

## **MAINTENANCE AND CARE FOR POWDER COATED SPECTRUM STARTING PLATFORMS**

Cleaning your starting platforms on a regular basis is an essential part of ensuring longevity and minimizing rust formation on your starting blocks. Regimented cleanings will also reduce incidents of stains and discoloration on the block surface. The frequency in which blocks should be cleaned depends upon how harsh the environment is in your pool facility. For instance, indoor pools with poor air circulation may necessitate rinsing of starting platforms 1-2 times per week with tap water. This will ensure the removal of corrosive airborne contaminants that will inevitably land on the surface of your starting platforms. Starting platforms should always be dried with a soft cloth, with attention given to the welded portions of the platform and any areas where bolts are used to join pieces of metal together — these areas are most susceptible to crevice corrosion. Starting platforms in outdoor pool facilities require similar levels of care, and we recommend that all starting platforms be covered when not in use to limit surface abrasions and discourage unwanted play.

### **DAILY TO WEEKLY MAINTENANCE**

#### **General Maintenance for Starting Platform 3M Surfaces (top, wedge and step)**

1. Rinse with fresh tap water.
2. Use a plastic bristles scrub brush in a circular motion to gently remove dirt and stains.
3. Pat dry with a clean, soft cloth.

*\* When applicable, avoid scrubbing the edge sealant used to adhere the 3M grit to platform surface.*

#### **General Maintenance for Starting Platform Frame**

1. Rinse with fresh tap water.
2. Dry with clean, soft cloth.

*\* Remember to rinse and dry the inside of the wedge and the underside of the platform top in order to prevent corrosion*

## **MONTHLY TO YEARLY MAINTENANCE**

### **General Maintenance for Starting Platform 3M Surfaces (top, wedge and step)**

1. Rinse with tap water.
2. Use a non-abrasive, non-chemical based cleaner such as a mild dish washing detergent, a plastic bristle scrub brush and non-chlorinated water to remove dirt and stains from the non-slip 3M surfaces. Use scrub brush in a circular motion so as not to damage the non-slip top.
3. Inspect the sealant used on the edges of all 3M material for damage. Repair edge sealant if necessary with 3M Edge Sealer (available from Spectrum Aquatics and most hardware stores). Follow 3M manufacturer instructions for application.
4. Inspect 3M surfaces for damage. Clean and dry any damaged areas thoroughly. Use 3M Edge Sealer and Sand Kit (available from Spectrum Aquatics) to fill in any small nicks in the surface.

### **General Maintenance for Powder Coated Starting Platform Frame**

1. Use a non-abrasive soap and tap water. Avoid harsh chemicals and disinfectants. Always read the label instructions on any cleaner before applying it to a surface.
2. Periodically check the structure for scratching or chips. If found, please follow instructions listed below in the "Spot/Scratch Repair Instructions".
3. If rust is present, clean the surface with a non-abrasive cleaner and contact Spectrum Aquatics to purchase a powder coat touch-up kit.
4. After thoroughly cleaning the starting platform frame, you can apply car wax and buff to a shine. This will help keep your platforms looking clean and new.
5. Apply WD-40 as necessary to wedge/ rail bracket to help insure smooth wedge movement.

## **POWDER COATING DISCLAIMER AND REPAIR SUGGESTIONS**

Powder coating is a protective coating that not only improves product aesthetics, but also reduces corrosion by acting as a barrier against oxygen and water. Although powder coating decelerates the onset of rust formation, it does not permanently eliminate it. Damage or chips to the powder coating barrier can propagate, causing coating delamination. In order to keep your powder coated starting platform in optimal condition, it will be necessary to examine the blocks on a regular basis for chips, scratches or signs of corrosion around the bolts and welds. When addressed immediately, damage to powder coating can be spot repaired to prolong product life.

### **Spot/Scratch Repair Instructions**

1. Remove any loose paint from the chipped area by scrubbing lightly with fine-grit sandpaper.
2. Wash the exposed surface and surrounding area with a mild detergent or Spectra Clean and a soft rag.
3. Rinse and dry the cleaned surface thoroughly.
4. Immediately apply a zinc-rich (or other rust inhibiting) primer. Let dry.

5. Dip a small paintbrush into your chosen paint color, and apply one coat of paint to the area. We recommend using a high quality single stage 2k urethane automotive paint.
6. Allow the first layer of paint to dry, and then apply a second coat.
7. Apply a third coat, if necessary. Allow each successive coat to dry before applying another.

### **Tips and Warnings**

1. A rust-inhibiting primer will help prevent the damage from spreading, and it will also prevent any exposed metal from rusting.
2. This repair works well for minor chips and scratches, but can be noticeable if used on large patches. The method described above is intended to restore the barrier protecting the stainless steel the surface.
3. It will be extremely difficult to match the exact color and thickness of the powder coating. Do not expect a perfect match.
4. A clear coat can be applied to the repainted area, if necessary, to match a glossy surface.