



MARBLESHEEN

“The Old School Classic That Still Pops Up in Aussie Backyards”

What Is Marblesheen?

Marblesheen is one of the classic swimming pool interiors that dominated the Australian market from the 1960s through to the early 1990s. It's made by mixing **crushed marble chips with white cement**, creating a smooth, pale plaster-like coating trowelled directly over a concrete shell. When freshly applied, it gives the pool a crisp white or pastel-blue look that brightens the water beautifully.

While not as common today, thousands of older pools still have Marblesheen interiors, and many renovations start with deciding what to do with an ageing Marblesheen surface.



Key Features & Appearance

- Fresh, bright and clean-looking surface
- Smooth feel underfoot (when new)
- Naturally lightens the water colour
- Works well with retro pool shapes and older landscaping styles

Over time, though, Marblesheen can become **porous, rough, or patchy**, especially if water balance has been neglected.

Pros of Marblesheen

✓ Easy Construction Back in the Day

The original application process was straightforward: mix, apply, trowel smooth. This made Marblesheen the go-to option for decades.

✓ Affordable at the Time

Historically cheaper than tiling or Pebblecrete, which is why so many Aussie pools used it. (Today, resurfacing it is less cost-effective than upgrading.)

✓ Looks Great When New

If you've ever seen a freshly resurfaced Marblesheen pool, you'll notice that soft, almost Mediterranean look.

✓ Lifespan 10–20 Years With Good Water Chemistry

When the LSI is kept in check, Marblesheen can last a surprisingly long time.

Cons of Marblesheen

X Easily Damaged by Acidic Water

If pH and LSI fall too low, the surface dissolves, becomes **chalky** and develops **etch spots**.

X Roughness Over Time

Age, chemical imbalance, and years of brushing often leave the surface coarse on hands and feet.

X Patch Repairs Are Very Obvious

Marblesheen is almost impossible to colour-match after curing. Even a small fix stands out like a sore thumb.

X Prone to Stains and Absorption

Being porous, it can suck in minerals, metals, leaf tannins and scale.

Maintenance & Water Chemistry Sensitivity

Marblesheen is one of the **most sensitive** surfaces to water imbalance.

- Low pH = rapid etching
- High pH = scale build-up
- Poor calcium balance = surface breakdown

Marblesheen pools benefit from **strict LSI management**, often tighter than pebble or quartz pools.

Repair, Upgrade & Replacement Options

Spot Repairs

Possible, but rarely invisible.

Full Resurface Options

Most pool owners choose one of the following:

- **Pebblecrete** (most common upgrade)
- **Quartz render**
- **Fibreglass lining inside the existing shell**
- **Complete tile interior**
- **Applying a high-performance paint: Epoxy or Fluoropolymer**

When to Replace It

If the surface becomes:

- too rough
- heavily worn
- hollow-sounding
- blotchy beyond recovery

...it's far more economical to resurface with a modern product.

Who Marblesheen Suits Best Today

Marblesheen isn't often used in new pools anymore, but it still suits:

- **Older pool restorations** wanting to keep the retro aesthetic
- Budget-conscious owners needing a temporary fix (though pebble or fibreglass often offer better long-term value)

For most modern builds, there are longer-lasting, better-looking alternatives.

Aged Marblesheen – repairs and resurfacing with Epoxy Paint.

