture content of the concrete is below 7% prior to priming)**

## Application

Application conditions must receive careful consideration, the weather being one of the chief factors. A warm but cloudy day is ideal. It is not desirable to apply the coating in direct sunlight. Never work when the concrete is damp (e.g. morning dew or after rain) or if rain is likely before the coating will have time to hard dry.

**For Bare concrete:** Thin the first coat of Coo-Var Swimming Pool Paint (10% by volume with Swimming Pool Paint Thinners) to assist in penetration into the concrete.

**For Previously Painted compatible pools:** Apply one un-thinned Coat of Coo-Var Swimming Pool Paint. Apply by Brush or Roller; For ease of access apply to the walls before painting the floor. Applying too thickly may cause solvent entrapment and subsequent blistering, care must be taken to apply at the recommended spreading rate of 14sqm/l. If applying by roller, lay off with a brush to avoid trapping air in the coating. Spraying is possible for professional users only. Please contact Technical services for further information.

**Leave 24-48 hours (48 hours is preferable) to dry before applying subsequent coats.**

## Mid-coat

One coat Swimming Pool Paint. After a minimum of 24 hours from the first coat apply a second un-thinned coat at a spreading rate of 14sqm/l. Do not overwork as the first coat may be disturbed. Some "bite" into the first coat is normal.

**Allow 24-48 hours (48 hours is preferable) before applying the third coat.**

## Topcoat

One coat Swimming Pool Paint. After a minimum of 24 hours from the second coat apply a third full thickness coat, again taking care not to disturb the prior coats, applying at a spreading rate of 14sqm/l. It is important to apply at least three coats (including one thinned coat if required)

From application of the final coat, leave the pool for a **minimum of 14 days** before filling with water. Failure to do so will result in the solvent becoming trapped, causing small blisters to form in the paint surface. Indoor pools should be well ventilated during this time.

**Notes:** We are unable to guarantee compatibility with other manufacturers paints. In general, however, Coo-Var Swimming Pool Paint will be satisfactory on another pure chlorinated rubber paint if it is in good condition. Always test a small area first before full application. If in any doubt contact Coo-Var Technical Services on 01482 328053.