

68 TIPS

TO PAINTING YOUR POOL

by Don Schnurr, VP
NATIONAL
POOL FINISHES
The New Science of Pool Coatings™

COMPANY



1

Who is National Paint?

National Paint Industries has been in business since 1959, and we manufacture from our modern 60,000 square foot manufacturing facility in North Brunswick, New Jersey. Our products are stocked in distribution warehouses for quick delivery all over the United States.

Our swimming pool products are considered by many the finest in the industry, as our products use only the highest quality raw materials, are high solids formulations, and are manufactured for heavy duty applications. National Paint Industries vast experience for swimming pool coatings lies in the yacht and marine industries, where we are one of the larger paint manufacturers for boats and ships in the country. Our heavy duty coatings for years have stood up to blistering UV sunrays, salt water, corrosion, slime and wide temperature variations.

2

What goes into a National Product?

The swimming pool environment is extremely demanding on coating systems. UV sunrays, chlorine, shock, slime, suntan oils and temperature variations challenge the paint film integrity, gloss and color retention that pool owners need.

New products spend about five years in development and testing before becoming available to the pool owner. This insures that coating systems are safe and effective. Ingredients are carefully screened and checked for quality, consistency, health & safety before being approved for inclusion within a formulation. New products are then tested in our network of test sites around the country, subjecting the paint films to all extreme conditions. Finally, practical tests are undertaken with swimming pool applicators to judge the coating characteristics of our products. Only when we are fully satisfied we will be providing outstanding service and protection to your pool, will we launch a product with the National® name on it.

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Comparison Chart

National®	Ramuc	Olympic
POOL SHIELD CRX™	Type A Chlorinated Rubber™	Paralon 2™
POOL SHIELD™	Pro 2000 Chlorinated Rubber™	Optilon™
POOL GUARD EHB™	EP Hi Build Epoxy™	Zeron™
AQUA KOTE™	DS Acrylic / AquaLuster™	Hydrolon™
DECK KOTE™	Acrylic Deck Coat™	Pat
POOL GRIP™	—	Fusion Plus™

* Ramuc is a brand manufactured by RPM company

* Olympic is a brand manufactured by Kelly Technical Coatings

WHICH COATINGS TO USE

It takes approximately five years for National to fully research a swimming pool finish before its launch into the market. Much of this time is spent testing the product outside the laboratory, in the actual environment in which the coating is used.

POOL SHIELD CRX™

The New Science of Chlorinated Rubber™

Chlorinated Rubber Xtra is the next generation of chlorinated rubber pool finishes. Crammed full of high solids rubber, UV stabilizers and silicone, CRX™ will give outstanding protection against UV sunrays, chlorine “shock” and algae.



POOL SHIELD™

The New Science of Chlorinated Rubber™

A Chlorinated Rubber coating that gives a fine protective finish at a very affordable price. This product is your choice if you do regular maintenance in a commercial application, and you need to use a chlorinated rubber system due to the fact that chlorinated rubber is currently the coating on the swimming pool.



POOL GUARD EHB™

The New Science of Chlorinated Rubber™

Epoxy High Build is the next generation of epoxy pool coatings. Crammed full of epoxy resin, UV stabilizers and silicone, EHB™ can be used unreduced for a perfect coating for imperfect surfaces, or reduced for more square footage applications. Either way this hard non-porous coating will provide a tile finish that is durable to automated cleaning equipment and pool chemicals, and easier to keep clean than a plastered pool.





AQUA KOTE™

The New Science of Water Based Coatings™

An acrylic water-based coating designed for fast easy application, and can be applied to damp surfaces with no solvent vapors. This product is perfect for seasonal commercial applications, indoor pool facilities or high humidity conditions like the Gulf and Southeast United States.



DECK KOTE™

The New Science of Deck Coatings™

Deck Kote™ is the next generation of deck coatings, an acrylic water-based deck finish that will renew Kool Deck™ as well as all concrete surfaces around your pool and home. Available in 10 popular colors, Deck Kote™ is not slippery, and is packed with UV stabilizers to keep it colorfast in the most blistering of UV sun conditions.



POOL GRIP™

The New Science of Epoxy Coatings™

Epoxy Pool Grip is a two component water based epoxy tie-coat/sealer with excellent adhesive properties over existing one and two part finishes. Used on existing finishes which will be overcoated with a different technology - chlorinated rubber over epoxy, or epoxy over chlorinated rubber. Applied by roller or brush but can be sprayed if desired.



PREPARATION



4

Surface Preparation

Surface must always be clean, dry and properly prepared prior to painting. Failure to do so will lead to eventually blistering and/or peeling. Previously painted surfaces should be **POWER WASHED** to remove loose paint or excessive chalking. Scrub the entire pool with a **TSP (tri-sodium phosphate)** solution to remove all dirt, oils, loose or peeling paint, and chalk. All surfaces should then be acid etched with a 15-20% solution of **MURIATIC ACID** or **Acid Magic** to achieve a medium grade sandpaper finish on bare concrete or plaster and to remove mineral deposits on previously painted chlorinated rubber surfaces. Neutralize/rinse with TSP. Before applying the paint, the pool must be completely dry.

5

Application Procedures

For use on concrete and plaster pools both new and previously painted, can be brushed, rolled and sprayed. Pool paints in general are best applied by roller. Use no more than a 1/2" NAP mohair metal, lambskin, or phenolic core roller. Do not use on vinyl lined pools. Apply at least 2 coats for best performance. Care needs to be taken to apply these paints in a thin film to dry surfaces. **DO NOT** apply too thickly. Ideal temperatures for application are between 50°-90° F. Surface temperature should be at least 50° F. If rain occurs during any part of the paint process, allow an extra day of dry time for each day of rain.

6

Amount Of Paint Required

For your chosen finish, please follow the guidelines below to establish the amount of product you need to complete your job. The amount of coating you will need for your pool is closely related to the smoothness of the pool surface. A rough surface will need up to 50% more product than a smooth surface. You will also need to know the total square footage of the painted surface you are refinishing. Take the total square feet of the pool, divide by the total square footage per gallon, and times by 2 for a 2 coat application.

This formula will give you a general idea of the paint required:

LAZY L

Length x Width x 1.60 equals
total square feet

FREE FORM

Length x Width x 1.55 equals
total square feet

OVVAL

Length x Width x 1.60 equals
total square feet

ROMAN

Length x Width x 1.50 equals
total square feet

7

Overcoating Guidelines

If your pool is **CONCRETE**: You may choose any of the National Pool Finishes:

- **Epoxies** – prime with Pool Grip™ Waterbase Epoxy Primer then overcoat with Pool Guard EHB™
- **Chlorinated Rubbers** – prime with Pool Grip™ Waterbase Epoxy Primer then overcoat with Pool Shield CRX™ or Pool Shield™
- **Acrylic Water-Based** – prime with Pool Grip™ Waterbase Epoxy Primer then overcoat with Aqua Kote™

Each has its unique advantages, although epoxies offer the longest life.

- If you have **BARE PLASTER** or **MARCITE**, primer with Pool Grip™ Waterbase Epoxy Primer then overcoat with Pool Guard EHB™ epoxy offering the best longevity, or Pool Shield CRX™ chlorinated rubber or Aqua Kote™ waterbase acrylic.
- If you have a **FIBERGLASS** pool: prime with Pool Grip™ Waterbase Epoxy Primer then overcoat with Pool Guard EHB™ epoxy offering the best longevity.
- For **CONCRETE DECKING** around pool, prime with Pool Grip™ Waterbase Epoxy Primer then overcoat with Deck Kote™



8

Previously Coated Pools

National recommends using the same type coating to recoat a previously finished pool. This assures the best possible adhesion between old and new. We have also launched our water-based epoxy primer Pool Grip™ which allows you overcoating different coating technologies. Just apply 1 coat of Pool Grip™ primer on your prepared surface, & then apply any pool coating you wish.

9

To determine what coating is on your pool

Immerse a small chip in denatured alcohol. If it dissolves, it is an acrylic water-base. If the chip does not dissolve, then immerse the chip in Xylene. If the chip then dissolves, it is a chlorinated rubber coating. If it does not, it is an epoxy.

10

How can I be sure the pool surface is dry prior to painting with a solvent base paint?

We recommend that you tape clear plastic on the vertical wall and if no condensation shows, then the pool is dry and ready for overcoating.

11

How do I repair my surface before painting?

If it's a hairline crack, Pool Guard EHB will fill it in. If it's a bigger job then use a caulking agent Polyurethane Sealant & if it's a larger repair, a concrete repair is needed.

12

What is the proper surface preparation for the pool?

Surface must always be clean, dry and properly prepared prior to painting. Failure to do so will lead to eventually blistering and/or peeling. Previously painted surfaces should be Power Washed to remove loose paint or excessive chalking. Scrub the entire pool with a TSP (Tri-Sodium Phosphate) solution to remove all dirt, oils, loose or peeling paint, and chalk. All surfaces should then be acid etched with a 15-20% solution of Muriatic Acid to achieve a medium grade sandpaper finish on bare or plaster and to remove mineral deposits on previously painted chlorinated rubber surfaces. Neutralize/rinse with TSP. Before applying the paint, the pool must be completely dry.

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APPLICATION



15 Can I apply epoxy paint over chlorinated rubber paint or chlorinated rubber paint over epoxy paint?

Different technologies are not compatible, so we recommend chlorinated rubber over chlorinated rubber, epoxy over epoxy. However, if you put our epoxy primer on first, then the different paint can be used with no issues.

16 Can I apply any pool paint over another type of pool paint?

Aqua Kote can be applied over anything, Pool Shield CRX over any chlorinated rubber paint, Pool Guard EHB over any epoxy paint. If you want to switch, you must use an epoxy primer first.

17 How long can I recoat the pool with no sanding requirements for your Pool Guard EHB?

You can recoat a pool up to 72 hours without sanding. If window is missed then sanding and/or a Muriatic acid wash must be done to "open" up the paint film for recoating.

18 Can you apply Pool Guard EHB over Pool Shield or Aqua Kote?

You cannot apply Pool Guard EHB over Pool Shield or Aqua Kote unless you put a primer on before.

19 Can I apply epoxy paint over chlorinated rubber paint or chlorinated rubber paint over epoxy paint?

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21 Can I apply National products to a stainless steel or metal surfaced pool?

Yes. Only if you sand properly, as steel is a tough surface for adhesion for pool paints, then apply Pool Guard EHB.

22 How Long Do I Have To Wait To Fill The Pool After I Paint? When Does The Pool Paint Cure?

You need to wait 5 days to fill the pool after painting to make sure the paint cures properly, & add 1 additional day for every day of rain.

23 Can I Use A Spray Gun To Apply National Products?

Yes, and details are on the label, buy a roller application is what is recommended (3/8" nap roller), a good roller with a phenolic type core (not a card board interior).

24 What happens if it rains after I coat my pool?

Wait one extra day for every day of rain before refilling.

25 How do I determine what type of paint is currently on my pool or spa?

Take a paint chip and dip it in a strong solvent (Xylene), and if it dissolves, it's a chlorinated rubber paint, then use Pool Shield CRX to overcoat it. If the paint chip doesn't melt, then it's an epoxy paint, then use Pool Guard EHB.



26 Can the pool be shocked with chlorine immediately after refilling?

No. We don't recommend chlorine shock at all to clean pools, but we do recommend chlorine-free shock.

27 Can I paint a Fiberglass diving board?

Yes. We recommend our Pool Guard EHB with 1 can of Non Skid additive (1 pound per gallon).

28 Can I apply National products over tile?

No. Our paint is not recommended over tile.

29 Can I coat over sealers or concrete treated with curing agents?

Clear sealers can be painted over if proper steps of washing with TSP & etching with Muriatic acid are adhered to.

30 Can I apply National products to wood?

Yes, Deck Kote products can be applied to concrete, fiberglass & wood.

31 How long do I have to wait to fill the pool after I paint? When does the pool paint cure?

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32 Can I use a spray gun to apply National products?

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37

What pool paint is best suited for a fiberglass pool application?

The only product we recommend for a fiberglass pool is our Pool Guard EHB high build epoxy pool paint.

38

Will the finish of my pool paint dull over time?

Typically, pool paint does dull slightly over time, due to the effects of chlorine & UV sun. However, the coatings for National are loaded with UV stabilizers to slow down this effect.

39

What pool paint is best suited for a spa, hot tub or jacuzzi?

Due to high temperature of the water in a spa, Pool Guard EHB is the only coating we recommend.

40

How can I upgrade my pool from a chlorinated rubber finish to an epoxy finish?

You can prime your chlorinated rubber coated pool with our 2 Part water based Epoxy Primer and then topcoat with either Pool Guard EHB or Pool Guard. You can also apply Pool Shield and Pool Shield CRX without the water based epoxy Primer.

41

Is there a non-slip product that I can use for my deck or around my pool?

Deck Kote is what we recommend, & you can add 1 lb. of non-skid to make the deck less slippery, especially when wet.

42

What type of finish will I get with Pool Guard EHB?

You will get a beautiful tile-like finish. Pool Guard EHB formulation fills in hairline cracks if needed to give you a beautiful finish.

43

What are the primary reasons for unsatisfactory product performance?

The three main reasons for unsatisfactory product performance is the improper preparation of the pool, not following label directions correctly, & weather / moisture which effects proper curing of the paint.

44

What are the proper storage guidelines for National Paint?

Store in temperature of 50-90 degrees is ideal.



45

What can we do to make our pool like it's plastered?

We recommend using Pool Guard EHB, which will give a tile like finish at a significantly less cost than plastering.

46

How many coats of paint do you recommend?

2 coats of paint are required and no primer (self-priming) is needed for a perfect paint job.

47

Can I use Deck Kote on my concrete driveway?

Yes, you can use Deck Kote on concrete driveways but definitely not on blacktops.

48

Are dark colors such as royal blue and black recommended for application over the entire pool surface?

No. For safety of children and for cleanliness, dark colors are not recommended for general use of swimming pools, only for striping.

49

What causes paint to chalk or fade?

Chlorine Shock or UV Sun causes paint to chalk or fade. National uses UV stabilizers to slow down the effects of UV sun & chlorine shock.

50

How much square footage would I expect on 1st & 2nd coat?

The square footage is typically 300 square feet per gallon, with up to 50% less on the first coat to the second coat. This depends on how much the product soaks into the surface, & how much paint is applied as well on the first coat.

51

How long does paint take to dry-to-touch?

Typically a paint will dry in 4-6 hours, but can dry quicker depending on film thickness, temperature and humidity.

52

Are custom colors available?

Yes, 140 custom colors are available for pool paint your coating needs. Look for the color chart online or give us a call.

53

Are National products available in size other than gallons?

All products are packaged in gallons which is the perfect size for refinishing your recreational swimming pool. 5 gallon cans are available for Commercial Pools.

COMPATIBILITY



54

Can National products be used in pools using salt generation systems?

Yes, Pool Guard EHB because it's the only product that stands up to salt water generators.

55

Our your National Pool Paints safe for koi ponds?

Yes. Pool Guard EHB Is always recommended, & is not toxic to fish.

56

Can I use National products for potable water tanks?

No. The products are made for strictly swimming pools.

57

How do I repair my surface before painting?

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59

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MIXING AND THINNING



60

Are epoxy catalysts interchangeable?

Mixing incompatible products or wrong catalysts with wrong bases will cause product failure.

61

Are National products tintable?

Yes, as long as you use universal oil-based tints.

62

Do I have to mix the entire kit of material at one time?

Yes, the entire contents of the product must be used once the Part A & the Part B are mixed together.

63

Do I have to mix the entire kit of material at one time?

No, you must mix a 1:1 ratio. Whatever you mix you must use at that time.

64

What type of thinner should I use for the epoxy coatings?

Xylene or High Flash Naptha, which can be purchased at any local paint store or Home Depot/Lowes, etc. Thin with 5-10% as necessary for proper flow out of the rolling process.

DEFINITION



65

What does “Pot Life” mean for epoxy paints?

Once Part A and Part B are mechanically mixed together, “Pot Life” refers to the amount of time that the applicator has to work with epoxy paint before it begins to chemically cure and harden. Pot life is dependent on time and temperature.

66

What does “Box” mean?

To box a paint means To intermix several containers of paint together To achieve uniformity of color. However, it’s only pertains to the colors (Part A), not the activators (Part B).

67

What does “Pot Life” mean for epoxy paints?

It means the amount of time you have to use the paint before it hardens, usually is 4-6 hours depending on temperature.

68

What does VOC stand for and are your products VOC compliant?

VOC stands for Volatile Organic Compound, and all of our products are VOC compliant.