



## Discussion about Chlorinated Rubber vs Better Coating Systems

**Chlorinated Rubber Paint** (or just pool paint or rubber paint) is often considered for use in pools. So, what is it and how does it compare with **epoxies and fluoropolymers**?

Usually, Chlorinated Rubber is thought of as being flexible and as its low cost, a good choice for pools. In fact, it's softer than epoxies and is re dissolvable in aromatic solvents such as acetone or xylene. This paint does offer good chemical resistance to some chemicals (acids and alkalis) and this is its main use currently on steel work, tanks and boats. It's a very old formulation developed towards the end of World War II. Also, they tend to lose gloss and yellow over time. Chlorinated Rubber is not flexible as with elastomeric coatings such as acrylics and therefore will not bridge moving cracks on a pool surface. They can be made somewhat softer – flexible but pick up dirt and thus this type is not used in pools. They are “thermoplastic” in that they soften with heat compared to epoxies which are “thermoset” and do not soften with heat.

Chlorinated Rubber being single component paint is solvent based, is very flammable and has a strong smell as it's about 50 % solvent.

It can only be successfully applied on completely dry surfaces away from direct sunlight and in generally moderate temperatures. Usually 3- 4 coats are required, and it will last on average 2 years. This paint is not easy to apply and suffers from blisters and poor adhesion if application conditions are not absolutely right. It means having a long window of fine warm weather to apply followed by a 7 – 14 day cure period. After 2 years or so it will be chalky, often faded and may present a powdery surface which comes off in the pool water, leaving a cloudy appearance.

Though the material cost may be about 40 - 50% of a good hi build epoxy or fluoropolymer (PaintnForget), its application difficulties and short performance make it an unsuitable material for use in pools when a low maintenance, long lasting finish is required. In addition, once used, when you want to change over to a longer lasting epoxy or even better fluoropolymer, the rubber paint all needs to be removed as not compatible, and these may incur substantial additional costs by way of abrasive blasting.

Chlorinated rubber paint is still used in school and community pools where they have an annual maintenance budget to pay for the annual upgrade, though many are moving to a longer lasting epoxy when finances allow for the expensive changeover.

If you are seeking a longer life very low maintenance decorative pool coating, then PaintnForget offers all the benefits you are seeking. It has vibrant colours, hard tile like surface, very resistant to dirt, stain and algae pick up, and easy to keep clean. Life expectancy greater than the best of epoxies for a similar cost.