



*Performance Through
Technology and Service*

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Replaces	

INFO SHEET

Removing Pool Surface Stains

Many pools (and spas) get stains that develop on the surface, above or below the waterline. There is usually an obvious reason for this, and the first thing is to see where or why they may be occurring. Removing them does not prevent them coming back.

Causes of stains include:

- Leaves, bark, seeds, nuts and flowers. (And dust from, industry, motorways and coal trains)
- Metal objects in the pool, bottle tops, cans and even sparks from nearby steel grinding.
- Out of balance pool water can cause the formation of some metallic impurities that drop out and stain the surfaces.

Usually, you will need to try several approaches to get a 100% success.

Spot Cleaning

Chlorine works very well to remove stains from the tannin in acorns. If you only have a few stains in your pool, the easiest and most effective way to clean is to use a chlorine tablet. Take a long pole and attach a chlorine tablet to the end of it either with wire or waterproof tape. Scrub the stain with the tablet and it will be removed.

Tannins are naturally-occurring particles in plants, flowers, trees and other organic materials. They play an integral role in the flavoring and coloring of wine, and herbs containing tannins have been used in the process of tanning hides for centuries. Tannin coloring can cause trouble in swimming pools. When leaves, branches and other organic materials fall into the water and settle on the stairs, walls or floor of the pool, they can leave black or rust-colored stains. Tannin stains will dissolve under an intensive chlorine treatment.

The best method is to apply crushed vitamin C tablets to the **stain** and see if it is removed or lightens.

For the most effective organic pool stain removal, follow these steps:

1. Test and balance your pool's pH and alkalinity levels
 - o Proper pH is between 7.4-7.6, and alkalinity between 100-150
 - o Balancing these chemicals will make the soon-to-be-added chlorine way more effective
2. Use at least 2 pounds of calcium hypochlorite pool shock to super shock your water
 - o 1 bag per 5-gallon bucket of water. Gradually mix the shock into the water bucket.
- o Shock at dusk or night to avoid chemical depletion from the sun
 3. Wait a few hours for the shock to circulate
 4. Apply 1-2 cups of granular chlorine to the stain
 5. Scrub the granular chlorine into the stain
- o If the brush doesn't work, try using a soft tile grout scrubber
 6. Continue scrubbing and applying granular chlorine until the stain is gone

For especially tough organic stains use an enzyme treatment. They can be purchased at any pool store, and help break down organic matter that's too tough for just chlorine.

If not getting the desired results, discuss with your favourite pool shop. There are a range of property products designed to remove all manner of stains. In the worst-case situation, you may need to empty the pool and investigate further and then apply more directly the required treatment.

NOTE: Rust stains may also be seen as a small rusty surface mark, often with a weep, and this will signify that the reinforcing steel within the concrete shell is corroding. It will need considerable repairs and the longer its left, the bigger the repairs needed. A small surface rust stain may mean repairs to concrete and steel beneath, needing a hole the size of a football, to fix fully. Contact us for further advice.