

OUR BRAND-NEW POOL - TEN YEARS LATER

By Lynn and Glenn Pribus

When we moved to California from the East Coast in 1979, the backyard swimming pool was a major factor in choosing the home we bought. Our teen-aged sons and their friends gave it lots of exercise and we worked hard to convince the dog—clearly a lifeguard at heart—that she didn't have to bark every time someone jumped in.

In 1997, after inspecting a local hotel's and a neighbor's fibreglassed pools and conferring with Advanced Pool Coatings' owner Paul Walter, we chose his firm to resurface the old plaster of our swimming pool with fibreglass.

We were so pleased with the entire experience, we wrote an article for Splashlines explaining the step-by-step process relating how the workers prepared our old plaster-sided pool and applied the fibreglass. And we're happy to report on the condition of our fibreglass resurfacing ten years later: It's still like new.

Pools definitely require vigilant maintenance and we have been very pleased with the fibreglass. It used to be when the grandkids came, the chalking from the plaster walls made the water look like it had gallons of milk spilled into it. Also, since the aging plaster had rough spots, it scraped the kids' skin and snagged their swimsuits.

The fibreglass coating, on the other hand,



never chinks. Even with hours of vigorous water play by visiting grandkids the pool stays clear and its smooth surface is easy on the skin and on swimsuits, too.

Another thing we have noticed is that our once-perennial algae problems are a thing of the past. We used to have a whole array of chemicals to battle mustard algae, black algae, green algae, even pink algae. A pool is always vulnerable, of course, because algae spores can be carried on swim suits, on a beach ball that escapes onto the lawn or simply arrive on the breeze and the algae seemed to take root like weeds in our old plaster pool walls. It was hard to get rid of, required extra chemicals and often the pool would relapse after treatments.

Now, however, the non-porous surface of the fibreglass prevents algae from getting a toehold and there are no rough spots where

it can hide from the automatic pool sweep. In fact, we can't recall our last algae battle.

Finally, the ultra smooth fibreglass surface allows the pool vacuum and leaf catcher to glide easily along the bottom and sides with very little effort on our part. This makes it much easier to clean up after a windy day or a storm.

All in all, we have been very satisfied with our fibreglass pool finish. It's as bright and fresh as the day it was done and has required no special effort on our part.

Now, however, after 25 years in California, we are reluctantly bidding the house and pool farewell as we move back East to be nearer to family and grandkids. As we prepare to put the house on the market, though, we expect the fibreglass pool coating will be a strong selling point.

Glenn and Lynn Pribus live in Fair Oaks.

Readers can learn more about fibreglass pool resurfacing by calling Paul



Walter at (916) 773-1883, visiting www.advancedpoolcoatings.com or contacting Paul by e-mail: paul@AdvancedPoolCoatings.com.

