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## INFORMATION GUIDE

### SURFACE PREPARATION FOR PATHS – DRIVEWAYS (PRIOR TO PAINTING)

These areas can be difficult to keep paint on them due to many factors. On a flat porous surface that is constantly exposed to atmospheric pollutants, foot and/or vehicular traffic, litter, etc. the lower parts of the profile accumulates a compacted mass of material that is like a micro fertilised garden bed... full of organic material.

Removal can be by high pressure water blasting or treating with a chlorinated product such as domestic bleach or pool chlorine.

Whichever is chosen, it is important to vigorously agitate the surface with a stiff bristle nylon broom to loosen the contaminants (same principle as using a toothbrush). Allow a period of 30 minutes for the bleach to do its job, then thoroughly hose off. To illustrate the effectiveness of bleach observe the following images.

Figure 1. Shows an encrusted burnt-on residue of food matter on this glass saucepan.

Figure 2. Shows the covering of the encrustation with domestic bleach overnight.

Figure 3. Shows a clean saucepan, after simply pouring off the material (without any effort.)

1.



2.



3.



Chlorine (bleach) has an **affinity with anything organic**, and as such is the basis of products designed as toilet cleaners, etc.

The next consideration is to keep the area as dry as possible before painting. Encapsulating a damp surface with a coating of paint is problematic. As the substrate heats up during the day, the entrapped moisture will start to expand and want to force its way through the coating. When that happens the integrity of the paint is compromised leading to further breakdown.

Therefore, after the cleaning process is finished, the area should be screened away by covering with plastic sheets (or other) so that the pristine surface is not **re-contaminated** prior to painting. There are a lot of invisible traps as well. Walking over the area to be coated with bare feet, can leave body oils on the surface which will reduce adhesion. Socks or clean shoes area essential.

### **Painting Pool Surrounds**

Norglass Slip Resistant Paving Paint is often used in this environment and is occasionally commented on as not being able to maintain the original colour for sustained periods.

The answer is basically this: Because the product is built upon “organic” pigments, the constant splashing of the chlorinated pool water will have a “bleaching” effect on the pigments. This may mean a more frequent repaint than for other areas.