



Discussion about Tiles and Coatings Applied Over.

Painting (Coating) tiles at water line:

Many pools have tiles at water line which may need to be upgraded as part of the pool renovation process. This may be needed as some tiles are missing and cannot be replaced, or the old tiles will not match up with the new coating. Generally, it is not desirable to apply any coating to tiles, however if there is no alternative it may be done. The reason for NOT favouring this approach and no warranty is offered, is due to getting good adhesion of coating to the tiles and also the fact water can get behind the tiles and pass through them and the grout causing the coating to blister and fail.

The result is an unsightly mess and difficult to resolve.



Ideally existing tiles, if generally okay, are best cleaned and re grouted as necessary. See a tile shop for suitable cleaners. Try a “lava stone” dipped in Calcium, lime, rust remover (CLR - Bunnings) as a rubbing and cleaning compound. Good results have been observed.

See Paint Suppliers Notes, for complete details on painting.

Any tiles to be coated need to be in sound condition and well adhered. Remove the glazed tile surface using grinding or sandblasting. All grout needs to be flush (repair if needed) with tiles as much as possible.

All surfaces to be clean and free of: oils, fats, algae and mould.

Mix and apply the Paint as per manufacturers' recommendations.

Safety messages and depths:

It may be necessary to provide depth and safety messages onto tiles.

For depths where the area is less than one tile size, clean tile thoroughly. Then draw numbers and carefully abrade surface using a Dremel tool (from Bunnings) and grinding disc/wheel to suit. A recessed (cut into surface about 1 – 2 mm) "number" should be the result. Then mix and apply epoxy or fluoropolymer in selected colour in accordance with the manufacturer's application notes. (2 coats)

If information covers more than one tile: select area, and thoroughly clean. Then mark out information to be applied. (Keep edge of letters away from any grout if possible). Follow details as for "numbers" above.

You may also create a metal "mask" with safety information cut into it (A stencil) and temporarily affix to cleaned area and sandblast through to remove glazed finish. Then apply paint system to fill in the "letters". (2 coats)

It may also be done with a paper or cardboard stencil and carefully grind off the glaze following the letter shapes spread over several tiles. Try to keep the edge of letters away from grout.

You may want to use a "touch up" pack for the markings. Ask the supplier for these.

Please follow carefully all cleaning, surface preparation, mixing and application details in the Paint manufacturers documentation. A good result is not easy to achieve, without much care and attention to details.