

For a Stain-Free & Sparkling Pool

Stain *Removal* Guide

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bluehaven.com.au



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Stain-Free & Sparkling

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Pool stains can come from metals, leaves, algae, or minerals in the water — and if left untreated, they can be tough to remove. This guide shows you how to spot each type, treat it, and stop it from coming back. With the right care, your pool can stay clean, smooth, and looking like new all year.



1. Identify the Type of Stain

Stain Type	Appearance	Cause
Metal stains	Green, blue, brown, rust	Iron, copper from water source or pipes
Organic stains	Brown, green, purple	Leaves, berries, algae
Scale/mineral	White, grey crust	Calcium buildup
Rust stains	Orange-brown spots	Rebar bleed-through or metal debris
Black spot algae	Dark black-blue dots	Persistent algae in porous surfaces

2. Cleaning Methods by Stain Type

A. Metal Stains

Ascorbic acid (Vitamin C) test: rub a crushed tablet on the stain; if it fades, it's metal.

- Lower chlorine to 0.5–1 ppm.
- Add ascorbic acid (approx. 1 kg per 50,000L pool). Zodiac all in one stain remover
- Let circulate 24 hours.
- Add a metal sequestrant (e.g., Zodiac Metal Remover, Lo-Chlor Metal Gone).
- Do not shock for 7–10 days afterward.

B. Organic Stains

Usually from leaves, twigs, or algae.

- Shock the pool with chlorine (super chlorination).
- Brush stain with a stiff pool brush.
- Use enzyme-based cleaners or algaecide if needed.

C. Calcium & Scale Stains

Appear white or grey, sometimes with a rough texture.

- Lower pH (7.0–7.2) and calcium hardness (<200ppm).
- Use acid wash (light version below) or stain eraser (like StainEraser™ wand).
- For small areas, rub with a pumice stone or acid gel.

D. Rust Spots

From embedded nails, screws, or rebar.

- Use a stain remover stick or ascorbic acid.
- If rust returns repeatedly, you may need to:
- Cut and patch the interior where the rebar is exposed.
- Use a professional for core drilling if internal metal is corroding.

E. Black Spot Algae

Very common in pebble interiors.

- Brush hard with algae brush (stainless steel bristles).
- Apply algaecide + shock treatment (calcium hypochlorite).
- Run filter 24/7 for 2–3 days.





3. Light Acid Wash (DIY) – For Stubborn or Widespread Stains

Only attempt this if you're confident or hire a pool pro. Acid can damage surfaces if misused.

Steps:

- Drain the pool.
- Mix muriatic acid and water in a 1:4 ratio (always add acid to water).
- Apply with watering can or sprayer in sections.
- Let sit for 30–60 seconds, then scrub with acid brush.
- Rinse thoroughly with clean water.
- Neutralise runoff with soda ash before pumping to waste.
- Run filter 24/7 for 2–3 days.

4. Preventing Future Stains

- Brush weekly, especially in pebble pools which are porous.
- Maintain pH: 7.2–7.6, calcium: 200–400ppm, chlorine: 1–3ppm.
- Use a metal sequestrant monthly if metals are in source water.
- Vacuum organic debris quickly.
- Install a pre-filter for bore or tank water to block metals.
- Shape

When to Call a Professional

- If stains reappear frequently after treatment.
- If the entire pool is stained or scale has roughened surfaces.
- If acid washing is needed but you're unfamiliar with safe handling.