

## INFO SHEET

### Type Of Pool Surfaces And Why You Need Know

There are two types of pool surfaces, **Reactive** and **Non-Reactive**.

The difference between the 2 is important and can be the difference between a lot of pool related maintenance, (expensive + dangerous) chemical usage and algae or not.

Examples of **Reactive** surfaces are; Pebble-Tec, Marcite, Plaster and similar “cement” based, trowel or spray on finishes. The **Non-Reactive** surfaces are ones like; Tiles, Fiberglass and Paint.



Pebble Tec Reactive Surface



Tile and Paint, Non – Reactive Surfaces

With a reactive pool surface (eg a Plastered surface with cement as a binder) then I’ve found over the years the pool acid (needed to control pH) slowly eats the cement matrix away and creates a much rougher surface. This then becomes the very best nursery for algae to take hold and grow profusely. Adding algaecide in substantial amounts knocks it back at best. However, it soon regrows and depending on temperature and nutrients, then it’s a never-ending battle.

The only real answer I’ve found is to reline the pool with a non-reactive surface (Fiberglass or a long-lasting paint such as a fluoropolymer coating, PaintnForget). This has the effect of a smooth, non-reactive surface that allows for a lot less effort and money, in keeping the pool algae free.

For better personal health, using unhealthy (and expensive) chemicals in your pool is best reduced or avoided where you can.

Both types of surfaces, Reactive or Non-Reactive last 20 plus years, so it really comes down to how you value your health and that of your kids. Also, how much effort and money you want to spend during each of those 20 years, to try and keep your pool looking good.

Now you know this, you can decide the best surface for you and your family plus your pocket. And these days you can re surface your existing Reactive surface with a new Non-Reactive surface and save your health and pocket.