



Paint Manufacturers

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## PRODUCT DATA SHEET – PEBBLECRETE

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# 358 Two-Pack Epoxy Swimming Pool Paint

### SURFACE PREPARATION

**Note: it is recommended that pebblecrete pools be painted only with a two-pack epoxy.**

The entire surface needs to be sufficiently abraded either by an acid wash, sandblasting or ground using a wire brush attachment for an angle grinder to remove any smooth or shiny areas, especially on the pebble surface. **Waterblasting is NOT an adequate preparation technique.** Following abrasion the surface needs to be waterblasted and allowed to thoroughly dry out before commencing to paint. Perform a condensation test to ensure that all moisture has left the surface.

### ACID ETCHING

When acid etching, protective clothing must be worn – rubber gloves, boots and goggles. Prepare the mixture in a PLASTIC BUCKET. ALWAYS ADD ACID TO WATER AND WEAR PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR. NEVER ADD WATER TO ACID.

In a plastic bucket mix a weak solution of hydrochloric acid and water (1:8). Brush the solution on to the surface. The acid will bubble on the surface, as soon as the reaction stops flush the area with clean water. Work on small sections at a time until the entire surface has been etched. When etched correctly the surface should have a rough, sandpapery feel. Splash a small amount of water on the surface to determine if it has been sufficiently etched. If the water soaks in fairly quickly the surface is properly etched. If the water stands on the surface repeat the application of the acid wash until the surface allows the penetration of water. Water blast the entire surface to ensure that all acid and loose debris is removed. Leave the surface to thoroughly dry before painting (this can be up to 1 week depending on season and local weather conditions). Ensure that the removal of acid is in accordance with local council by-laws. Please contact the relevant authority if you are uncertain.

### CONDENSATION TEST

Average drying times after water blasting will vary with season, climate and location as well as the porosity of the surface. It is recommended to wait 3-7 days and then perform a condensation test to determine surface dryness. To do this, tape a sheet of plastic (0.5m x 0.5m) to the surface in the morning. Ensure that the seal is air-tight. Around mid afternoon inspect the surface on the pool side to see if any condensation has formed under the surface.

Any condensation indicates that the surface is too wet to paint. Wait 24 hours and perform the test again. You must continue with this test until no condensation forms under the plastic after the wait period. **PAINTING OVER WET SURFACE WILL RESULT IN CHLORINATED RUBBER PAINT BLISTERING AND PEELING OFF. PAINTING EPOXY OVER A WET SURFACE WILL CAUSE BLOOMING ON THE SURFACE – BLOOM IS A FINE WHITE POWDERY DEPOSIT ON THE SURFACE.**

### **PAINTING THE POOL**

Before starting the paint job, check the weather forecast, especially for rain or heavy dew. Condensation on the painted surface may cause discolouration or coating failure.

Only mix one pack at a time to avoid gelling of paint that sits in the can. To mix the paint add 358B to 358A and mix thoroughly with a low speed electric drill or suitable mixer. Ensure that your mixing equipment is clean. When mixing, make sure that you scrape down the sides of the mixing can so that all parts of the paint are mixed thoroughly together. Incomplete mixing will result in paint that does not cure, evidenced by a wet or tacky surface after 4-6 hours. Mix the part A and part B combination for approximately 10 minutes. Fill the hardener can with Epox-100 solvent until all hardener is removed from the sides of the can and then add to the mix, stirring for a further 10 minutes. **NEVER MIX PART PACKS – ALWAYS USE WHOLE PACKS.** Ensure that the mixed paint is kept cool as higher temperatures reduce pot life.

Cut in around the tile line using a brush, apply to the main surface using a roller. After applying the admixture leave the paint for 10-15 minutes, after this time inspect the surface to see if any bubbles have appeared. If there are bubbles go over the surface **LIGHTLY** with a wet roller to allow the bubbles to reform into the paint.

Let the first coat cure a minimum of 24 hours before applying the second coat of Epoxy. If there is any chance of rain or a heavy dew during the 24 hour dry time there might be a milky discolouration over the entire surface. A light sanding with medium-grade sandpaper can remove this. Remove all sanding dust before applying the second coat of Epoxy.

Once the second coat has been applied, leave it 7 days before filling with water in summer and up to 14 days in winter. Filling before this time will affect the life expectancy of the coating and cause discolouration. **DO NOT** add chemicals for at least 3-5 days.

### **WATER CHEMISTRY**

Maintaining stable water chemistry is essential in maximizing and maintaining the life and appearance of your pool. The following table shows recommended ranges and test frequencies for stable water chemistry.

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Due to differences in substrates, application methods and local conditions purchasers of this product must ensure that it is suitable for their specific application. Information contained in this Data Sheet is subject to Paintec standard terms and conditions of sale. Subject to the provisions of the Trade Practices Act, the Company's liability in relation to defective product shall be limited to replacement or repair of the product or the supply of equivalent product.

FACTOR	RANGE	TEST FREQUENCY
pH	7.2-7.6	Daily
Free Chlorine	1.0-2.0	Daily
Total Alkalinity	100-150 ppm	Weekly
Calcium Hardness	200-300 ppm	Monthly
Stabiliser	35-60 ppm	Monthly

**pH Levels** – pH is a measurement of the acidity or alkalinity of a solution. The pH scale commonly in use ranges from 0 to 14. 7 is used to designate pH neutral solutions, numbers above 7 indicate increasing alkalinity and numbers below 7 indicating increasing acidity. Low pH, combined with UV rays will accelerate the degradation of a pool lining.

**Total Alkalinity** – alkalinity is a measure of the total amount of alkaline minerals dissolved in water. Alkalinity levels between 100-150 ppm helps to resist fluctuations in pH.

**Calcium Hardness** – this refers to the total amount of dissolved minerals in the water. Low calcium hardness can cause corrosion of the pool surface, filters, heaters etc. High calcium hardness can cause cloudy water. Signs that your calcium hardness levels might be out of balance include:

- eye and skin irritation
- corrosion of metals (e.g., pump seals, heaters, lights etc)
- a white chalky scale build up on the pool surface

Some chemicals added to pool water can react with each other to form salts, which, over time, can form a precipitate on the walls and floor of the pool. This is more likely to occur in new pools and pools that are improperly balanced. Improperly balanced water affects the solubility of certain minerals, factors such as increased water temperature, high pH and high total alkalinity decrease the solubility of minerals thereby increasing the likelihood of a stain forming on the walls and floor of the pool. It is important that you regularly test your water to ensure that you minimise the chances of scale formation, as well as increasing the life of your pool lining. If there is a significant scale build up the pool needs to be drained and the scale scrubbed off either with solvent or an acid wash. Following this, the surface needs to be thoroughly water-blasted and allowed to dry before filling.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

There are certain circumstances that arise that can affect the appearance and performance of the two-pack epoxy pool coatings. Below are outlined some of the common situations, what the possible cause is and how it can be remedied.

**1. STAINING** – this is when a fine powdery coating forms on the surface resulting in a reduction in gloss. A yellow tinge can also develop on the surface of your epoxy coating which is caused by excess hardener leaching to the surface. This will disappear over the course of 3-6 months. To try and avoid this, ensure that your mix ratios are exact.

### Possible causes

- i) The pool is filled too soon, before the paint is fully cured

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ii) The depositing of soluble salts onto the paint surface caused by unstable water chemistry, super-chlorinated water or over treating water with calcium hypochlorite

iii) Application of the paint at low temperatures

**Possible Solutions**

i) Ensure that the paint is left to cure for the recommended time before filling, this might be longer in winter

ii) High chlorine levels affect chalking, keep levels in line with recommendations. Also, regular brushing and filtration helps minimize chalking.

iii) Check calcium hardness levels and consult your pool shop for remedies.

iv) Drain the pool and leave to dry. Then either acid wash or solvent wash the entire surface.

**2. BLISTERING** – is when the coating shows cracks and peeling from the substrate.

**Possible Causes**

i) Painting over a moist or damp surface

ii) Painting during high temperature (over 30°C)

iii) Applying the paint too thick

iv) Filling the pool before it is cured

v) Incompatible paints

**Possible Solutions**

i) Apply at recommended coverage rates

ii) Ensure that the surface is dry prior to painting

iii) Ensure paint is fully cured before filling with water

**COVERAGE** – 2.5-5m<sup>2</sup> per litre

**PACKS** – 2.5 litre, 7.5 litre

**COLOURS** – Olympic Blue, White

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