



Pool at Tam O' Shanter CC, Niles, Ill. painted with Ramuc enamel, has fresh, vibrant look even three years after it was painted.

Inertol Co., Inc. photo

CHEAP POOL PAINT

It's A Gamble That Can Be Costly

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ARE you worried about paint fading, peeling, blistering? Are you worried about pool cleaning, clogged filters, frequent painting, paint-stained suits? Do your members seem unhappy about their pool?

You can brush all these troubles away, and spend your time watching your club pool help increase membership. There's no question that a good pool can do that. Many a pool has pulled a club out of the red.

What's the formula?

Buy a good pool paint. Read the manufacturer's directions. Follow the directions — from surface preparation on up.

If your pool is lined with a film of last year's dust, sand, sun oils, body oils, etc., you had better remove the film before painting. You only hide dirt with paint for a while. The paint will really stick to it. The trouble comes when the dirt loses its grip on the pool and falls away with your nice paint sticking to it! So, always check the surface first and make sure it's clean before you paint.

You can tell a paint by the company it keeps. Good pool paint hobnobs with good pools. Check other clubs near you. You are not interested in the enthusiasm of the owner of a new paint job. Get the honest opinion of those who haven't repainted for two or more years. Ask

people whose pools, after several swimming seasons, still look good.

In connection with a pool's appearance and repainting, keep in mind that when a fresh coat of paint is applied over a good pool paint it isn't done because the paint is shabby. Almost always the pool still looks attractive and tile-smooth. It simply requires a little freshening up. When a good pool paint has been used there's no extensive scraping and sanding away of loose and peeling, blistering or powdering paints that can't take submersion. A quick washing and rinsing of the surface is all that's required.

Some types of paint present an attractive, smooth, hard surface — but nothing can bond with them. This includes paint of the same identical type. In other cases bonding may be fair, but blistering of the repaint application may soon occur. Chlorinated natural rubber-base coatings have a distinct advantage when it comes to repainting; the solvents in the new coat of paint soften the previous coat slightly so that the two coats become one when the paint has dried.

Find out who manufactured the paint, as a double-check on quality. Knowing the reputation of the man who made the paint should offer that much more protection. Besides, the manufacturer may make available to you, without charge, special technical services that can be of tremendous advantage.

The price spread between good and bad paint is small. It costs as much to apply one as the other

You may say: "Well, sure, a top-quality pool paint will give the best service, but I'll have to get something less expensive." If you have thoughts along these lines you're headed for headaches and the loss of time and money. Cheap paint is expensive!

There isn't too much of a spread between the best paint and the cheapest. Compared with the overall cost of your swimming pool investment, the difference is insignificant. The real spread comes when you consider the wide difference in wearability, and the ultimate damages to be paid when a cheap paint is used.

Let's do a little practical figuring. Suppose you apply a good pool paint to one side of a pool, a cheap paint to the other. Labor costs will be the same, gallon for gallon. Your first uneasiness probably will come when you notice that you are running short of the cheap paint or perhaps that the color is off or varies from gallon to gallon.

You fill the pool with water. The good paint holds its color and gives the water an invigorating, inviting look. The poor paint starts to "drown." It just isn't designed for submersion. It begins to lose its color. After a month or so you may notice the poor paint has begun to cloud the water as it powders off (you'll find the powdered paint neatly stored in your plugged filters). Or, because the paint is now water-soaked, you'll see it is starting to swell up in blisters and patches.

Contrast in Sides

As the season progresses, the difference between the two sides of the pool become more and more apparent. The smooth finish of the good paint stays cleaner because it doesn't give dirt or algae a toe hold. Some awfully attractive finishes are sparkling white when applied but actually are rough as porous stone, pick up dirt and harbor algae. When they stain they present a real cleaning problem because discolorations are deep in the pores. With a good pool paint dirt and staining are almost invariably simply lying on the surface. About the only exception is rust or staining from leaves which have been left in an empty pool all winter. In a painted pool these can be painted over. If a pool has a different type of finish than paint radical measures may be necessary.

Before you repaint the side that failed, you'll have to put in considerable time getting rid of loose and deteriorated paint. Is that all? No, unfortunately. Despite all your efforts you may still have a blotchy, uneven, less-than-attractive surface after you've repainted. You've seen pools that are rough and pock-marked, uneven and blotchy in color. Painting over what's left of the poor paint will not keep it from deteriorating further. It will continue to loosen and break away from the pool, taking sections of the new paint with it.

To end this type of trouble and get off to a fresh start may make sandblasting necessary. Check the cost of sandblasting against the cost of applying the best pool paint. You'll see a tremendous saving.

Don't Experiment

You probably have just one pool. Don't experiment with it. Why not use a paint that has been proved on thousands and thousands of pools?

The advantages of a colorful pool as an attention-getter are well known. Given two pools, one painted, one unpainted — which would you prefer? Who wants to swim in a plain concrete box? Why not have a pool as beautiful as its surroundings?

Paint brings a pool to life. Subtly, it will make water appear more invigorating, make a pool grow in size, giving an illusion of lake or ocean bathing. Paint will soften a pool's outline, adding a feeling of ease and grace.

A well-painted pool stays cleaner longer because its tile-smooth finish doesn't let dirt and algae get a foothold the way bare masonry does. By the same token this tile-smooth finish makes it far easier to clean the pool. An easily cleaned pool encourages cleanliness. When a maintenance man knows he can do a thorough job fast he is less inclined to postpone the job till cooler weather.

A clean pool is a safer pool, not only for reasons of sanitation but because a dirty pool is inclined to be slippery and because high underwater visibility is so important to lifeguards. From his stand, a lifeguard should be able to see his area of the pool from top to bottom. There should be nothing to cloud his vision. Today, with underwater swimming so popular, guards need all the help they can get.

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Cheap Pool Point Is Expensive

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Your members will be more inclined to sing in the showers (and lockerrooms) if they don't have to look at "practically new" paint that has gone to pot because of steam, dampness and mildew. So many people think that they have to accept discolored and peeling paint and bare patches of plaster. It just isn't so. A paint designed to stand up to these expensive nuisances will keep its clean, enamel finish for many years without repainting. Furthermore, it will protect the plaster beneath it from breaking down. As you probably know, once moisture gets at plaster, the plaster begins to lose strength. A good shower room paint keeps moisture away from plaster.

Don't use paint left over from your pool. Get a paint made especially for shower and locker room ceilings, walls and floors. We think you'll find a chlorinated natural rubberbase paint will be the best answer to this problem.

Sales Ideas

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bring fine returns if it is practiced. It amounts to this: Go out of your way to give good service and you'll build up a fine reputation through a chain reaction among your players. Once the reputation is established, you can't help but continue to increase sales, provided, of course, you keep up the kind of service your members have become accustomed to. I had quite a bit of success in 1958 in club sales. Once again, I can't claim that I did anything that hasn't been done before. I stressed that the golfer can only be properly fitted in a pro shop; I encouraged everyone interested in buying new clubs to give them

a thorough test on the practice fairway before buying; I made as liberal an allowance as economically feasible on trade-in clubs.

Grau's Answers

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Common Bermuda Infestation

Q.—I would like to know what can be done about Bermudagrass in our greens. We have Colonial and creeping bent in the greens. Bermuda was planted in fairways and it has spread to the greens. Now that I have been promoted to the No. 1 man I would like to do something about this problem. (Calif.)

A. If the greens are heavily infested you would do well to rebuild. In this process the greens should be torn up, necessary architectural changes made, sand (if needed) added, drainage corrected, brought to grade and soil sterilized to kill all existing vegetation. You have a choice between Dowfume and Vapam. Sterilize a collar at least 6-ft. wide around the putting surface. As soon as the green is ready to plant, add necessary nutrients and replant. You may choose from among these three bents: Cohansey, Old Orchard, Penncross. These bents are stronger and more resistant to Bermuda invasion than Colonial. Plant the bent 3 ft. beyond the putting surface. For the remaining 3 ft. you may plant one of the very fine Bermudas which resist the spread of common Bermuda. Two that are in use for this purpose are Ugandagrass and Tifgreen. Several courses in the Phoenix area have successfully used the protective band.

Small isolated plants of Bermuda may be cut out and the spots resodded with good bent sod from your improved bent nursery. Weekly edging seems to be adequate to prevent Bermuda invasion from collars. By any chance could there be bermuda seeds in the topdressing? Prevention is as important as control. Keep the bents vigorous with adequate feeding.

Too Much Penncross Seeding

Q. We finished seeding our new 18-hole course last fall with Penncross after the architect instructed us to sow 22 lbs. on our greens, which averaged 7,000 sq. ft. You mentioned that more