



What are pool liner stains?

Pool stains are discolorations or spots produced by foreign matter on the surface of your pool liner material. Stains can occur naturally and require regular maintenance and different plans of attack for management.

What causes pool liner staining?

The source of staining can be caused by biological microorganisms (algae, mold or mildew). Or other factors such as metals, organic or chemical contaminants.

STAIN TYPE	CAUSE	LOOK	BEHAVIOR	TREATMENT
Green Algae <i>most common / fastest growing</i>	<i>introduced by: swimwear & toys used in natural bodies of water</i>	<i>often turns pool green or cloudy overnight</i>	<i>floats in water or slimy and attaches to pool walls/floors</i>	<i>clean hard to reach areas, maintain proper water circulation, balanced pool water pH is key</i>
Mustard Algae <i>rarer / more persistent</i>	<i>introduced by: swimwear & toys used in natural bodies of water</i>	<i>often mistaken for pollen, sand, or dirt, wispy texture</i>	<i>grows in shady or poor circulation areas, attaches to walls, toys, floats, swimsuits, pool equipment</i>	<i>multiple rounds of brushing/vacuuming, and shocking the pool, all pool items thoroughly disinfected</i>
Black Algae <i>almost impossible to eliminate</i>	<i>introduced by: swimwear, floats, toys used in natural bodies of water, or change in water table level/weather</i>	<i>mistaken for mold due to spots it forms</i>	<i>slow spread, roots can penetrate pool walls/floor leading to permanent damage</i>	<i>elbow grease, multiple rounds of brushing, vacuuming, & shocking, cleaning filter & pump, pool items disinfected</i>
Pink <i>biological / slow continuous spread</i>	<i>metabolic process of microorganisms</i>	<i>looks like algae, & appears in blotches/spots and spread in lines</i>	<i>around skimmer boxes, lights, ladders, crevices & hard to reach areas with poor sunlight/circulation</i>	<i>brush wall & floor, vacuum, run filter & shock pool, continue steps + backwash to remove additional staining</i>
Metal <i>difficult to treat but not impossible</i>	<i>introduced from well water or corrosion from copper pipes, rusted metal parts, equip. & accessories</i>	<i>various colors depending on metal type *refer to metal test kits to confirm</i>	<i>look for these near ladders, drains, lip of pool, deposits on the walls and floor, pipes, fittings, heaters</i>	<i>use a home test kit for metals to determine type of metal + treatment, test water source with local dealer</i>
Organic <i>easiest to prevent</i>	<i>occur via: grass, leaves, berries, dirt, & pollen – leave behind stains caused by naturally occurring tannins</i>	<i>typically brown in color, stain may be in the shape of the debris</i>	<i>settles at the bottom or laying against pool walls, organic debris may still be at bottom of pool</i>	<i>apply small amount of chlorine directly, use soft head brush, shock pool, skim & vacuum pool regularly</i>
Chemical	<i>pool cleaners, high levels of algaecides, high amount of chemicals for winterization, tanning oils, lotions, sunscreens, & cosmetics</i>	<i>beige waxy film, sticky material, "pool tar" on surface, clear stained turned dark with dirt or debris</i>	<i>sticky or "pool tar" liner surface, acid cleaner + sunlight & high temp = deterioration, accumulated in skimmers & filters</i>	<i>circulate chemicals before closing pool, good water circulation & cleaning, proper use of chemicals</i>