

RAMUC®

Application Guide

Type EP Epoxy High Gloss Epoxy Pool Paint

Overview

Ramuc Type EP Epoxy offers a hard, tough durable finish, providing stain, chemical, and abrasion resistance for protection of concrete, plaster, gunite and fiberglass swimming pools and spas or slides. This two-component coating epoxy cures to a high-gloss finish, and offers excellent coverage rates. Type EP Epoxy has been a proven performer for more than 40 years, and is recommended for spas or whirlpools. Because of their chemical cure, epoxies are the paints of choice for indoor pools. All epoxy films will chalk (break down from the UV rays of the sun and water chemistry) over a period of time. This is a natural degradation or “cleansing” of the top surface of the epoxy film. For compatibility purposes, the existing paint on previously painted surfaces of a pool or spa should be determined before painting. Aged plaster should be checked for integrity. Check for hollow or weak/crumbling plaster by using a ball-peen hammer or any other comparable method. Perform repairs to the plaster before painting.

Supplies Needed

Cleaning Products:

Clean and Prep Solution by Ramuc, an environmentally safe product that cleans, etches and neutralizes in place of the three step process.

Or use these cleaning and surface preparation products:

Tri-sodium phosphate (TSP)

Muriatic or sulfamic acid solution

High-pressure (3500 p.s.i.) power washer

Condensation test material:

Several one-foot square pieces of transparent plastic

Duct tape

Abrasion supplies to create medium grade sandpaper finish:

Sandpaper #80 grit, power sander, sanding blocks, wire brush

Painting supplies:

No thicker than 3/8” nap mohair or lambskin roller used for solvent based paints.

DO NOT use a cardboard cored roller.

Paint brush for detailing

5 gallon bucket for boxing (intermixing) paint

Mechanical mixer; a paddle attachment to a power drill

Ramuc Thinner or xylene for thinning paint if airless spraying, and cleaning-up tools and spills

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Joint or crack filler:

Hydraulic cement or Durathane® polyurethane sealant or any other submersible polyurethane sealant. Do not use silicone-based products, as paint adhesion will be adversely affected. Durathane must be top coated before being submersed in chemically treated water.

General Surface Preparation

Plaster, concrete, or gunite surfaces should be tested for integrity and soundness. Pool paint is not a Band-Aid for weak surfaces. Should any minor repairs need to be made, such as hydraulic cement patch or crack joint filling, do them at this time. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Previously painted epoxy or bare fiberglass surfaces need to be abraded to a #80 grit profile. Power wash the surface to remove loose paint and dirt. Care needs to be taken when recoating epoxy surfaces to remove all tightly adhering residual chalk.

Prepare the surface thoroughly with **Clean and Prep Solution** by Ramuc, following the directions carefully. *This product takes the place of the TSP/ACID/TSP three-step process described as follows:*

Scrub the entire pool surface with a soap/tri-sodium phosphate (TSP) solution to remove all dirt, oils, and chalk. All surfaces should then be acid etched with a 15-20% solution of muriatic or sulfamic acid to remove mineral deposits and to achieve a medium sandpaper grade finish on bare concrete or plaster surfaces. Neutralize/rinse with TSP and water. ***If surface is exceptionally hard, we recommend sanding with 60 – 80 grit sandpaper to create surface profile, prior to applying the first coat of Type EP.***

CONDENSATION TEST - After all cleaning is completed, allow the pool surface to dry. Average dry times vary regionally and are dependent upon the porosity of the surface. It is recommended to wait 5 dry days and then perform a condensation test to determine surface dryness.

- Tape 1' x 1' pieces of transparent plastic to areas in the deep end wall, floor and several other areas on the pool.
- Wait about 4 hours to determine if condensation as formed underneath the plastic.
- If condensation is evident, the surface is not dry enough to paint.
- Remove the plastic and wait 24 hours to perform the test again and continue until no condensation forms. This insures the surface is dry enough to apply paint.

Mixing

Type EP Epoxy is self-priming; no other type of primer is recommended or should be used.

- a) Mechanically mix Part A for approximately 5 minutes.
- b) Mechanically mix Part B for approximately 5 minutes.
- c) Mechanically mix both Part A & Part B together for approximately 15 minutes.

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Allow the admixed paint to set for 20-45 minutes (induction time) prior to use at 70°F and 50% relative humidity. At 65°F, the induction time is 45 minutes. Lower temperatures and higher humidity will affect the final cure of the coating. If mixing more than one kit at a time, intermix the kits to ensure color uniformity. Type EP has a pot life (USE LIFE) of 8 hours.

Application

Use no thicker than a 3/8" nap mohair or lambskin roller used for solvent based paints. DO NOT use rollers with cardboard cores. Apply at the recommended coverage rate. **Ideal air temperatures for application are between 50°-90°F.** Surface temperature should be at least 50°F.

Do not paint when rain is imminent. Use dark colors for accent painting only.

Cure Rates

Outdoor pool: 5-7 dry days

Indoor pool: 10-14 days with adequate ventilation

If rain occurs during the curing process, allow an extra day of dry time for each day of rain. Rain or moisture can cause blistering, color blushing, and the finish could be altered.

Dry time to touch: 6-8 hours

To recoat: 16-72 hours. If second coat is applied beyond 72 hours, the first coat must be abraded/sanded prior to applying second coat.

Primer: All Ramuc paints are self-priming

Fill outdoor pools after at least 5 dry accumulative days

Fill Indoor pools after at least 10 days with proper ventilation

Coverage

175-200 square foot per gallon on bare, sandblasted, or rough surfaces.

400-450 square foot per gallon on recoats.

(Actual coverage will vary and is dependent upon the texture and profile of the surface.)

Minimum dry film per coat: 1.7 mils dry (2.8 mils wet)

Maximum dry film per coat: 2.0 mils dry (3.2 mils wet)

Pot life – use life: 8 hours (@ 70°F and 50% relative humidity)

Clean-up: Ramuc Thinner or xylene

Finish: High Gloss

Technical Data

Weight/gallon: 11.8# mixed

Solids by weight: 73% ± 2% mixed

Solids by volume: 60% ± 2% mixed

V.O.C.: Does not exceed 336 g/l

Spray Information

Airless: 2000-2300 p.s.i.

Tip Size: .017-.021

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Special Situations

Blushing-Fading-Chalking

The Cause:

- The pool is filled too soon (see cure rates) before the paint is completely cured, causing a blush over the surface which looks like fading or chalking.
- Super-chlorinated water may cause a bleached-out look.
- The shock of calcium hypochlorite can cause a white, bleached look to the paint film, leaving a whitish deposit.
- A chalky substance can be created by over treating the water with shock, bromine, ozone and ionization. It is not the paint breaking down. We suggest a natural polymer product or clarifier that can reduce the chalking problem.
- Iron in the water from rust in the filter system may leave deposits and stain the film.
- All epoxies will chalk to some degree due to exposure to UV rays of the sun.
- Follow manufacturer's recommendations for proper water chemistry.

The Solution:

- Scrub surface using a solution of soap and water. This will remove surface dirt and deposits.
- Wet with a weak (2-3%) solution of muriatic acid. Acid will remove iron stains without damaging the paint film.
- Solvent wipe affected areas with Ramuc Thinner.
- Check your pool water chemistry daily or weekly for calcium hardness, total alkalinity, and balanced pH.
- Extremely corrosive water can ultimately cause deterioration or breakdown of a paint film over a period of years.
- Be sure the newly painted outdoor pool surface dries at least five dry, sunny days and/or 10 days for an indoor pool before filling.

Blistering

The Cause:

- Using a nap roller thicker than 3/8" nap draws air into paint film.
- Applying paint too thick.
- Painting on a damp surface.
- Painting in direct sunlight caused vapor blisters.
- Filling the pool before the paint is cured.
- Incompatible paints.

The Solution:

- Scrub off blisters; wipe lightly with RAMUC thinner. Apply a coat of Type EP to blend in for uniformity if needed.
- All painted surfaces must be dry prior to painting with Type EP.
- Paint must cure for 5 dry days on an outdoor pool and 10 days on an indoor pool.