

## Swimming Pools

I have been asked by one of our V.I.P tilers to address this topic, I have also received many calls from other tilers, builders and tile show room staff about tiling a pool, so here we go! The first question I always ask, Have you rendered or tiled a pool before? Is it a domestic or commercial pool? There is a big difference which I will highlight as I progress. The Australian Standard AS 3958-1-2007 "Guide to the installation of Ceramic Tiles" contains a section on pools which is very informative for a domestic situation, however not much for the commercial tiler in the way of modular set out and overflow drains etc. The tiling and rendering of a swimming pool I believe is a very specialised job/application. You must remember a pool environment is a harsh situation, your tiling system is continually immersed then subjected to human intervention, environment changes and chemical attack! Now that I have scared you, here are some points to consider if you are going to become a swimming pool tiler or going to tackle a pool job.

First thing, Call me if you don't understand the "Hydration of Cement" because this scenario will be your down fall. Tiling/ Rendering a concrete pool in summer in Perth under a temporary shade shelter on a hot/ windy day requires patience and skill to get it right and a sound knowledge of set and curing times of cement and modified mortars. Most pools require you to render them, Why? Because the precision in casting a concrete pool for direct stick tiling would require a lot of time and skill by the Grano workers

who in turn could not or would not guarantee that precision, not to mention the cost. When tiling a commercial pool for competition you must set out the tiling in a modular form to ensure a 50 metre or a 100 metre pool is exactly that, the reason is obvious. A domestic pool with glass mosaics requires that precision also to avoid cost blow outs in time and materials not to mention the aesthetic appeal. A "Myth" that always presents itself is, "I need to waterproof the structure" The "Concrete Shell" or apply a waterproofing agent in my render to keep the water in! The truth is the concrete shell should be 60M.P.A when cured, at this level the shell is waterproof. The rendering of a pool is critical, this is the foundation for your tiling, if it fails the whole job is doomed. The rendering of the concrete shell allows you to "Make Good" So to speak, the surface ready for your tiling, it also allows you to adjust and make true the length and overall dimensions for tiling and to bring the pool into specification, which is of the utmost importance. I will not get into the render mixes now and how to apply them, that's a topic for another V.I.P mail out if requested, I will say our new labelling of our Plastinex range contains a lot of information on this topic. The adhesives for a concrete pool are Morgan's OPM, which contains the correct polymer resin for water immersion and chemical resistance OR Morgan's Powergrip white or grey, mixed with Morgan's Plastinex Black Label at a ratio of 50% Plastinex to 50% water, some pool tilers prefer 2 to 1 ratio of Plastinex to water. NB: SBR additives "Plastinex" are designed for this scenario, Mix the tile adhesive to a finished toothpaste consistency, using the above mix.

Trowel onto substrate horizontally, bed the tiles into the adhesive ensuring there are no voids under them 100% coverage, clean out grout joints prior to the adhesive setting. NOTE: This is very important for the grouts performance and longevity.

Grout for pools is another controversial topic. The myth is Epoxy or Aquapoxy must be used. On a hydro therapy pool an epoxy or aqua epoxy has some merit, However the correct grout is Morgan's white S1 architectural or I like regular white mixed with Morgan's Grout Add or Plastinex Black Label 1 part to 4 parts water. Once the tiling application is concluded leave the temporary shelter erected for as long as possible, you must wait 3 weeks before filling. There is a lot more to tiling a pool such as expansion joints, if or when required, screeding the floor, using the correct silicone, minimum time intervals between applications of render, e.t.c also ensuring the correct tile for the application. I once heard a saying worth Noting: "In time and with water everything changes" Last but not least NEVER tile a fibreglass pool, it is dangerous there is a "Duty of care" issue here.

Photo and work  
Courtesy of

Scott Rowson  
Online Tiling  
Services.

Frazer Suites  
Tower 2  
Perth



# Geoff's Spiel

Well I must say I am Impressed!!  
I am receiving more and more feedback and requests for information over the last 5 months than ever before and I thought no one read my ramblings on a regular basis, however I was wrong as it appears, Thank you its appreciated and refreshing. I have included the adhesive, Waterproofing Membrane and Grout classification Guide in this months "What's New" column (even though its not new). This guide allows you to decipher the class of product you are using or being asked to use and its becoming more and more relevant in specifications. Our new packaging will start to reflect these symbols also.

Congratulations to Joseph Marzoli this months VIP winner & Bruce Hetherington Second chance draw winner.

## Kim's Spiel

Thankyou to those of you that have entered the second chance draw to win a prize to the value of \$200 . Remember all you have to do is, e-mail or SMS your Full Name, Address Mobile number and e-mail address to [accounts@morganadhesives.com.au](mailto:accounts@morganadhesives.com.au)  
OR

Text 0434 521 958

By doing this you will automatically go in the second chance draw.. If we don't hear from you, you will not longer receive the monthly V.I.P mail out. We look forward to hearing from you & good luck.

Until Next Time  
Stay Safe  
Cheers Geoff.



Joseph Marzoli  
From Mandurah  
VIP # 5007



Second Chance Draw  
Winner  
Bruce Hetherington  
VIP #12  
From Katanning  
Photo next Month



Next months VIP tiler prize is mystery Prize to the value of \$200.  
Don't forget to double your chances to win by sending us your details!!



Happy  
Birthday



The team at Morgan's would like to wish Geoff a very Happy 60th Birthday this month.

Thank You

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