



Nelsonite
POOL AND DECK COATING

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN #101

CLEANING INSTRUCTION FOR PLASTER (MARCITE), CONCRETE AND PREVIOUSLY COATED SURFACES

Most in-ground pools have a plaster (marcite) or concrete finish. These surfaces - as well as previously painted surfaces - must be cleaned before applying a pool coating. If the surface is not cleaned thoroughly, the coating may blister or come off once water is in the pool.

All Nelsonite Pool Coatings require the cleaning operation described below, even if the pool has been sandblasted.

For outdoor pools, perform the cleaning procedure as soon as the pool has been drained, before the sun has baked the contaminants onto the surface.

If the surface has been painted before, all loose and flaking paint must be removed before the cleaning procedure is started. The surface to be painted must be structurally sound.

The two-step (scrub and rinse) cleaning procedure described below removes both organic and inorganic matter:

- (1) Organic matter consists of suntan lotions, hair oils, perspiration, scum and similar residue. While this material typically “floats” to the top of the pool water, the draining process of the pool deposits this material on the entire pool surface. Organic matter can be removed with Nelsonite Prep A, an acid washing additive.
- (2) Inorganic matter consists of the precipitation of the minerals in the water onto the pool surface. While perhaps not visible to the eye, this material can interfere with the adhesion of the coating. Inorganic material can only be removed with muriatic acid.

NEEDED MATERIALS:

- (1) A five-gallon plastic pail
- (2) An acid etch brush with polypropylene fibers
- (3) Muriatic acid (pool acid) at 20° Baumé strength
- (4) Nelsonite Prep A
- (5) Water
- (6) A hose with a jet nozzle

MIXING THE CLEANING SOLUTION:

Make up a solution of 1 part water and 1 part muriatic acid. For each gallon of solution, add 5 ounces of Prep A. Mix well.

Please refer to label for cautions and warnings pertaining to this product.

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Typically, the cleaning solution is prepared in a 5-gallon plastic pail.

- (1) Add 2 gallons of water
- * (2) Add 2 gallons of muriatic acid
- (3) Add 20 fluid ounces of Prep A and stir well

Each gallon of cleaning solution will clean about 100 - 150 sq. ft.

***IMPORTANT:** Always add acid to the water and not vice versa.

CLEANING THE SURFACE:

CAUTION! Do the cleaning operation safely! Wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, slip-resistant footwear, safety goggles, rubber gloves and an acid/gas cartridge respirator.

The surface should be slightly damp - but not wet - when doing the cleaning operation. If necessary, lightly spray mist the surface one hour prior to the cleaning procedure.

Divide the pool walls and floor into sections, with each section no more than 10 linear feet.

- (1) **SCRUB** each section vigorously with the acid etch brush and the cleaning solution. Begin at the deep end of the pool. Be sure to scrub the floor around the main drain before it becomes submerged under rinse water.
- (2) **RINSE** each section carefully and thoroughly immediately after it has been scrubbed. Hold the hose with the jet nozzle about 6 inches from the surface and rinse each section by going back and forth in parallel rows.

IMPORTANT! After cleaning the entire pool, carefully check the surface with your fingers. Unpainted surfaces should feel rough to the touch, like fine sandpaper. If some areas remain hard and smooth to the touch, repeat the cleaning procedure in these places. All surfaces should be free of chalk and calcium residue. If white residue remains on the surface, re-clean these areas. If after a second cleaning the surface still has a hard, dense and glazed appearance, it is **NECESSARY** to use a Nelsonite epoxy pool coating, since only epoxy coatings can adhere to smooth and hard surfaces.

An unpainted surface which has been sanded to smooth out rough areas or to remove built-up calcium deposits needs to be acid washed with a solution of 1 part of muriatic acid and 1 part of water.

Allow surface to dry thoroughly before coating.

SURFACE PREPARATION OF PREVIOUSLY COATED EPOXY POOLS:

All previously painted epoxy coatings must "wear" before being recoated. Unless the previously coated epoxy coating is very thin, intercoat adhesion may be a problem. After cleaning the surface, **ALL** pools previously coated with an epoxy coating must be sanded before recoating. Sand in straight lines using either 80 or 100 grit sandpaper. When recoating a thick existing epoxy coating, a deeper sanding of the surface is required. After sanding, clean the surface with a rag and solvent.

PATCHING THE SURFACE:

Many pools may require the patching of cracks, holes and other surface irregularities before painting. Patching should be done after the surface cleaning has been completed.

All cement-based patches must be acid washed with a solution of 1 part of muriatic acid and 1 part of water after installation and before painting.

NOTE! Use an epoxy patching compound **ONLY** when painting with an epoxy coating. Sand lightly with 100 grit sandpaper before painting.