

Black Spot Aftercare and Prevention Guide

Australian Pool Resurfacing Pty Ltd | How to stop black spot coming back

BLACK SPOT IS NOT COVERED BY THE APR WARRANTY

Black spot is a water care and environmental condition, not a defect in the pool surface. APR does not warrant against black spot appearing or returning, and treatment or removal is chargeable. This guide explains how to prevent it.

1. What black spot is

- Black spot is not a true algae. It is a colony of cyanobacteria (blue green bacteria) that forms hard, raised, dark blue green to black spots, usually a few millimetres across.
- Each spot builds a protective outer layer. Normal chlorine levels can kill the surface of the colony but not the growth underneath, which is why it needs heavy brushing and strong treatment to remove.
- Spores are carried into the pool on swimwear, toys, floats, cleaning equipment, wind and rain. Anything that has been in a lake, river, dam or the sea is a common source.
- Once in the pool, spores survive in filter sand or cartridges, hoses, cleaners and baskets. If these are not cleaned or replaced, they can re-seed the pool after treatment.
- It grows best where water moves slowly and chlorine is low: steps, corners, behind ladders and shaded areas.
- Good water care and clean equipment are what keep it away.

2. Reset everything before you swim

Spores left in the equipment are the most common reason black spot returns. Do this once, as soon as the pool is refilled.

Item	What to do
Sand filter	Replace the sand (or change to glass media). Old sand can hold spores and re-seed the pool. Backwash and rinse after the first week of running.
Cartridge filter	Soak the cartridge overnight in a cartridge cleaner, hose it clean, then soak it in a chlorine solution. If it is old, worn or the pleats are damaged, replace it.
Glass media or DE filter	Replace DE powder. Backwash and chemically clean glass media as the manufacturer recommends.
Pump and skimmer baskets, hoses, automatic cleaner	Clean, then soak in a strong chlorine solution. Replace hoses or cleaner parts that are cracked or slimy inside.
Brushes, pole, vacuum head	Soak in a chlorine solution. Replace worn brushes.
Toys, floats, kickboards, swimwear, wetsuits	Wash and soak in a chlorine solution, or replace. Rinse anything used at the beach, a lake or a river before it goes in the pool.
Water	Have the new water tested at your pool shop and balanced before anyone swims.

3. Water targets

Test	Target
Free chlorine	2 to 4 ppm. Keep it towards the upper end for the first month.
pH	7.2 to 7.6
Total alkalinity	80 to 120 ppm
Stabiliser (cyanuric acid)	30 to 50 ppm for an outdoor chlorinated pool

Calcium hardness and phosphates	As your pool shop recommends for your pool and surface. Keep phosphates low.
--	--

Always follow product labels and your pool shop's advice for your pool. Ranges can differ slightly between pool types and sanitising systems.

4. Ongoing routine

How often	What to do
Weekly	Brush the whole pool, paying attention to steps, corners, behind ladders and shaded spots. Empty skimmer and pump baskets. Test chlorine and pH.
After heavy use, rain or hot weather	Shock dose as your pool shop advises and run the filter longer.
Every day	Run the filter long enough to turn the water over at least once a day, and longer in summer. Point return jets so water keeps moving through steps and corners.
Monthly	Full water test at your pool shop. Keep the printouts.
Every 6 to 12 months	Thoroughly clean the filter (chemical clean for cartridges, deep backwash and check for sand filters). Replace sand and cartridges when the manufacturer recommends.
As needed	A non copper algaecide can help as a preventative. Avoid copper based products, which can stain pool surfaces.

5. If you see a dark spot again

- Act early. Small spots are far easier to deal with than established ones.
- Brush the spot firmly with a stiff nylon brush. Do not use a stainless steel or wire brush, scourers or acid on your pool surface.
- Shock the pool, keep the filter running and clean the filter afterwards.
- Take a clear photo and send it to us with your latest water test. We can help you work out whether it is black spot, a stain or something else.
- Please speak to us before draining the pool.

Questions? Call us on 03 5975 5955 or email info@fixmypool.com.au. Please quote your job number if you have one.