

## Discussion about Pebblecrete pools and Upgrading:

with PaintnForget FP (Fluoropolymer) or PP (Hi build Epoxy)

There are quite a number of concrete pools finished with Pebblecrete in Australia. The concept started in the late 1980's and is still carried out today. Over time different types of pebble have been used and generally the larger, rougher pebbles have given way to smaller smoother ones, and these may be had in a range of colours too.

Pebblecrete is a mix of selected pebbles with cement and is trowelled on with an overall thickness being about 5 – 20 mm. Once dry the surface cement is acid washed or water blasted away leaving the pebbles exposed. The quality however varies as it is a hand applied finish and the skill level of the installer will impact on its look and longevity

Older Pebblecrete pools usually show their age by being hard to keep clean, may have black stains and may even have areas that have come away.

Over the years and depending on the quality of installation, pool water chemical balance and general wear and tear, it will slowly degrade. Usually, it ends up with random cracks, worn areas, black staining and may be rust staining too. Some areas may be drummy (hollow underneath) or break away completely. There may be white calcium build ups as well. Often pool owners complain about how sharp the pebbles are and that they cut children's feet. This can be over coated with coating using a hi build epoxy or (skimmed and then) PnF FP. Additionally older pools often have loose pebbles getting stuck in filters, which may jamb filter pumps.



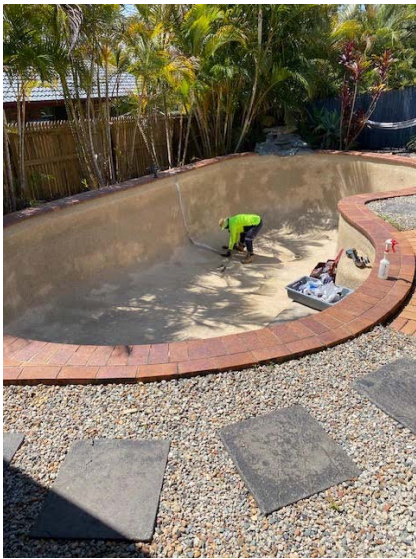
Pebblecrete can be upgraded with PaintnForget FP (Fluoropolymer) or PP (Hi build Epoxy) to provide a new long lasting easy clean finish so long as some careful checking is done first.

In general, the key points are to a successful upgrade are:

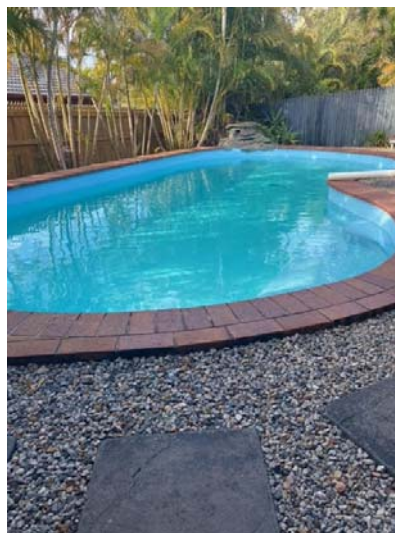
- Empty pool and look closely at surface.
- Check for drummy areas – remove & replace.
- Check for rust spots and if from below, deal with corrosion of pool structural steel work thoroughly.
- Algae roots need to be killed with algicide

- Calcium residues need to be removed.
- Any missing, worn or rough areas should be filled before painting.
- A thorough clean to remove all fats, dirt and loose particles.
- Apply 1 (or 2) coats of PnF Primer- Sealer
- Apply 2 (or 3) coats of PnF Fluoropolymer (or PnF PP 100% Epoxy ) Colour Coats
- Allow to fully cure, refill and balance pool.

NOTE: Older Pebblecrete pools can be quite rough and so 2 (or even 3) coats of PnF Fluoropolymer will not hide this and even provide limited film build on the “mountain” tops so early wear is likely. The alternative is to use PnF PP (100% epoxy) a in 2 – 3 coats for greater over all film build and thus wear resistance. If wanting a longer lasting finish, then skim coat over the clean and stabilised Pebblecrete can achieve this with either PnF FP or PP. (see relevant Application Notes for full details.)



Taking an aged and worn Pebblecrete pool and preparing it correctly and well, can lead to a longer and more economic life, compared to resurfacing with Pebblecrete.



The new smoother non-absorbent surface will be easier to keep clean and algae free. Saving money on chemicals and reducing exposure to harmful chemicals.

