

Technical Bulletin

Advice for Tiling Swimming Pools

Shell Preparation

Before commencing tiling, the pool should be tested to ensure that it is watertight, and any necessary repairs should be carried out using the appropriate methods. On no account should the tiling be viewed as a method of waterproofing the pool.

If the concrete shell has a smooth finish, tiling may be applied directly to it, otherwise it should be rendered and screeded. The surface to be tiled must be clean, smooth, dust free and free from imperfections.

Tile Fixing

Fix the tiles with **weber.set SPF** or **weber.set rapid SPF** recommended for use in swimming pools. Use the solid bed method, pressing the tiles firmly into the adhesive to ensure that there are no voids behind them. It is good practice to occasionally lift a tile when fixing to check that a solid bed is being achieved. Wipe away any excess adhesive from between the joints.

Movement Joints should be incorporated as in BS5385: Part 4:2009

- a) In the pool lining around the pool perimeter at the junction of the bottom and sides, at vertical corners and at any change of plane.
- b) If the joints between tiles are less than 6mm wide, insert additional movement joints down the pool sides and across the bottom at a maximum of 6m intervals.
- c) Where pool surround tiling abuts walls, drainage channels or other features

Tile Grouting

Although a cement-based grout may be used, it will gradually become damaged by corrosion from the pool water and by erosion from water movement and cleaning. The durability of cement based grout is enhanced either by the addition of **weber AD230** to the mix, or by selecting **weber.joint pro**, which has a high level of re-dispersible polymer included in the powder. Epoxy grouts are recommended as their longer working life outweighs the higher initial cost. This is especially so for salt-water pools.

Pools surrounds are particularly sensitive areas where the above requirements also apply, due to the alternate wetting and drying and high frequency of cleaning.

Recommended Minimum Tiling Intervals (as per BS5385:Part4)

- Between completion of shell and rendering / screeding 6 weeks
- Between rendering / screeding and commencement of tile fixing 3 weeks
- Between completion of fixing and commencement of grouting 3 days
- Between completion of grouting / movement joints, and filling the pool 3 weeks
- The maximum filling and emptying rate should be 750mm/day
- The pool water should be heated at a maximum rate of 0.25°C/hour

We trust that this is of assistance.

PAUL ROBERTS

National Applications Manager
Saint-Gobain Weber Ltd

November 2014