



Date Issued	Feb 2026
Replaces	11/23

## INFO SHEET

*Performance Through  
Technology and Service*

### Discussion about Fibreglass Lined Concrete Pools and Coatings

There are pools constructed with a reinforced concrete shell that has been lined with a fibreglass layer. The fibreglass layer is often applied some time after construction such as when the concrete has become worn, hard to keep clean, has leakages, cracked or for some other aesthetic reason. There are also instances when the fibreglass layer was applied soon after construction as part of the original design.

The fibreglass layer may now be looking tired, dirty, have algae attack, may have delaminated in parts and even worn through in some places.

It can be upgraded successfully by using a Paint N Forget coating system, however there are some important issues to discuss before carrying out this work.

The first issue relates to the condition of the fibreglass. If just looking a little worn and tired, but still well adhered, this makes it quite straight forward to deal with. However, we usually find that there will be areas where it's completely worn through and may be missing larger pieces. Also, there may be areas where it's still continuous membrane but has become unattached to the concrete below. Any moldy and general dirty areas can be easily addressed as part of the surface preparation.

Many issues will not be easily understood until the pool is empty.

It therefore needs to be said such pools must be approached with care.



Often some areas of fibreglass will come away easily and others will remain very hard to remove, if at all. Usually, it will be necessary to remove the fibreglass where possible and replace OR feather edge the bigger patches leaving clean, bare concrete, fill any remaining holes with epoxy and hope the remainder of the fibreglass that is currently well adhered remains so. Ideally, ALL fibreglass needs to be removed no matter how well adhered.

Some pool owners have found the easiest way to get stubborn material off is to remove all the easy areas and then take to heating those hard to remove with a gas torch, (Have a fire extinguisher handy) to soften it, but not melt it or burn it. Then let cool down to a temp you can touch and pull it off. Most will come away quite easily. Repeat as necessary to get a good "clean" surface.

Thereafter, apply the PaintnForget Coating specially formulated for use in pools, to provide a seamless, hard-wearing coating for many years. It's applied in 2 - 3 coats (usually) and requires only 7 - 14 days' curing. It must be applied to dry surfaces and will bond permanently with a clean, stable surface.

Contact us for more specific assistance for your pool.

See over for a sample process to prepare and apply PaintNForget

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## Basic specification for preparing a Fibreglass lined concrete pool and applying PaintNForget. (FP Fluoropolymer OR PP 100% Epoxy)

### Preparation:

1. Empty pool and begin a very thorough inspection of the pool surfaces, and the Fibreglass liner (FG).
2. Generally, we recommend a thorough detergent wash to remove all dirt, algae etc, so you can clearly see **all** the surface details.
3. Check for areas where the liner has come away from the concrete shell, as these will need to be carefully removed.

### Treatment:

4. Areas where the liner is well adhered and sound can usually be left, so long as you are satisfied it will remain fully adhered, for a long period of time. (5 + years)
5. If you want to remove all the FG liner, you may find the use of a gas torch to heat and soften (not burn) the liner allows it to be pulled off. (Have fire extinguisher handy)
6. Note worn areas where the liner finish is worn, and the fibres are visible. These will need to be repaired and brought up to an acceptable standard before coating. Note: Make sure any repairs with Gel coat are wax free and once cured ( 2 – 4 days) sanded back well and acetone washed to remove ALL sanding residues and any wax. This is **vital** for good coating adhesion.
7. Removal of the liner surface:  
*Large areas;* lift carefully and when getting to well adhered parts, then cut the piece to be removed, with sharp (Stanley) knife. Be careful not to reduce the adhesion of the well adhered parts.  
*Small areas;* cut these out with a sharp knife.
8. All edges where the liner is well adhered after removing the loose areas, are best sanded to create a 45-degree angle (if not cut that way already).
9. You then need to make sure all exposed concrete surfaces are clean and free of oils, dirt, algae etc.
10. Then fill the bare areas (up to say 100 mm across approx.) with an epoxy filler, thoroughly mixed and bedded in. Slightly over fill. NOTE: to stop the epoxy sticking to trowel, gloved hands etc, dip into a mixture of water and dishwashing detergent (4 to 1 approx). Allow epoxy to cure 24 hours or till hard. The sand flush with adjoining areas.
11. Bare areas (greater than 100 mm across approx.) still make sure the edges are cut to 45 degrees approx. and the remaining lining is well adhered right to the exposed edge. If not cut back carefully till it is. **This is vital**, (to prevent loss of adhesion in the future)

### Sealer application:

12. Then to clean bare concrete apply PnF Primer- Sealer water-based epoxy sealer and allow to cure. Take it up onto the edges of the liner. Allow to cure 24 hours.
13. Worn areas of fibreglass liner may need to be rebuilt. If so, treat the area as new FG when applying the PNF coating system and allow the new FG to be fully cured and all styrene monomer and wax to be removed from the surface, before any coating applied. (Otherwise, delamination of the coating may occur).

### Topcoats:

14. Applying PNF coating systems; To ALL surfaces (Concrete, epoxy, liner) including those areas already primed with PnF Primer-Sealer, mix and apply one coat of PnF Primer-Sealer at the correct coverage rate and allow to cure 24 hours. Then mix and apply 2 -3 coats of PNF (Either FP or PP) colour coat in accordance with the Application Notes, allow 24 hours between coats and 7 – 14 days before refilling.

### NOTES:

- Making sure all **loose** fibreglass liner is removed is vital for a successful long-term solution.
- The original liner may have lost adhesion due to hydrostatic pressure and if not attended to may result in further loss of adhesion of the liner and any coating applied.
- Upgrading such a pool is usually complex. Removing ALL the FG layer is the best answer, and soda, sand or maybe very high-pressure water will do this. There after the surface may need to be skim coated before painting due to the profile created by the removal process.
- Refer to the current APPLICATION NOTES for full details.