



**POOL AND DECK COATINGS**

**Kelley Technical Coatings**



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**ALL OLYMPIC PRODUCTS ARE VOC COMPLIANT**

**Bulletin No. 165**

## Proper Procedure for Sandblasting Swimming Pools

Great care should be taken when sandblasting. An experienced operator is essential. When quoting a sandblasting job, it may be helpful to “test blast” a one square foot area of the pool to see how much time it takes, then figure a price on the total square footage of the pool.

**1.** Remove all lights, ladders, return eyeballs, drain grates, etc. If it is impossible to remove these, cover them up with heavy plastic and tape with duct tape. Drains and skimmers must also be sealed air tight so that no sand can enter and clog up the lines. Great care should be taken as sandblasting will ruin many of these items if they are not properly covered. Great care should also be taken with tile. Cover the tile completely with duct tape, making the tape several layers thick to protect it.

**2.** Different types of finishes blast differently. Epoxy, while being the most durable finish for pools, is sometimes easier to blast due to its unique hardness. A rubber-base can sometimes be difficult to blast because of the rubber content which tends to “ball up” when blasted. You may encounter some pools that while having a blistering or peeling topcoat, have a very secure base coat. It could be more economical to just blast off the topcoat and repaint.

**3.** Structural surfaces being blasted tend to have an effect on blasting also. For instance, if steel is new with surface rust, a light blast would probably suffice. After any steel is blasted to a bare surface, it is best to wipe it down with a good solvent to clean it and then prime it with No. 219 METAL PRIMER immediately after blasting. If the surface is aluminum No. 220 BONDERITE PRIMER should be used. Two coats are recommended. Never acid wash or use water to wash bare blasted steel.

**Plaster** - A painted plaster or marcite surface is easier to blast. Plaster is a weak surface and tends to break away easily with the paint.

**Concrete** - Concrete is probably the hardest surface to blast due to the penetration factor of paint. Care should be taken not to damage the concrete by blasting too deep into the matrix of the concrete. The finish would then look like exposed aggregate.

**Fiberglass** - When blasting fiberglass it is best to use a very light abrasive sand. Extreme care should be taken to remove the coating only and not actually penetrate the fiberglass other than to scarify the surface.

**Concrete** - Concrete is probably the hardest surface to blast due to the penetration factor of paint. Care should be taken not to damage the concrete by blasting too deep into the matrix of the concrete. The finish would then look like exposed aggregate.

**Steel** - When blasting steel you will need to determine what condition the surface is in. If it is rusty and pitted after many years of use, it is best to use caution so to not actually blow through the weakened steel, but still remove all traces of rust.

**4.** The type of material used to blast is the most important factor in a successful blasting job. Be sure to follow manufacturer’s recommendation for a particular purpose.

Types of blast media:

**Sand** - used for blasting should be kept dry. Any dampness or wetness will cause the sandblasting hoses to clog.

**Slag-Type Media** - usually known as Black Beauty. There are several different grades (coarseness). These are good for hard to remove finishes.

**Flint Shot** - a white sand good for light blasting and cleaning.

**5.** Always start in the deep end of the pool floor first because sand will naturally gravitate to the bottom. Walls should be done last. When blasting the steps, check to see what they are made of (i.e., plastic, fiberglass, concrete, etc.) and blast accordingly. Steps are sometimes the hardest area to blast due to the fact that the paint will usually be thicker there as people tend to dump out remaining paint on the steps when painting a pool.

Sand and dust created from blasting will carry a good distance so be sure to take care as to your surrounding areas.

### **Equipment to be Used**

**Compressor** - (Air supply) Air output is measured in cubic foot per minute (C.F.M.), compressors are rated by the C.F.M. The lower the C.F.M., the longer the blast job will take to complete. We would recommend nothing less than a 175 C.F.M. compressor.

**Blast Pot** - Holds sand and is pressurized to force sand out of the blast hose.

**Blast Hoses and Nozzles** - These will come with the equipment, if rented. If not, check compressor and blast pot manufacturer's recommendations.

**Safety Equipment** - Blast helmet, gloves, leather or steel toed work boots, ear plugs, safety glasses, long pants and long sleeve shirt.

Kelley Technical Coatings is not a sandblasting contractor or supplier. This information has been obtained from several sources with years of experience. Contact your sandblast supplier for more specific details. We hope this information has been helpful.

### **WARNING!**

If you scrape or remove old paint, you may release lead dust. **LEAD IS TOXIC. EXPOSURE TO LEAD DUST CAN CAUSE SERIOUS ILLNESS, SUCH AS BRAIN DAMAGE, ESPECIALLY IN CHILDREN. PREGNANT WOMEN SHOULD ALSO AVOID EXPOSURE.** Wear a NIOSH approved respirator to control lead exposure. Clean up carefully with a HEPA vacuum and a wet mop. Before you start, find out how to protect yourself and your family by contacting the National Lead Information Hotline at **1-800-424-LEAD** or log on to **[www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead)**

Information herein given has been accumulated through many years of experience and verified by our technical personnel and is based upon tests believed to be reliable, but RESULTS ARE NOT GUARANTEED.

**NOTE:** KELLEY TECHNICAL COATINGS, INC. makes no implied warranty of merchantability, no implied warranty of fitness for a particular purpose and no other warranty, either express or implied, concerning its products.

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