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## New Plaster Surface

### Notice & Directions

#### NOTICE

**\*Plaster Cures Under-Water:** Newly plastered pool MUST start filling no later than the following morning after the plastering is completed, unless otherwise instructed by the plastering crew. Failure to start filling by the instructed time will cause damage to the new plaster and voids all warranties and guarantees.

\*All plastered pools have shrinkage checks and mottling associated with them to varying degrees. This is considered normal and is not covered by warranty.

MOTTLING - The pool plaster finish is usually a white portland cement product, and is troweled with steel trowels and chemically active (hydrating and releasing minerals) for several years after installation. Because of this, and the chemistry of the pool water acting on the minerals moving out of the surface of the plaster, the new finish will not be an even white surface (or in cases where color is used, will not be an even colored surface). It will be mottled, with varying degrees of light and dark areas (this usually evens out in 2 or 3 years). This "mottling may be very visible in some pools while not in others.

SHRINKAGE CHECKS – All portland cement products from concrete to pool plaster have shrinkage checks that are sometimes visible, and sometimes not. Due to the smooth texture of pool plaster, shrinkage checks are often visible. These are normal, and do not effect the integrity of the plaster.

CAUSTIC ACTION – On all pool plaster finishes, for the first few months, there are minerals coming out of the surface that are strong alkalies. Any bathers that use the pool for long periods of time, with contact to the plaster surface, may develop sores on their toes and feet. After a couple of months, this caustic action at the plaster surface will have decreased and will eventually disappear. In most cases this is not a problem, *however, it is important to watch the situation and recommend foot gear if necessary.*

WATER BALANCE – Balance water as recommended by the State. Follow the Directions for pH, Alkalinity, & Hardness levels. Improper water balance will void all guarantees and warranties. Proper water balance is essential in maximizing the life of plaster.

## DIRECTIONS

1. Test fill water before filling pool. You will need to adjust chemical levels accordingly. If water is unusually high in any mineral content you may want to have water brought in from elsewhere or have a pool filling company fill the pool (i.e. Chlorinated Water Supply – mention Horizon for a discount). A filtering device called a “Bobby” can also be attached to garden hose ends to remove many unwanted minerals and particles. The additional cost may save your new surface from staining.
2. Fill newly plastered pool, without stopping, until water reaches its normal level. If you stop filling, the water will leave a permanent mark on the pool. When pool is filled, start the filter system. You can start circulating the pool water before it is completely filled as long as the water depth is 12” over the entire bottom of the pool. **Do NOT add chlorine or other bacterial control agents at this time.** Make sure none of the returns are pointed directly at the plaster surface.

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3. After starting the filtration system, add a sequesterant (HORIZON Stain Inhibitor) in labeled doses, & a clarifier (HORIZON Blue Clarifier) per label instructions. If the water is high in iron, double the dose of clarifier.
4. Backwash filter frequently for the first several weeks or when pressure shows a 4-5 psi increase. Start slowly introducing sanitizer 24 to 36 hours after starting the filtration system. Add another dose of the clarifier according to label instructions 24 hours after balancing chemicals to coagulate and filter out the material that will leach into the pool from plaster for several weeks. Continue to use clarifier at recommended dosages to promote filter efficiency, guard against metal stains, and maintain clean, clear water.
5. When pool is filled, minimal calcium should be added in the first several weeks because excess calcium is moving out of the new finish. After 3 or 4 weeks, add calcium if needed to bring level up to the low end of the scale (200-300 ppm). After a couple of months, it is recommended to raise and maintain the calcium at a higher level (400 ppm).
6. Test pH and Alkalinity levels. The pH balance during the first few weeks should be watched very closely and kept on the low end of the scale (*approximately* 7.2 – 7.4). The alkalinity should also be kept at the low end of the scale (approximately 80-90 ppm). This procedure will help reduce curing discoloration. After 3 to 4 weeks, raise pH and alkalinity to normal operating levels. It is important to maintain pH and alkalinity levels constantly to ensure the long life of the plaster. Continuous low or high alkalinity and pH can cause damage to the plaster over time.
7. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Brush the pool surface frequently for the first 2 to 4 weeks with a vinyl brush (1-3 times daily). This will help keep the efflorescence from attaching to the new surface, which can be abrasive on swimmers feet. It also helps bring out the aggregate in the plaster and will give the plaster a more consistent look. The more you brush, the better the surface will look. Vacuum the bottom sediment as needed.