

INFO SHEET

*Performance Through
Technology and Service*

Repairs with Fibreglass Repair Kits

Often with Fiberglass surfaces you will carry out localised or even major repairs up to a complete resurfacing, of say the floor.

It's important to know a few important money and time saving activities and not use the incorrect products.

Observe First:

Are you dealing with a factory moulded fibreglass shell or a fibreglass lined concrete pool, applied in situ.

Either way what is the condition of the fibreglass? Any issues like osmosis, delamination or black spot, general damage, worn gel coat, fibres seen or broken through, splits etc.?

Process:

Now you have determined what is needed plan and prepare carefully for your activities. Note, be careful with an empty fibreglass pool and its stability with any high-water table and any heavy rain while empty.

When it comes to the condition of the fibreglass generally remove all loose and damaged material, especially any dislodged gel coats etc. (For FG lined concrete pools remove all loose and damaged material to expose the concrete) Be mindful of any water beneath the floor and further damaging the surface as you walk around. If the floor is moving as you walk on it, lay down 12 mm x 1 sq M, to spread the load. This may save you having to lay a new floor.

Any chopped strand mat, CSM, (fibres) within the existing FG surface, need to be assessed. If they can be felt when running your hands over the existing gel coats, then note that moisture can track between the fibres and the surrounding gel coat, through micro cracks*. So, if in doubt then these areas need to have a good layer of new gel coat applied over the areas to completely seal the exposed fibre and prevent any moisture from the pool or the underlying ground, passing along the voids.



Products:

You need to use Gel coat (Not flow coat that's contains wax**) Any wax will become a bond breaker between FG layers and paint etc.

Follow the recommendations of the product suppliers in regard to the repair process, surface preparation, cleaning and sanding dust removal including:

- 1 Surface condition
- 2 Correct resin and catalyst for the project and location
- 3 Curing
- 4 Use of chopped strand mat as needed.



Painting the Fibreglass Repairs:

Once the Fibreglass repairs are carried out (see image left), then the repairs need to be:

- 1 Thoroughly cured
- 2 Wash surface to remove any wax or unreacted styrene.
- 3 Sand the surface with #60 followed by #100 wet and dry paper to provide a mechanical key
- 4 Remove ALL sanding residues.
- 5 Mix and apply selected coating in accordance with manufacturer's requirements.

Notes:

* **Capillary Action (Wicking):** While the fibre *itself* does not absorb water, water can move by capillary between the fibres in a mat or cloth.

- **Water Damage (Blistering):** In marine applications, if the protective resin coating is breached, water can enter the fiberglass laminate and travel along the interface between the fibers and the resin. This causes "wicking," where water is drawn into the structure, often leading to osmotic blisters.

**Yes, [flow coat](#) (or flocoat) does contain wax. It is a polyester-based topcoat, often described as gel coat with a wax solution added. This wax rises to the surface during curing to seal the resin from air, allowing it to dry tack-free and enabling it to be sanded

Key Facts About Waxed Flow Coat:

- **Purpose:** The added wax ensures a hard, non-sticky, and sandable finish, making it ideal for the final coat on fiberglass repairs or internal lockers.
- **Application:** It is commonly applied by brush or roller to existing, cured, or semi-cured surfaces.
- **Preparation:** Because the wax rises to the surface, you must sand the surface if applying multiple layers.
- **Compatibility:** Flow coat is generally not compatible with epoxy projects.
- **Catalyst:** It requires the addition of MEKP catalyst (usually 2%) to cure.
- **Limitations:** It should not be used for exterior finishes requiring a high-gloss, pristine look, as it is designed for protection rather than aesthetics.