

## INFO SHEET

### Some thoughts about Vinyl Liner Pools.

A vinyl liner pool is generally a concrete shell into which a large synthetic bag is attached around the upper edges, by some form of fastening. Some pools may have only a concrete floor and a metal, wooden or concrete panel wall system with a ring beam at the top to give strength. The construction budget dictating which is used.

The vinyl liner is made to measure and fastened only along the top. The liner should be made of the highest quality material and thickness to last. However, any puncture renders it useless. Repairs to vinyl liners are difficult to make long lasting. Over time the liner fades, become brittle and usually fail so that they become an eyesore and the pool becomes unusable.



Pic 1. Here the liner has broken away from the fastenings and torn. Also, water has now got behind the liner making it difficult to use and providing an unhealthy water situation.

Pic 2 Depending on the shell construction upgrading with Fluoropolymer V790 system is a better and much less expensive way to get the pool back into service. However, if the shell is of panel construction, then usually only an expensive liner can be reinstalled. Here we can see the panel joints every 3 ft along the wall, meaning it probably can only have a new liner installed.



## Upgrading liner pools with Fluoropolymer V790

Often it is desirable to resurface ex vinyl liner pools with Fluoropolymer V790 as a cheaper option to relining and in many cases it works well.

There are some key factors to consider before doing so.

Ideally any such pools should be constructed of solid (reinforced) concrete in which case they may be treated as a normal concrete pool.

However, pools may have a panel system for the walls and a concrete floor. The walls need careful attention. If the panels are metal, plywood or fibro (compressed sheeting), then it is not desirable to paint them at all.

If one proceeds it is without our recommendation. A new liner will be the best choice as this is what the pool is designed around.

For paneled walls made of concrete usually 2 inch or so thick, it may be feasible. However please note that the panels may move causing failure at the vertical joints and also these thin panels are not waterproof, meaning ground water can pass through and cause blisters in the coating. Also, some concrete panels may have  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch metal filaments as a reinforcing and these need to be ground flush, the remains treated with a rust converter coating (to prevent rusting), before over coating. A tedious job. If in doubt, go back to a new liner.

In summary older vinyl liner pools maybe re surfaced very successfully and more economically with Fluoropolymer V790 coating provided they are of solid construction and usually reinforced concrete. Any other version needs careful consideration.

Vinyl liners are promoted as being a long lasting and economical means to contain pool water. This is true if they are very well looked after, of high quality and suffer no damage.

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