

# Deck-O-Seal

## What is DECK-O-SEAL?

Deck-O-Seal (also called mastic) is actually a brand name of a product that is used in the swimming pool industry. It is an expansion joint sealant that is used to seal expansion joints around swimming pools which are subject to movement. The product provides a firm, flexible, water proof seal over the expansion joint that typically surrounds the swimming pool—and is typically between the pool coping and the concrete deck. It is resistant to swimming pool chemicals. It is available in three standard colors—tan, gray, white. Black and redwood (dark brown) are available on a special order basis.

## Why Do I Have an Expansion Joint Around My Swimming Pool?

The expansion joint that surrounds the swimming pool is a very important interface between the swimming pool and concrete deck. Oftentimes there is also an expansion joint between the concrete deck of the swimming pool and the house foundation. These expansion joints are in place so that these structures can remain independent from each other when movement occurs.

## Why is it necessary to seal the expansion joint that surrounds my swimming pool?

The reason that it is necessary to seal the expansion joint that surrounds the swimming pool is to keep the water out. Allowing water to enter the expansion joint area can cause soil movement (which causes pool or deck movement) and also the possibility of freeze damage to the tile, coping and gunite beam.

## Why would it need to be replaced?

Typically every few years the Deck-O-Seal material becomes dry and sometimes separates from the coping or the concrete deck due to movement. This separation allows water to penetrate, which could cause further movement or freeze damage to the tile, coping, and gunite beam.

## How Is It Replaced and How Much Does It Cost to Have This Done?

First the old Deck-O-Seal material must be removed—even the sides of the coping and the deck must be free of old Deck-O-Seal material. Then the expansion joint must be prepared to receive the new product—this includes packing the gap with silica sand. At that point the Deck-O-Seal material is thoroughly mixed (it is a two part product) and the new material is poured into the gap. The cost of this is \$5.50-\$6.00 per linear foot. The complete job can usually be completed within one day and the product usually dries within 24 hours in normal conditions.

## Can I Replace It Myself?

Yes you can. We sell the Deck-O-Seal product and we will be more than happy to explain the process to you if you decide to tackle the project yourself. Please be aware that it is a fairly labor-in-tensive and time-consuming project.

## Can Deck-O-Seal Be Painted?No it cannot.

## How Do I Clean Up Deck-O-Seal If I Have Some on My Concrete Deck or Coping?

If the Deck-O-Seal is still wet, you can remove it from your concrete deck or coping by using Toluene or Xylene—use a clean cloth with a dabbing motion (a circular motion will spread the product). Please be aware that this might slightly discolor the deck. If the Deck-O-Seal has dried, try using fine sandpaper and lightly sand the area.

### *Note:*

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