

## **REPAIRING A FIBREGLASS POOL.**

Repair work undertaken on the fibreglass swimming pool requires the use of gelcoat, resin and/or fibreglass. Repair work is required when there is more substantial damage to the fibreglass swimming pool, which cannot be remedied by polishing or sanding the gelcoat layer. We will set out below various circumstances where repair work to the fibreglass swimming pool is required in order to make the fibreglass swimming pool of merchantable quality for your customer.

### **Star Cracks**

Star cracks are cracks in the gelcoat layer that have been caused by some form of impact or excessive movement to either the gelcoat layer of the fibreglass swimming pool or to the external layer of the fibreglass swimming pool.

In order to repair a star crack the following steps should be taken:

- Below is an example of star crack:



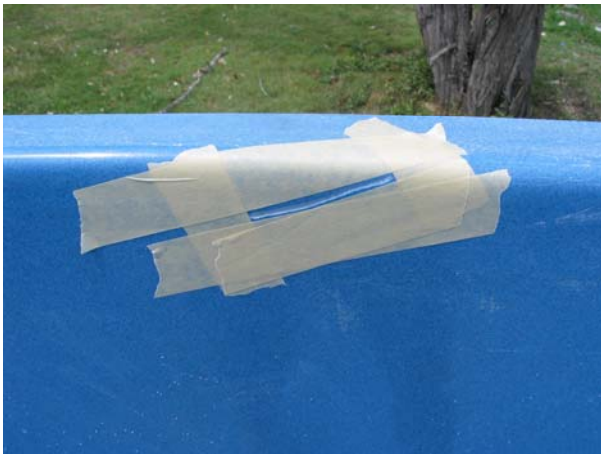
- Using a die grinder grind along the crack down to the thickness of the original gelcoat.



- Once ground out the star crack should look like the photo below.



- The next step is to place masking tape around the ground out area (the masking tape is used to allow for shrinkage).



- The next step is to apply gelcoat to the ground out area. Before doing this, ensure that you have the correct gelcoat for the job. Refer to Leisure Pools to ensure that you are using the correct gelcoat. You will need to mix catalyst with the gelcoat at a rate of 100% gelcoat to 2% catalyst (e.g. 1 litre of gelcoat requires 20 ml of catalyst).
- The Catalyst is MEKP (Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide) and is available from hardware stores, fibreglass suppliers and some car repair shops.

- Using a cutting blade or stirrer apply the gelcoat to the ground out area and screed flat so that the gelcoat is level with the masking tape.



- Remove the masking tape and wait until the gelcoat has hardened. Depending upon the temperature the time to go hard will generally vary between 1 to 3 hours.



- Once the gelcoat has gone hard, place some acetone on a rag and rub the repair to remove any stickiness.

- The next step, using 400 grit wet and dry sandpaper, is to sand the repaired area until it is level with the original gelcoat around the ground out area.



- In order to remove the scratches left by the 400 grit wet and dry sandpaper you will need to sand the area with 800 grit wet and dry and then finally 1200 grit wet and dry sandpaper.
- Once you have removed the scratches, place a small amount of cutting compound onto the sanded area. Then with a clean rag hand buff. Alternatively, an electric buff can be used.



Once buffed, inspect to ensure good finish. Failing which, apply more cutting compound and buff.

- It is important as a final step to make sure that the repair has fully cured. This can easily be done by using a white rag and placing acetone on the rag and rubbing the acetone onto the repaired area until the acetone has evaporated. If you do not have the colour of the gelcoat come out on the rag you have a good repair. If you do have colour on the rag it means that you do not have good cure and you need to leave it a further hour and re-check. If you do not have complete cure after 6 hours then you will have to re-grind out the repair and re-do the above steps. Should you fill the pool with water without having a good cure you will find that the repaired area will go white. Accordingly, it is important you get good cure.