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## INFO SHEET

### How to understand the color of my pool. (or why is it not always blue?)

Any vessel that contains water and is open at the top, swimming pools, ponds etc, will show a color that can be complex to understand. Yet there are simple reasons and effects that when understood, will de mystify you.

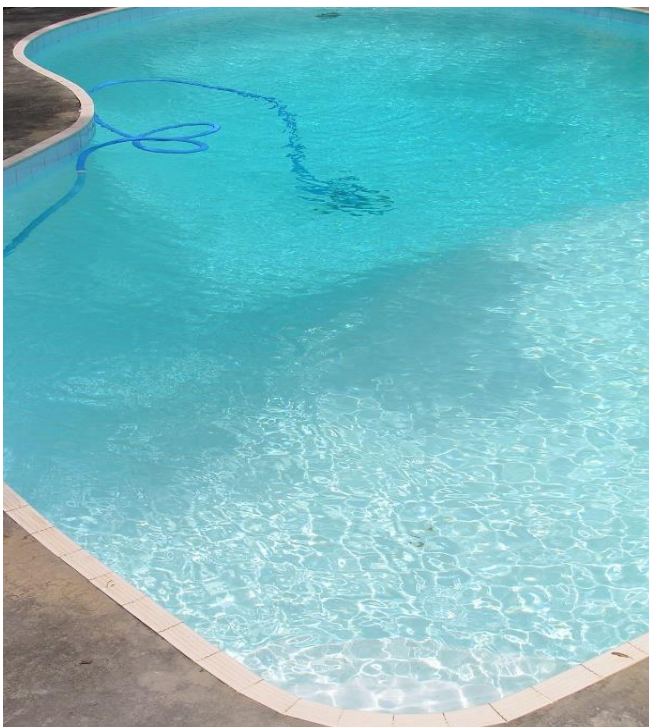
Several factors affect what the pool will look like. These include but are not limited to:

- Pool depth
- Ambient light
- The water balance
- The color of pool surfaces
- The surroundings
- The overhead weather conditions

So how to understand each of these and how they impinge on each other to give you the color you see now and in a few hours' time.

#### **Pool Depth:**

Water depth determines water clarity. The deeper the water and the larger the



volume, in general the more intense (blue) you will see. So, with a white surface and clear overhead conditions you will usually see the shallow areas as clear water and the deeper areas tending to a medium blue.

In this pool the bottom of the image, is very shallow (about 2 ft) and so looks very clear. Whereas where the blue pipe is connected to the cleaner head its over 9ft deep, giving "clear Caribbean" type blue. The pool is painted white and it's a sunny clear day overhead.

**Ambient Light:**

The light situation has a significant impact on the way the pool looks. So whether natural light or artificial, mid-day strong sun or night time moonlight. Incandescent, or LED pool lighting, will develop different colors in your pool. And if you are into mood lighting with LEDs there is no end to it. In general, weak lighting will darken the water and maybe create



that mysterious look, just what you wanted.

(This is one pool, 3 images)



### **Water Balance:**

This is often forgotten but has a distinctive impact also. So, if your pool water is well managed and “crystal’ clear then the colors showing should be true to form. However, don’t forget in all pools, there are both chemicals and often minerals in varying amounts. The mineral content from water, plaster surfaces and even from salt and salt cells. So these may have the effects of “muddying” the waters so to speak.

### **The Color of Pool Surfaces:**

The color of the pool surfaces also will have a big impact on what you see. White surfaces tend to from clear to a tropical color (see the images under depth, above). Grays can be enticing depending on whether light or dark.



**Light Gray**

**Charcoal Gray**



A **Mid Blue**, a good balance between light and dark on a sunny day.



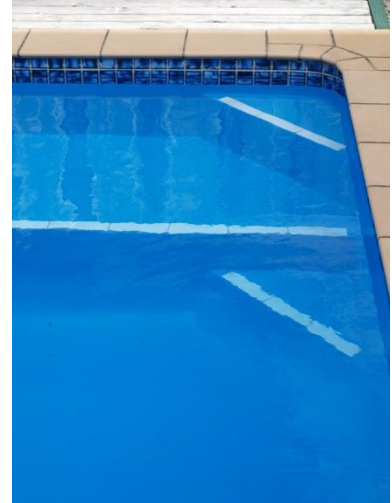
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**Dark Blue** on bright  
...and dull, overcast  
- gray days, at  
bottom.

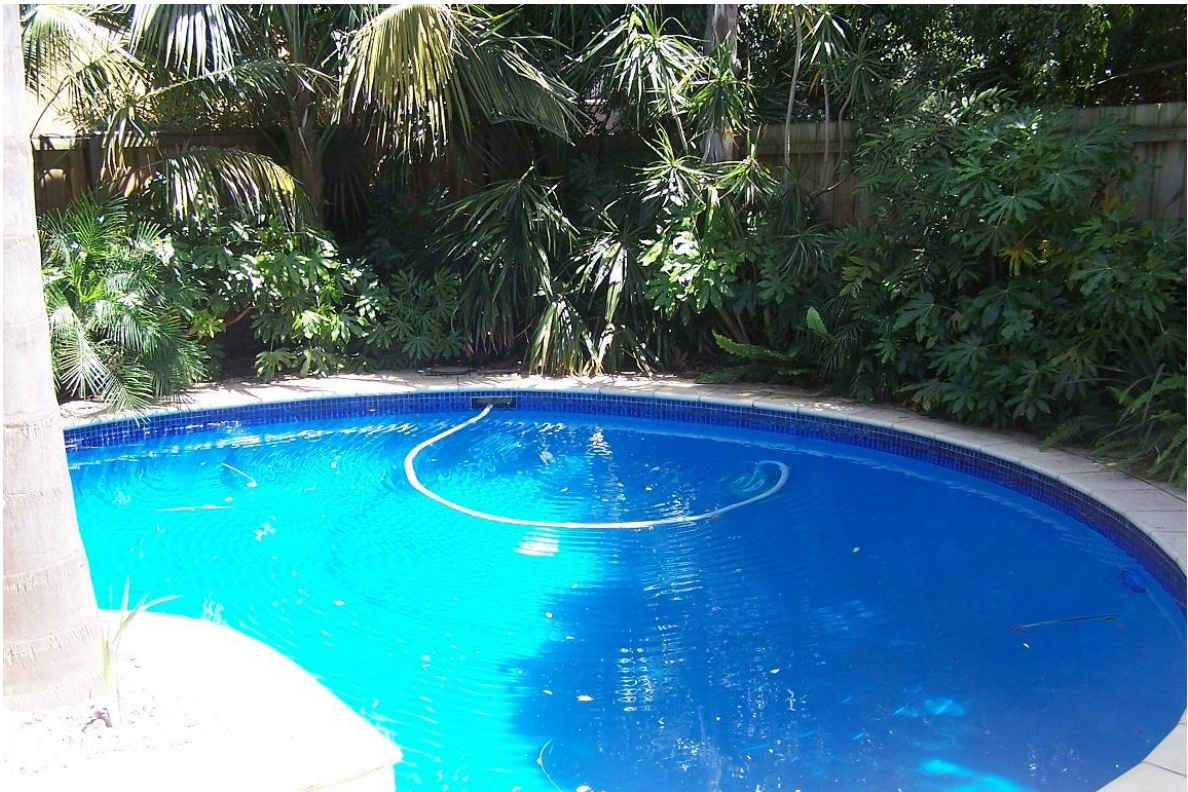


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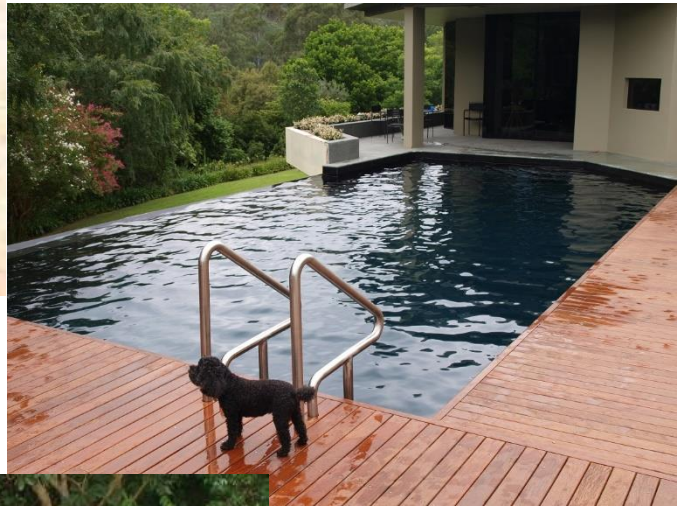
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A **VERY** Dark Blue can be quite a complex color choice.



**Black** offers a very different set of results, from dark and mysterious to very reflective depending on the overhead lighting.



### The Surroundings:

The surrounds to your pool (gardens, trees, bushes, fences and buildings) can also impact of the color you see. In some of the images above you can see the impact of vegetation on all or parts of the pool color.



Here's a good example of a pool with a mid-yellow coating in a lush green tropical location and overhead blue sky.



A pool with a very dark blue coating, showing mid blue, dark blue and areas tinged with green, from overhanging vegetation. So, what you see can be complex and change throughout the day. (right)



Another example of a Pebble Tec finish yet the overhanging vegetation gives the final "green" color.

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**Overhead Weather Conditions:** *(or wait till the sun comes out again)*

Whether the sun is low and dim, high and bright or late and the sunlight is passing through clouds or “wildfire” smoke, your pool color as seen, will vary throughout the day.

As a general rule, on bright, clear days with full sun (near directly overhead) will wash out most colors. The lighter the color the more washed out it will be.

In nearly all the pool images above you can see this. Light grey, white and light blue are the most affected in this manner.

Mid blues, greys etc are less so, but can also seem washed out as well. And the shallow water color, will be more affected than in deeper water.

When looking at dark blues and greys and even black, the original color tends to remain more visible. (see the black pool above)

Overcast days or when raining will create a whole different look.

Lighter colors will “dull off” and pick up some grey color generally.

Mid - dark blues will seem dirty, (see dark blue pool with red fence above on cloudy day)

Real dark colors will become somber, as seen in the black pool above (the one with the dog in the picture soon after rain stopped).

**Summary:**

Unlike the color you choose is the color you get, when looking say at a wall, a swimming pool offers much more interest. No matter the color you choose, it will look different throughout the day (and night, with lighting effects.)

Just know that when you select a color that suits your design palette on a particular day it will look different, as soon as the water is added. The lighter the color the more consistent the color will tend to be, no matter the weather etc. Thus the darker colors, the more variations can be expected, whilst black is a world of its own. What color will you choose?