



Helpful Information for You and Your Pool

Some thoughts about Vinyl Liner Pools.

A vinyl liner pool is generally a concrete shell into which a large synthetic bag is attached around the upper edges, by some form of fastening. Some pools may have only a concrete floor and a metal, wooden or concrete panel wall system with a ring beam at the top to give strength. The construction budget dictating which is used.

The vinyl liner is made to measure and fastened only along the top. The liner should be made of the highest quality material and thickness to last. However, any puncture renders it useless. Repairs to vinyl liners are difficult to make long lasting. Over time the liner fades, becomes brittle and usually fails so that they become an eyesore and the pool becomes unusable.



Pic 1. Here the liner has broken away from the fastenings and torn. Also, water has now got behind the liner making it difficult to use and providing an unhealthy water situation.



Pic 2 Depending on the shell construction upgrading with a coating is a better and much less expensive way to get the pool back into service. **However**, if the shell is of panel construction, then usually only an expensive liner can be reinstalled. Here we can see the panel joints (vertical lines) every metre along the wall, (arrow) meaning it probably can only have a new liner installed.

Upgrading liner pools with Epoxy or Fluoropolymer

Often it is desirable to resurface ex vinyl liner pools with a hi performance coating as a cheaper option to relining and in many cases it works well.

There are some key factors to consider before doing so.

Ideally any such pool should be constructed of solid (reinforced) concrete in which case they may be treated as a normal concrete pool.

However, pools may have a panel system for the walls and a concrete floor. The walls need careful attention. If the panels are metal, plywood or fibro (compressed sheeting), then it is not desirable to paint them at all.

If one proceeds, it is without our recommendation. A new liner will be the best choice as this is what the pool is designed around.

For paneled walls made of concrete usually 50 mm or so thick, it may be feasible. However please note that the panels may move causing failure at the vertical joints and also these thin panels are not waterproof, meaning ground water can pass through and cause blisters in the coating. Also, some concrete panels may have 20 mm metal filaments as a reinforcing and these need to be ground flush, the remains treated with a rust converter coating (to prevent re rusting), before over coating. A tedious job. If in doubt go back to a new liner.

In summary older vinyl liner pools maybe resurfaced very successfully and more economically with hi performance coating, provided they are of solid construction and usually reinforced concrete. Any other version needs careful consideration.

Vinyl liners are promoted as being a long lasting and economical means to contain pool water. This is true if they are very well looked after, of high quality and suffer no damage. And keep chlorine levels in the correct range (1 – 3ppm max) to save premature aging.