



## 'BUBBLING' IN CHLORINATED RUBBER COATINGS.

The appearance of 'bubbles or blisters' during application of chlorinated rubber coatings is not uncommon and may be experienced during, or shortly following, the application of either LUXAPOL CHLORINATED RUBBER or CHLORCOTE under certain weather conditions.

### WHEN IS 'BUBBLING' MOST OFTEN EXPERIENCED?

'Bubbling' in all chlorinated rubber coatings will be more often experienced in summer conditions, will be exaggerated in low humidity and windy conditions, and is very common in tropical and subtropical zones. As chlorinated rubber coatings dry or 'cure' only via the release of the included hydrocarbon solvents into the atmosphere, unlike 2 pack 'internal cure' coatings, they are equally prone to bubbling across any or all coats.

### WHAT INFLUENCES THE DEVELOPMENT OF 'BUBBLING'?

There are two primary causes of bubbling in chlorinated rubber coatings. Blisters may occur when air pockets in porous substrates are subject to warming by sunlight. Such air pockets expand in the warming atmospheric conditions, and finally develop below the coating as a bubble or blister.

Bubbling can also occur in application over non-porous surfaces as the escaping solvent, drawn to the surface by sunlight and heat, cannot release through a surface which is already dry.

### HOW MAY THE INCIDENCE OF BUBBLES AND BLISTERS BE REDUCED?

Applicators should follow the general guidelines:

- Ideally work below a shade-cloth which will moderate direct sunlight onto the surface.
- If pool surfaces cannot be shaded, schedule application for late winter into early spring.
- Commence application as early as practicable in the morning, but no later than mid-morning such that surfaces are as cool as possible when coated.
- Commence application on the pool side that will be exposed first to the sun (western edge), then work to the southern edge, then to the east, to the north and finally onto the floor.
- For porous cement render surfaces, apply the initial coat diluted with up to 20% SOLVENT LT, and roll well 'into the surface'.
- In all cases avoid application of 'thick coats', rather use spread rates out to 25m<sup>2</sup>/4L can (as opposed to 20m<sup>2</sup>/4 L can in more temperate conditions).

### EARLY REPAIR OF BUBBLES AND BLISTERS:

- Lightly 'roll down' any observed bubbles using the edge of a 'well wetted roller' as each pool side is completed. Same as for the base as the applicator works back to towards the exit stairs.
- Finally when exited the pool, and before leaving the site, repeat the procedure using an appropriate extension handle if needed.



#### **POST CURE REPAIR OF BLISTER, CRATERS AND SURFACE VOIDS:**

One great advantage of chlorinated rubber coatings is that they remain permanently soluble in/sensitive to, the included solvents in the coating, and to formulated thinners.

Thus if the blister is rewetted with fresh coating, either applied via wet 'roller edge' or brush, it will normally be easily 'collapsed' and thus the film quality repaired.

- Alternatively the bubble may be dissolved using SOLVENT LT (applied via a clean wetted cloth or simply brushed on). Finally a repair patch can be painted in.

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