



INTERPLASTIC CORPORATION
Thermoset Resins Division

MARINE CASE HISTORY

Sun Fiberglass Redefines "Relaxing Poolside"

Have you always dreamed of having an in-ground swimming pool but dreaded the time-consuming and expensive maintenance that would come with it? Replacing vinyl liners and re-coating gunite pools are realities you can't escape—unless you install a fiberglass pool.

Fiberglass pools withstand the expansion and contraction of drastic weather changes well; they install even more quickly than a vinyl-lined pool and their single-piece construction makes them structurally sound. Pool owners appreciate the smooth, solid, non-porous surface that eliminates abrasions on feet, snags on swimwear and it is more forgiving if someone accidentally slips. The smooth surface is a lot easier to clean, which saves time for today's busy families. Fiberglass also maintains a warmer temperature so it costs less to sustain comfortable swimming temperatures. It is not surprising that these pools are nearly maintenance-free and have the lowest operating costs of all types of in-ground pools.

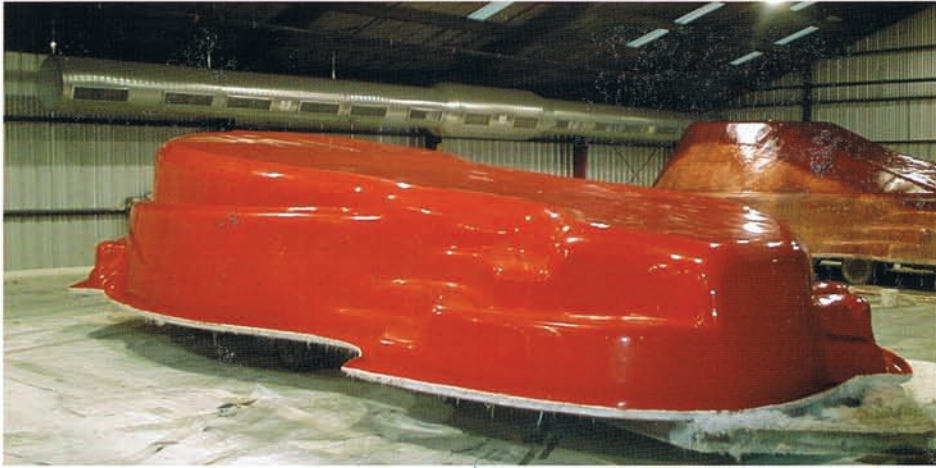


CAPITALIZING ON EXPERIENCE

In the mid-1990's, Curt Prystupa created Sun Fiberglass and filled a growing niche in the swimming pool industry with their one-piece fiberglass pools. While he was still looking for the best solution to osmotic blistering and staining, he was introduced to Interplastic's Thermoset Resins Division's gel coat. "We tried other gel coats but couldn't find one impervious to osmosis like Interplastic's. We also began using CoREZYN® VE8121 vinyl ester resin with the gel coat and most of the blistering, staining and other problems we experienced have disappeared." According to Prystupa, the vinyl ester skin coat also eliminates

print-through so their finishes are better and more beautiful. The vinyl ester is also much easier and predictable to work with than surface veils.

"If we have any trouble with one of our pools, it's usually caused by a pool owner over-treating their water. We give them care and maintenance guides but old habits die hard. Our pools allow for healthier water because the absence of nooks and crannies found in cement pools, for example, allows Sun Fiberglass pool owners to lower their pool's chemical level." A typical fiberglass pool maintains the same level of chlorine as what comes out of a home's tap. That also lowers pool operating costs.



TURNKEY OPERATION

Sun Fiberglass creates their own molds with CoREZYN tooling gel coat, backed up with a skin coat of CoREZYN vinyl ester and three- to four-ounces of fiberglass. Four layers of ceramic process, two more layers of CoREZYN vinyl ester and a steel reinforcement grid follow this. Prystupa says the average life of one of their molds is five years (or around 1,000 pulls), with some maintenance.

Their pool construction is done by hand lay-up and begins by tacking out the mold to make it dust- and dirt-free and then they spray on CoREZYN gel coat to a

30-mil thickness. When that has cured, a two- to three-ounce skin coat of the CoREZYN vinyl ester follows and is allowed to cure. Two alternating layers of 1.5-ounce fiberglass mat and two layers of woven roving are laminated on next using CoREZYN laminating resin. At stress points, such as where the wall meets the floor, along the top rim and the stairs, there are as many as 12 to 16 layers of the alternating mat/roving combination. At the coping (top perimeter of the pool), a wood inlay is built onto the laminate and structural stiffness is added along the sides to hold the shape.

The CoREZYN vinyl ester is key to the durability and strength properties of Sun Fiberglass' laminate. CoREZYN vinyl ester resins are the accepted favorite among all types of marine product manufacturers because of this. Their ability to absorb impact, flex, and prevent osmotic blistering and delamination is unmatched among resins available today. In addition, they are a critical element in creating extremely lightweight laminates.

Sun Fiberglass' largest pool is 16' (w) x 36' (l) x 6' (d). "It's really something to see it floating down the highway on the back of a semi-tractor," says Prystupa. In fact, Sun Fiberglass is so confident of their construction materials and techniques that they provide a lifetime structural warranty on the shell.

Interplastic Corporation is a specialty chemical company with its headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota. It is focused on the production and distribution of unsaturated polyester resins, vinyl ester resins and gel coats for the composites and cast polymer industries. Their vinyl esters are the resins of choice in the marine industry for composite hulls and decks and for highly accurate tools and masters.



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