



Liquid is the Best Sanitizer for In-Ground Vinyl and Fiberglass Pools

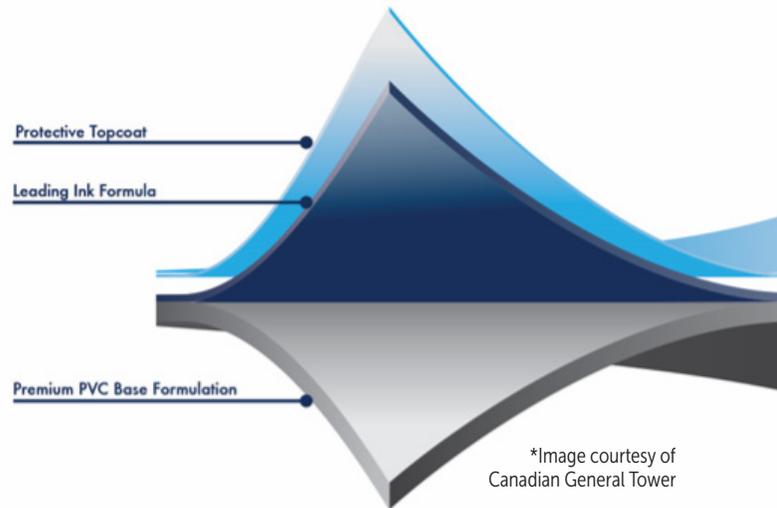
Vinyl liners are a thin sheet of Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) usually from 20 to 30 ml in thickness. The vinyl sheet is made up of at least three layers, consisting of a PVC base, ink layer and a protective plasticizer layer.

Vinyl Pools

Vinyl liners are a pH neutral material in water—and, because of this, they are more susceptible to damage from low or high pH chemicals. A pH lower than 7.2 will remove the layer of protective plasticizer and the ink coloring. Lower pH and alkalinity can cause wrinkling and fading of the liner. This can lead further to weakening of the material, which in turn can lead to tears in the surface. High pH and high hardness levels can lead to damaging scale formation.

Trichlor tablets and granular shocks are acidic and will lower both the pH and total alkalinity of pool water. Unlike a plaster pool, there is no calcium or alkaline material to prevent the pH from dropping quickly.

Calcium from cal hypo can increase the potential for scale—and the formation of calcium carbonate upon the vinyl is very difficult to remove. Acid washing of vinyl liners is really not an option.



*Image courtesy of Canadian General Tower



TECH POINTS

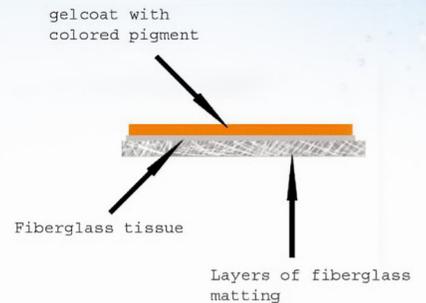


Fiberglass Pools

Fiberglass pools are made up of mainly three layers consisting of fiberglass matting or backing and a substrate fiberglass layer with gel coat layer.

Fiberglass pools are also pH neutral and a pH lower than 7.2 can lead to fading of gelcoat coloring and blisters on the surface. The pH of trichlor tablets is between 2.9 to 3.5. This will lead to acidic water very quickly in most pools. A typical pool running 1 ppm of free chlorine a day from trichlor, with a total alkalinity of 100 ppm, can go from pH 7.5 to 7.2 in 7 days.

Cal hypo can raise calcium over time. Using 50 lbs. of 65% cal hypo over a season can increase the pool water hardness by 400 ppm. High calcium can lead to calcium carbonate scale, which can precipitate as hard sharp crystals on the fiberglass surface. These are difficult to remove and can lead to damaging the gelcoat surface.



Liquid 12.5% sodium hypochlorite is one of the best ways to sanitize vinyl and fiberglass pools for the following reasons:

- Is not acidic and will not lead to lowering of pH.
- Does not contain calcium and will not lead to formation of damaging scale.
- Is an alkaline sanitizer, which keeps more protective buffer in vinyl and fiberglass pools.
- Works instantly to sanitize and does not need to dissolve or break down to be effective.
- Will not cause fading or bleaching of surfaces, when used and added properly.
- Offers the best cost per use because frequent draining and use of additional balance chemicals are not needed.
- Will not raise the pH in outdoor pools. (The UV reaction from sunlight in pool water neutralizes any spike in pH from liquid being added.)

Here is the proper way to add liquid to a vinyl liner or fiberglass swimming pool:

- Always dose appropriately: 1 gallon of 12.5% liquid sodium hypochlorite = 12.5 ppm in 10,000 gallons. 10 oz. = 1 ppm in 10,000 gallons.
- The circulation system of the pool MUST be turned on. Never add chemical to the pool if the pump is not running.
- Since liquid sodium hypochlorite is a concentrated sanitizer, it is best to dilute it before adding. This can be done by adding the proper dosage to a bucket of water. ALWAYS ADD CHEMICAL TO WATER. DO NOT ADD WATER TO CHEMICAL. Pour slowly in the deep end of the pool with the system running. Avoid areas with ladders, rails, or lights.
- For in-ground vinyl liner or fiberglass pools, try using the HASA Liquid Feeder™ (HLF™), which is designed to introduce the proper amount of diluted liquid sodium hypochlorite to the pool on a daily basis.



For info on the HLF check out, please visit: <https://hasapool.com/liquid-feeder/>.

