

Inorganic Stains

Inorganic stains can appear in many different forms.

SALT STAINS

Symptoms

- Brownish in colour, located where salt is left to sit on the surface of the pool.

Possible Causes

- Salt stains result when salt is added to the water but the surface is not brushed sufficiently to prevent the salt from settling on the surface.

RUST SPOTS/MARKS (See also Calcium Scale)

Symptoms

- Reddish-brown stain on the surface.

Possible Causes

- Rust stains occur when metal settles on the surface and corrodes. If the stain appears to be coming from something in the surface then some metallic particles may have contaminated the render as it was being applied.
- Metal stains commonly occur from hair clips or pieces of jewellery that are left to sit on the surface etc.
- Small rust spots on the surface may be the result of work conducted near the pool whereby particles of metal have found their way into the pool.
- Old water pipes can carry iron into the pool when adding water.
- A high content of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) can cause metal staining.
- Steel reinforcing bar that is sitting too close to the surface which corrodes the reinforcing steel causing metal stain through to the surface.

Possible Remedies

- Sprinkling & Rubbing
- In most of these instances (rust and salt stains), sprinkling citric (ascorbic) acid or crushed vitamin C tablets onto the mark should remove it.
- You can also rub a vitamin C tablet directly over the rust stain.

Using a stocking/sock

- You can also fill a stocking/sock with a granular acid, e.g. citric (ascorbic) acid, or crushed vitamin C tablets and then tie the stocking/sock in a knot. Use your pool pole to position over the stain or to hold it in place on a vertical wall.

- If the staining is on a vertical surface, the citric acid can be placed in a stocking and allowed to sit on the mark.
- The acid will work on the stain within 5-15 minutes. Check regularly that a 'reverse stain' is not occurring (the stained area is now whiter than surrounding area).
- Brushing before and after use of the stocking/sock with a stiff brush will assist.

Soaking

- If there are too many marks for localised treatment, lower the pH down to 6.8, reduce the chlorine level down to between 0.5 and 1ppm
- Sprinkle citric acid on the water's surface, concentrating on contaminated areas.
- Allow the pool to sit for 12-24 hours.
- 2-4 kg per 50 000L of pool water is an acceptable dosage rate depending on the severity of the marks.

Pipe Method

- Place a 40-50mm PVC (pool/plumbing) pipe directly over the stain with the other end of the pipe above water.
- Pour in either dry or liquid acid into the tube for approximately 15-30 seconds and repeating if necessary.

Jandy Stain Master

- The Jandy siphons liquid (muriatic) acid from a bottle on the pool deck and delivers it to the pool surface via a tube a 75mm cup.
- Commence acid concentration at 4:1 initially for 15-30 seconds.
- Check the results and repeat if necessary.