



Performance Through
Technology and Service

Date Issued	
Replaces	

DATA SPECIFICATION

PS-E006 EPOTEC FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How long will it last? Experience to date indicates that a well coated EPOTEC pool will give 5 – 10 years. The actual re-coat time is dependant on the volume of use (e.g. Municipal – High use, Domestic – Low use), and the owners expectation of quality. If a pristine glossy surface is required 5 years is appropriate, whereas 8 years is acceptable for the average owner.

2. What maintenance is needed? Epoxy coating systems are called 'Function Coatings'. This means that they are designed for maximum chemical resistance to the environment. In this case total emersion in the various waters used in swimming pools.

* ABOVE WATER Chalking of the surface will occur and depending on the content of dissolved solids, a build up of a white powder will occur.

REMEDY Using a coarse rag or scratch pad, wipe the surface to remove the build up back to the original EPOTEC colour. Do not aggressively abrade the coating.

* BELOW THE WATER Again a build-up of dissolved solids can precipitate onto the surface, making the surface look white. Use the pool brush to sweep the surface, vacuuming to waste, the deposit.

If the pool is emptied and the deposit is obvious an acid wash can remove most of this. Use a suitable broom to help with the cleaning.

3. Does EPOTEC loose its colour? EPOTEC is a functional coating and as such IS affected by UV light/weathering on the SURFACE. This effect culminates in the loss of gloss and the surface CHALKS. The appearance therefore is whiter than the original colour. The darker the original colour the greater the change.

Epoxy coatings also have a tendency to yellow.

These two effects are AESTHETIC and do NOT alter the suitability for its use in swimming pools.

4. Can EPOTEC be painted over CHLORINATED RUBBER? No, the chlorinated rubber is a thermoplastic material and will loose adhesion to the surface causing the EPOTEC to fail.

5. Do dark colours fade and are they warmer? Dark colours show the greater difference of chalking or dissolved solids build present on the surface. The pigments do not fade, the change in colour is due to the whiter chalked deposit layer.

Dark colours (e.g. Black) absorb heat from the sun, therefore theoretically a darker pool is warmer. We have no actual figures on the degree of temperature change.

6. Is EPOTEC a health hazard? UNMIXED EPOTEC: As with all chemicals it is advisable to avoid contact with eyes and skin. The curing agent is the most dangerous. Use gloves and appropriate safety clothing to avoid contact. If contact is made, wash the effected area with warm soapy water. The curing agent has an odour, that some people may find nauseous, therefore mix the EPOTEC in an area where there is adequate fresh air.

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EPOTEC FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)**

MIXED EPOTEC – When cured the surface after washing is suitable for contact with food stuffs and potable water.

7. Can EPOTEC fill gaps? EPOTEC is a surface curing product. Very thick layers (greater than 200 microns, 0.2 mm) will have very slow curing. Do not puddle the product to level areas.

8. Coating Expansion Joints? Usually in a large pool constructed of concrete slabs the joints have a flexible sealant. In cases where this is required to be coated our recommendation is to select a sealant that EPOTEC adheres to and overcoats with the same system as the concrete. If movement in the joint occurs, EPOTEC will accept some movement, at worst the EPOTEC will crack, but not lose adhesion.

9. Salt Water Pools? EPOTEC is suitable for salt water pools, and pools that use salt chlorinators.

10. Spa Pools? EPOTEC is suitable for spa pools which operate usually less than 45°C.

11. Geothermal Pools? EPOTEC is used in Rotorua for both swimming pools and higher temperature spa pools.

12. Drinking Water? EPOTEC can be used where drinking water is to be stored. The procedure is the same as for the substrate used. After curing for approximately 7 days the tank is filled with

water then changed or washed with warm soapy water then fresh water to remove any surface contaminant.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

13. How long do I let it cure before filling with water? Epoxy resins take time to cure. The warmer the temperature the quicker the cure. We recommend 5 – 7 days as a guide to good practise, to allow the film to cure completely.

Some people have filled the pool in shorter times but we can not accept any responsibility for any changes that may occur.

14. How long between coatings? If the weather permits the subsequent coating can be applied as soon as it is hard enough to walk on the first coat. Practically this is overnight curing.

If because of bad weather the time is greater than 72 hours (3 days) between coats the surface needs to be lightly sanded to ensure good adhesion.

15. What coverage do I get? Coverage is dependant on the surface porosity and roughness. For normal surfaces a good estimate is:

- * First Coat 12 – 15 m²/3kg pack
- * Second Coat 18 m²/3kg pack.

16. Can I spray EPOTEC? The answer is yes if an airless unit is used, but we would strongly recommend that the product is applied by BRUSH AND ROLLER. Cleaning of the spray equipment is slow and costly negating the perceived advantage of quick application. Air entrapment is also a very real possibility with spraying, which can lead to blistering.

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17. Mixing small quantities?

EPOTEC has a mixing ratio of 5:1 parts by weight. This can easily be done on small kitchen scales. E.g. 100 grams Resin (part A) requires 20 grams of Hardener (part B). 1200 grams Resin (part A) requires 240 grams of Hardener (part B).

18. Coating in cold conditions?

EPOTEC cures by a chemical reaction that is slowed down by low temperatures which causes problems such as blooming, brown staining.

The minimum recommended temperature is 13°C, which is the ground temperature. Even though the day temperature may be 18°C, if for example a frost has occurred the ground temperature may be only say 8 – 10°C. Best to paint in the spring, summer conditions.

19. Does EPOTEC need to be primed? EPOTEC being an epoxy, has excellent adhesion to most surfaces and does NOT need a specific primer.

On porous concrete surfaces, penetration of the EPOTEC can be improved by an addition of thinner. Recommended addition is 200 mls maximum per 3 kg mixed pack.

For steel or metal refer to our technical department.

20. EPOTEC is rained on before full cure (Blanching)? Approximately 12 - 24 hours @15 °C is necessary before the film is cured enough to be unaffected by rain. If say within 3 hours a shower of rain occurs, try to lightly remove the water from the surface with a towel or dry cloth.

If water contact stays for some time the film will BLANCH (goes white), and will be more noticeable on dark colours. This is a cosmetic problem that will not affect the properties of the coating. A further coat will be required to bring the appearance back to normal.

21. Acid washing? Acid washing of surfaces will not clean or remove body fats etc. Therefore it is not necessary to acid wash fibreglass or epoxy coated pools.

Acid is used to etch concrete surfaces to improve adhesion and to remove poorly adhering thin layers of cement fines (laitance).

22. Water blasting? Water blasting will not remove body fats etc, but the process is good for a general clean to remove grime and algae etc.

Water blasting does not provide a key for fibreglass or old epoxy films.

23. Calculating the Area to Paint. (Approx).

Rectangular, Free form, then max width (m) x max length (m) x 2.2 = area in Sq m

Lazy L, Oval (rounded end plus a sq end) then max width (m) x max length (m) x 1.65 = area in Sq m

Roman (full Oval) then max width (m) x max length (m) x 1.55 = area in Sq m

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