

# Surface Preparation

is the key to all successful paint projects

Read over our Surface & Paint Preparation Guide below to help get you started.

## 1 CHOOSING YOUR PAINT

### SELECTING THE CORRECT COATING DEPENDS ON:

1. The type of pool surface material: Bare concrete, plaster or fiberglass, or sandblasted, if uncoated.
2. The type of coating currently on your pool.

**On coated pools:** In The Swim recommends using the same type of coating to ensure compatibility.

### HOW TO DETERMINE YOUR TYPE OF COATING:

1. Apply denatured alcohol to a clean cloth and rub onto surface. If the paint softens then the coating is likely a water-based **acrylic paint**.
  - If it softens and “strings” the paint is likely a **chlorinated rubber-based paint**.
  - If the coating softens but does NOT string, then it is probably a **synthetic rubber**.
2. Apply Xylene to a clean cloth and rub onto surface. If the paint softens, put a small amount of Xylene on your finger and rub the surface in circles.
  - If the coating softens but does NOT string, then it is probably a **synthetic rubber**.
3. If nothing happens to the paint coating when you rub the surface with the Xylene on the cloth, then the paint is most likely an **epoxy** or a gel coat.

**NOTE:** When testing a white surface use a dark colored cloth, when testing a colored surface use white cloth.

### WHAT IS YOUR POOL'S PRESENT CONDITION?

#### BARE, UNCOATED POOLS:

If your pool is bare (concrete or plaster), then you will need one of the following:

- In The Swim Epoxy Primer (1 coat) followed by In The Swim Epoxy Pool Paint
- In The Swim Rubber Pool Paint (2 coats)
- In The Swim Acrylic Pool Paint (2 coats)

If your pool is fiberglass or sandblasted, then you will need:

- In The Swim Epoxy Primer (1 coat) followed by In The Swim Epoxy Pool Paint

#### PREVIOUSLY COATED POOLS:

If your pool has been previously coated with a rubber-based paint, then you will need one of the following:

- In The Swim Rubber Pool Paint (2 coats)
- In The Swim Acrylic Pool Paint (2 coats) - only recommended for very worn rubber base

If your pool has been previously coated with an epoxy paint, then you will need:

- In The Swim Epoxy Pool Paint (2 coats)

If your pool has been previously coated with an acrylic paint, then you will need:

- In The Swim Acrylic Pool Paint (2 coats)

## 2 CALCULATING AMOUNT

Choose the shape that best resembles your pool. Use the formula below to calculate the approximate square feet. Check the coverage of the product you select to determine how much you will need.



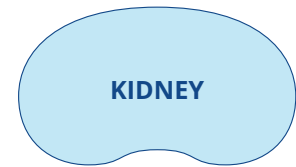
RECTANGLE

Length × Width × 1.65  
= Total Square Feet



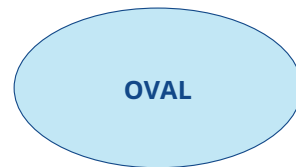
ROMAN

Length × Width × 1.5  
= Total Square Feet



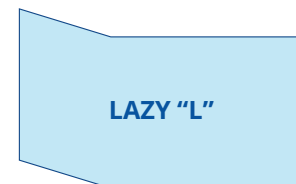
KIDNEY

Length × Width × 1.65  
= Total Square Feet



OVAL

Length × Width × 1.55  
= Total Square Feet



LAZY “L”

Length × Width × 1.6  
= Total Square Feet



Learn more about how to paint a pool in 5 easy steps  
[intheswim.com/blog/how-to-paint-a-pool-in-5-easy-steps.html](https://intheswim.com/blog/how-to-paint-a-pool-in-5-easy-steps.html)

## 4 APPLYING YOUR PAINT

**NOTE: ALWAYS wear protective gloves, shoes and eyewear before starting. ALWAYS read and follow the instructions on ALL product labels prior to beginning application.**

After completing the correct surface preparation procedures for your swimming pool, you will be ready to paint your surface. Use a 9" roller with a 3/8" nap and a solvent-resistant core. Consult the curing schedule on your product label before filling pool with water.

### APPLYING EPOXY POOL PAINT

Use a 9" roller with a 3/8" nap and solvent-resistant core. **See Step 1** for In The Swim Epoxy Pool Paint to determine the proper coating procedure for your present pool surface condition. A liberal application provides a very durable finish.

### APPLYING RUBBER POOL PAINT

Make sure the surface is 100% dry. Water trapped under the new paint will result in blistering. Two coats required, unpainted.

For bare surfaces, thin the first coat of rubber pool paint 25% with locally allowed VOC compliant solvent. Allow first coat of paint to dry completely before applying the second coat. The second coat should be applied at full strength. Two coats required.

### APPLYING ACRYLIC POOL PAINT

Acrylic is water-reducible and can be applied directly to the damp surface. No drying out time after cleaning. Do not apply over standing water.

On bare surfaces, thin the first coat of acrylic pool paint 10% with water. After completely drying, apply the second coat full strength.

## 3 PREPARING SURFACE

The most important procedure before coating any surface is proper surface preparation. Coatings will not adhere properly to even the slightest amount of oil, dirt, salt, or mineral deposits.

Cleaning your pool is mandatory before applying any In The Swim coating. Surface cleaning also applies to patios and decks prior to the application of In The Swim Patio and Deck paint.

### IN THE SWIM CLEAN AND PREP CLEANS IN ONE EASY STEP!

In The Swim Clean and Prep is a one-step clean and etch surface preparation solution. Simply mix In The Swim Clean and Prep with water to clean, and then rinse.

**DO NOT** use a solution weaker than described on the label. **DO** clean every square inch, and be sure to wear safety shoes, gloves and goggles.

**After surface preparation**, your pool will be water-saturated from cleaning. If you're using In The Swim Acrylic Pool Paint, you can paint over damp surfaces. Do not paint over puddling water. If you're using In The Swim Epoxy or Rubber, you must wait until your pool dries completely before painting.

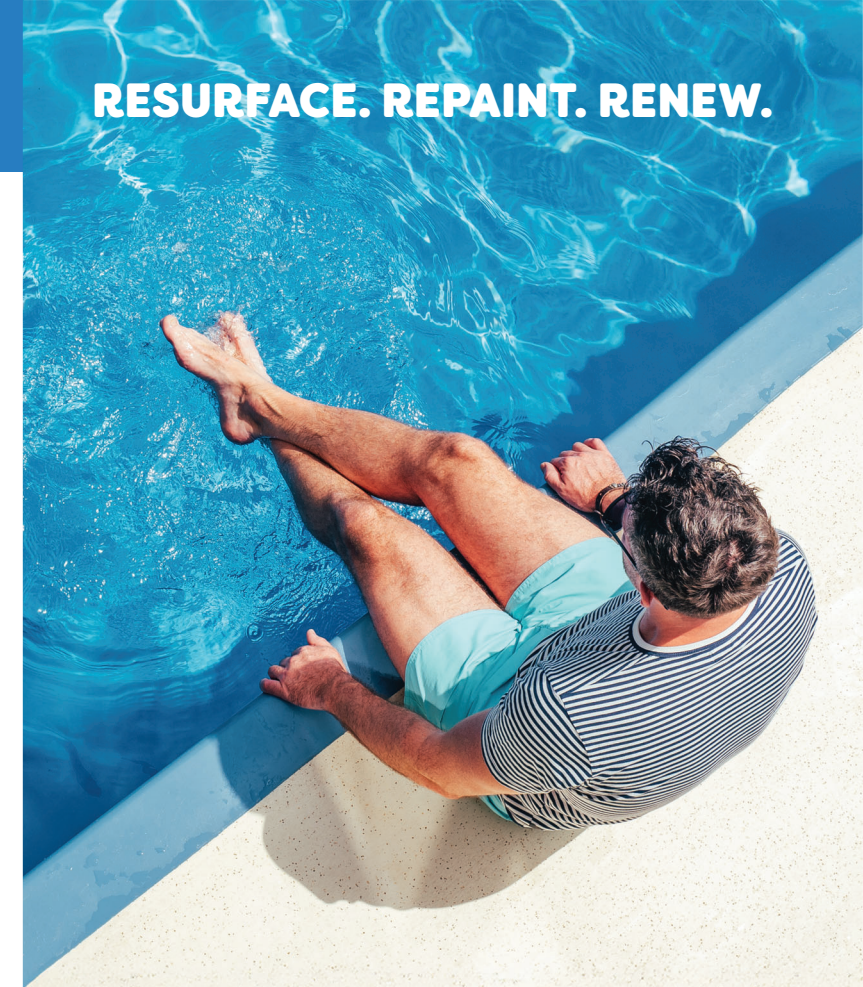


## ! PAINTING TIPS AND TRICKS

- Always follow the application instructions provided on the label before starting and while applying.
- If your paint containers show differing lot numbers, we recommend mixing the paint containers together to ensure a smooth and consistent color when painting.
- Read label for minimum and maximum application temperatures.
- Do not apply during a hot midday sun.
- Use a 3/8" nap roller cover with a solvent-resistant core.
- Use quality handles and rollers.
- Use a basic rolling technique.
- To prevent roller marks, start and finish painting in a corner.
- Start with the deep-end walls and work toward the shallow end of the pool.
- Although rolling is recommended, contact us for application tips if you are considering a spray method.
- Prior to filling your pool, always consult the curing schedule outlined on the label.
- Sprinkle clean sand on pool steps while paint is wet for slip resistance.

**IMPORTANT! BEFORE YOU BEGIN PAINTING, PREPARE YOUR POOL SURFACE FIRST. SEE STEP 3 FOR SURFACE PREPARATION.**

RESURFACE. REPAINT. RENEW.



# POOL AND DECK PAINT

## PRODUCT GUIDE



PREP



CLEAN AND PREP  
1-STEP SURFACE PREPARATION

- Cleaning your pool or deck is mandatory before applying any finish coating
- Simply mix In The Swim Clean and Prep with water to clean, then rinse
- Cleans pool filters, too!

This product cleans and degreases painted surfaces, bare plaster, concrete, and fiberglass while increasing porosity for good adhesion on surfaces prior to painting.

COVERAGE

400-800 SQ. FT. / GAL.

PATIO & DECK PAINT



PATIO AND DECK  
NON-SLIP ACRYLIC PAINT

- Slip-resistance adds protection
- Rolls on easily, covers unsightly repairs
- For sprayed or patterned concrete
- Two coats required on initial application

This product is formulated to beautify and upgrade textured concrete deck surfaces while providing a safe, non-slip finish.

COVERAGE

150-165 SQ. FT. / GAL.  
*depending on surface porosity*

PRIMER



EPOXY PRIMER  
LONG-LASTING PRIMER

- Smooths rough concrete or plaster for a cleaner finish
- Excellent adhesion to fiberglass
- Recommended for bare and sandblasted surfaces
- Heavy viscosity acts as a “filler” for a more uniform profile

SYSTEM

2-PART CATALYST

COVERAGE

75-100 SQ. FT. / GAL.

SERVICE LIFE

UP TO 8 YEARS

POOL PAINT



EPOXY  
PREMIUM POOL PAINT

- Cures to a satin finish
- Virtually maintenance-free
- Apply on bare, sandblasted or old epoxy surfaces
- Use on old plaster instead of re-plastering

This product cures to a satin finish with excellent coverage rates, especially on previously painted epoxy surfaces. Because of their chemical cure, epoxies are the paints of choice for indoor and outdoor pools.

SYSTEM

2-PART CATALYST

COVERAGE

150-200 SQ. FT. / GAL.

SERVICE LIFE

UP TO 8 YEARS

Beautifully restore your pool and patio

In The Swim line of pool paint products offer a simple, do-it-yourself process with professional results.

POOL COLORS

POOL BLUE

DARK BLUE

WHITE

SAND

IVORY

BUFF TAN

TAUPE

PUTTY

GRANITE

PATIO & DECK COLORS



RUBBER  
LONG-LIFE SYNTHETIC RUBBER

- Coating over rubber-based finishes
- For smooth, bare cement surfaces
- Attractive gloss finish
- Minimum two coats on initial application

This product is formulated to provide excellent hiding, coverage, and protection. It restores and upgrades previously painted chlorinated rubber and synthetic rubber surfaces.

SYSTEM

1-PART SYSTEM

COVERAGE

200-300 SQ. FT. / GAL.

SERVICE LIFE

UP TO 3 YEARS



RUBBER  
LONG-LIFE CHLORINATED RUBBER

- Coating over chlorinated rubber-based finishes
- For smooth, bare cement surfaces
- Attractive gloss finish
- Minimum two coats on initial application

This product is formulated to provide excellent hiding, coverage, and protection. It restores and upgrades previously painted chlorinated rubber cannot be used over synthetic rubber surfaces.

SYSTEM

1-PART SYSTEM

COVERAGE

200-300 SQ. FT. / GAL.

SERVICE LIFE

UP TO 3 YEARS



ACRYLIC  
TOUGHEST WATER-BASED PAINT

- Water-based formula
- Applies to damp surfaces
- Virtually no solvent odor
- Minimum two coats on initial application

This product is formulated to offer all the advantages of water-based technology, such as being able to be applied to damp surfaces as well as previously painted chlorinated and synthetic rubber surfaces.

SYSTEM

1-PART SYSTEM

COVERAGE

200-300 SQ. FT. / GAL.

SERVICE LIFE

UP TO 2 YEARS

Note: The colors shown in this literature are not color match swatches.