

# Looking after your PaintNForget Pool Coating

## General Pool Guide

### Introduction

Congratulations on choosing the **PaintNForget** Fluoropolymer (FP) **OR** 100% Hi Build Epoxy, (PP) Pool Coatings. Detailed below are some handy hints to keeping your pool coating looking great for longer and answering common questions about your pool and its' chemistry.

Now that you have a “new” pool coated with **PaintNForget** a few simple techniques will keep it looking great. **PaintNForget** is designed to provide a long-lasting, functional and protective finish, while looking good. A longer life will be achieved when it is looked after correctly.

### Before Filling

Allow the coating to cure for 7 days in summer and 14 days in winter, before adding any water. (If you need to fill sooner, contact Applicator or us, first)

To check if **coating cured**, saturate a knotted clean rag or paper towel with IPA (Iso Propyl Alcohol- x pharmacy) and wipe surface in one direction over 50 mm. If any paint (stain) on rag – towel, it's NOT cured enough. If need be, retest each 24 hrs. till no colour – paint on rag.

Any clean **rainwater** (or dew) should be removed during the curing period. Be careful as surface may be slippery. Any water running

over a garden or concrete should be removed quickly as may contain contamination which will stain the partly cured surface.

Before filling, remove any **dirt, sand, leaves, insects** etc. The latter by gently scraping or using a “Scotch Brite” pad and some dishwashing detergent.

Any vegetation may leave stains and any sand is abrasive.

NOTE: The new coating will be very slippery to start with so proceed with extra caution when inside the empty pool.

### Filling and Chemicals

**Consult your pool shop on setting up the correct chemical balance.**

Check that the Hydrostatic valve (if fitted) is working correctly (pool shop) Fill pool with clean water. Then allow it to stand 24 - 96 hours, max.

Then add chemicals (inc Salt) **making sure they are well diluted first, in a bucket of pool water. Then mix into the pool completely.** Any chemicals that are added directly, may sit on bottom and result in

concentrated chemical attacks or stains and reduced life expectancy of **PaintNForget**.

Make sure the pool shop knows your pool is painted and ALWAYS has the pool water testing system set to paint or fibreglass. If not, you may get the wrong amount of expensive chemicals and incorrect water balance.

## Pool Water Maintenance – Very Important for long coating life. Don't ignore it.

### For the best long-term life, we recommend you:

Clean and brush surfaces (at least every 2 weeks in summer and monthly in winter). To remove any dirt, sand, vegetation and “calcium” build up.

Check the water balance at least twice weekly in summer and monthly in winter. (pH, Chlorine, Calcium Hardness, Total Alkalinity, Water Temp and CYA/Phosphates) as per SPASA. (Swimming Pool and Spa Association)

Pool chemicals to be correctly mixed and not dumped into pool,

Pool remains full of water (unless we know in advance that it will be empty)

If using a Cu/Ag system monitor and keep ion concentration low to prevent staining.

Ask your pool shop to calculate the pool water **LSI (Langelier Saturation Index)** every time you have a water test, as it is a great overall marker for pool water balance.

LSI should ALWAYS be from -0.3 to +0.3 and get them to discuss it in detail with you. Understanding LSI can save you money and wasteful chemical additions. (see more details under LSI on page 4)

**As with any significant product or important item, the better you look after it, the longer it will last. The same with your swimming pool and the water. The pool water is a complex chemical mix and needs good consistent management, for the best value and most fun.**

**Not sure about something, then please reach out to us.**

### The recommended ranges for each variable for maximum life are: (Don't ignore)

pH	7.2 – 7.6	Temp	5 – 36 C
Total Alkalinity (TA)	80(min)–180(max) ppm	Chlorine Levels	1 – 3 ppm (not higher)
Calcium Hardness (CA)	250–350 ppm	Watch CA carefully	<b>Keep in these ranges for long coating life and ideal swimming conditions.</b> <b>And: LSI -0.3 to +0.3</b>

When you take your pool water to a pool shop, make sure they adjust the system to **PAINT** and adjust the pool water temperature to the current value of pool water sample (Not as in pool) If not, you will get incorrect results of pool water testing and maybe waste money on unneeded chemicals.

**Total Alkalinity** needs to be carefully maintained to prevent a powdery build up on the pool surfaces, and pick up on feet and hands, coupled with a shorter coating life. (see images below)

**Record ALL pool water tests (at home or in pool shop) for future reference.** This helps see and understand pool water chemistry trends over time. It can save you a lot of time and money.

**Saltwater pools** tend to have increasing pH and this can reduce chlorine effectiveness, above about pH7.8.

## Surface Cleaning:

**PaintNForget** is resistant to surface contamination and fungal growth. However, over time the surface (near waterline) will tend to change with the attachment of slime and fat build up. (suntan oil, human fats and floating dirt, dust etc) Remove with soft broom or brush as needed.

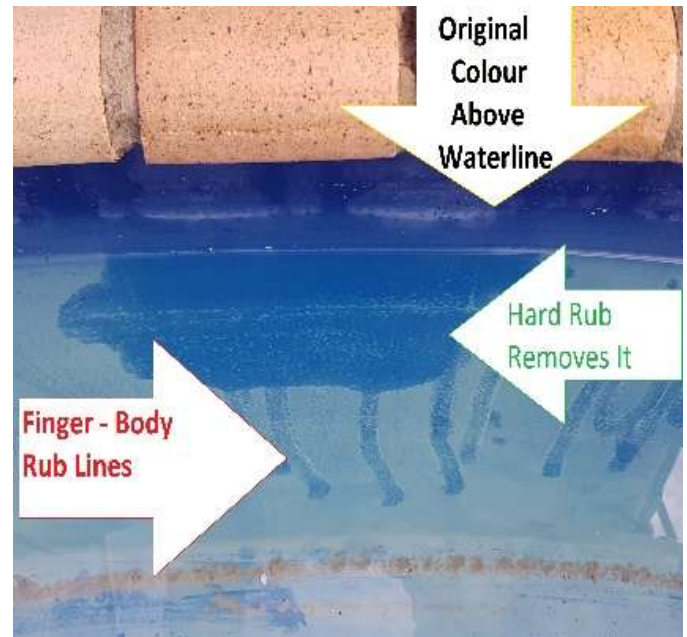
Don't let it go hard, as very difficult to remove.

Hard plastic pool cleaners may abrade the surface, so use a soft crawler variety. (Discuss with your pool shop). And sand, etc on the bottom will increase the abrasion, and reduce the surface life.



## Calcium Build-up:

You may see a white powdery buildup on pool surfaces (more so with saltwater pools) but also with chlorine granules and if hard water used. Often noted when pool water gets cold (winter) & in spring. It may be noticed if you wipe the surface with your hand and you see a white “cloud” in the water.



The **PaintNForget** will be **glossy underneath** when you rub hard. Remove calcium buildup by using a **flocculating agent**. After treatment if water is still cloudy a week later, use a **Clarifier**. Contact your Pool Shop for full details and advice. Follow directions on packaging exactly.

See here too; <https://www.thepoolstainremovers.com.au>

**Do Not ignore** this film, as over time it becomes extremely hard to remove, if at all.

## Colour Change:

**PaintNForget** (FP) is very resistant to colour change (UV attack), however there may be a very slight colour change over a long time. All epoxies inc **PaintNForget** (PP) are less resistant to UV.

If above the water line (in the splash zone), there can be pool water drying and leaving dissolved salts to dry. Dark colours will show this more. Broom – brush off before it goes hard.

**Pool Blanket**, if used with a saltwater chlorinator, make sure the chlorine generation is set very low (1ppm) as excessive chlorine ruins the pool blanket and can bleach the paint where the gas escapes around the at the edge of the blanket.

**Going on Holiday**, make sure the chlorine level is turned down, like to 1 ppm (more so if a blanket used). If not, bleaching of the pool surfaces and the blanket may result.

## Blistering – Bubbles or Stains

Contact the Contractor or us if you see any of these, as soon as noticed. Don't delay.

## Damaged Areas:

Contact the Contractor or us if you see any of these.

## Langelier Saturation Index – More INFORMATION FOR YOU:

Your pool is a mild chemical bath and is always in a state of flux as to water balance. This is due to weather effects, bather load, water temperature, hygiene and much more. Your pool water maybe “clear as”, but is out of chemical balance, no matter what pool tech says.

When you get your water tested, you are testing for the 5 key aspects, pH, Total Alkalinity, Calcium Hardness and CYA, plus Chlorine. There are recommended levels – ranges for all of these. However, though they can be

“in range one by one,” the water can be out of balance and either scaling (too much calcium) or corrosive, (to little calcium). The result is no matter how much the 5 individual readings above are “in spec”, your pool water is not in a chemical balance. Most pool shop software ignores this vital factor, and the result is you are forever adding chemicals to try and get balanced water. A chemical “yo-yo” is the often the result. And adding more expensive chemicals than your pool needs.

## You can think of Langelier Saturation Index, (LSI) like this: (A Project Manager)

Say you are having your house built and there are going to be contractors on site: carpenters, concreters, roofers, plumbers, electricians, and painters. To make sure each trade is there at the right time, does a good job, is on time and on budget there is Project Manager. The Project Manager makes sure the painter does not start before the plumber and electrician has done all their work. (you don't want the electrician making holes in your newly painted and finished walls, to run wiring, do you?).

So, the Langelier Saturation Index (LSI) is the “Project Manager” of your pool. It is there to make sure not only is the pH, Total Alkalinity, Calcium Hardness and CYA (Chlorine is not part of it) are in Spec – Range, but more importantly and vitally, are working together to get and maintain pool water balance.

The LSI should be in the range from -0.3 to +0.3 (24/7) to maintain correct water balance, meaning not scaling and not corrosive. Your pool shop needs to help you with this to get the best value with pool water chemistry and pool water balance.

Unfortunately, many pool technicians are unaware of the importance of this and ignore it. By calculating the LSI every time you have a pool water test, then over time you can see the trends in your pool water balance and head off unwelcome changes before they occur. Doing this will reduce amount expensive chemicals in your pool, stop the “yo- yo” effect on pool water chemistry and save you time and money on removing scaling (white calcium powder on walls and floor) or repairing (deep) etching of surfaces like Fibreglass, Marblesheen, Pebblecrete and Vinyl and Paint -Coatings.

Also, if your pool shop is “on the ball,” they will have software that automatically calculates the LSI every time you have pool water tested. However, for this to be accurate and helpful, the system needs regular recalibration, the pool water temp at the TIME OF TESTING (not in your pool) needs to be included for correct results. Pool volume noted also, has some effect on the calculation results.

## What Some Pool Owners Are Doing:

We are aware that many saltwater pool owners have figured this out and by watching not only chlorine (needed for hygiene and keeping in the range 1- 3 ppm,) but they are checking pH daily to start with and adding pool acid to keep pH always in the range 7.2 to 7.6, with great results. Initially they will have Salt, Total Alkalinity and Calcium Hardness checked at the pool shop and gotten in the recommend range (see page 1) first. To get success, however, you MUST record the results every time you “home” test and keep them

long term and review progress. Then recheck Salt, TA and CH around every 3 months (pool shop) so you also see the trends and adjust the amounts gradually to keep on specification.

After any heavy weather event or big pool usage you may want to recheck ALL 5 at the pool shop as well. You can use test strips or better still Taylors Test Kit (eg K-2006) or AllStar Pool Parts Test Kits from your Pool Shop.

**As with any significant product or important item, the better you look after it, the longer it will last. The same with your pool water as it's a complex chemical mix and needs good consistent management, for the best value and most fun.**

**Not sure about something, then please reach out to us.**

**We have a lot more information and guidance on our websites, [Poolpaint.com.au](http://Poolpaint.com.au) and here, [Pooladvise.com.au](http://Pooladvise.com.au)**



Ph 0415 171 315  
Web [poolpaint.com.au](http://poolpaint.com.au)  
Email [info@poolpaint.com.au](mailto:info@poolpaint.com.au)