

INFO SHEET

Scum Lines and Scale Explained



Do you see a grey - brown - yellow line on the inside of the pool, about the water line?

It's **Pool Scum**



It feels sticky and sort of much when you touch it.

And it's a mixture of organic, inorganic, oils and compounds that float on the water. Think of suntan oils, body oils, leaves, and dust etc. (They all get oxidised by the chlorine and rise to the top).

Just like vegetable oils that float on water. Try it if not sure. They don't mix.

Can be removed with some detergent and brush or pad etc.

Scale

Do you see the white marks where there is cement (grout or concrete) but **not** on the dark tiles or below the water line on the pool surfaces.

This is scale and it's related to the pool LSI.

The issue is with temperature and the impact on LSI. Here the tiles, being at the top of the walls heat up everything, as exposed to both sun and warmer water, will harden the Calcium Carbonate in the water, and form this hard rough deposit.

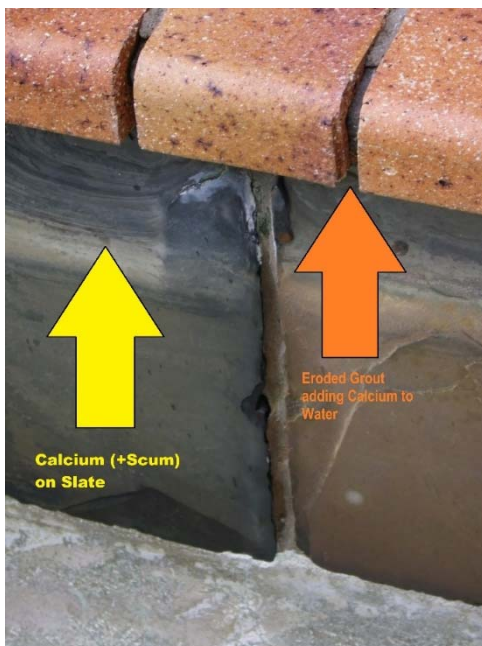
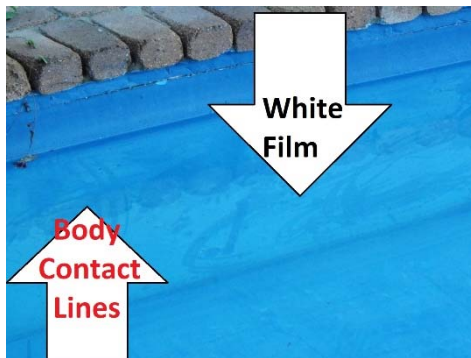
This can happen even if your pool water has an ideal LSI of 0.00 but on the heated surfaces it's + 0.3 plus and so scale forming. And more so likely in saltwater pool, due to naturally rising LSI in the pool water.



Here we see white “stalactites” running down over the dark blue tiles, from the grout. It’s scale. It’s due to water passing into and out of the cement grout as it evaporates, leaving a hard calcium scale.

Whereas if you see a white powdery layer on the areas below the water line, this is also a scale.

It’s related to pool water balance and generally being over saturated with calcium, and the LSI being higher than + 0.5 for a period of time.



You can often get both scum and scaling actions happening at the same time.

Talk to your pool shop to get advice on how to remove it