

## Pool, Spa & Fountain Finishes

### RIVER ROK

#### Natural Pebble Pool Finish



River Rok Finishes are factory blends of selected natural aggregates and polymer-modified Portland cement. This unique blend is ideal for new or existing submerged surfaces in gunite, shotcrete and concrete Swimming Pool, Spa & Water Features.

Available in a variety of colors and textures, various hues and aggregate sizes are available to fit any design requirement. River Rok finishes are factory blended to provide the pool owner with an extremely durable and attractive alternative to traditional white pool coatings.

#### MANUFACTURER:

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#### INSTALLATION:

##### SURFACE PREPARATION:

Examine pool surfaces to identify conditions that might interfere with proper bonding of coating. Look for algae, mold, mildew, dirt, paint, mortar droppings, efflorescence, patching compounds, loose tile, cracked plaster, etc.

Clean pool surfaces of all material that might interfere with proper bonding of coatings. Clean with high pressure water or by sand blasting. Wash with chlorine until algae, mold, and mildew are gone. Wash oil and grease spots using trisodium phosphate or equivalent and water soak if necessary. Remove all cleaning solutions via high pressure-washing.

Identify hollow spots in plaster by sounding. Remove and repair all hollow and delaminated plaster. Saw cut an area 3 inches around bad spots and remove plaster inside the saw cut. Undercut the edges of remaining plaster. Fill holes with specified patching cement SGM High Strength Render HSR.

Remove loose tile and fittings; undercut existing plaster 2 inches below the tile line, and around return lines and fittings to a depth of 3/8 inch. Stop water penetration from outside pool. Plug cracks and leaks around fittings using hydraulic cement (SGM Dynamite Pool Patch). Etch cleaned surface with muriatic acid solution. Use concentration necessary to clean and roughen surface; smooth surfaces may require higher concentration. Neutralize surface with solution of baking soda and water to neutralize acid, which can cause bond failure.

Remove remaining acid solutions via high pressure-washing. Plug pool inlets and outlets to prevent clogging with expandable plugs or threaded caps. Mark location of fittings using tape on coping or on a measured drawing. Place sump pump at main drain to remove all running and standing water. Do not begin installation until concrete pool shell has cured at least 28 days.

For renovation projects (plastering over an existing plaster pool finish) and poured or formed concrete shells apply SGM Bond Kote as directed. Each unit of Bond Kote consists of one 5-gallon pail of Bond Kote Resin and two 65 lb. bags of Bond Kote powder, and will cover approximately 500 square feet. Mix one 65 lb. bag of SGM Bond Kote powder to 1/2 pail of SGM Bond Kote Resin. Coat existing plaster using a 1 1/4" inch nap paint roller; create a rough stippled texture by going over the area a second time with roller. Allow

Bond Kote to cure for at least 6 hours before plastering. Plaster should be applied to SGM Bond Kote within 3-5 days. If left for a longer period before finish is applied, ensure Bond Kote is clean and free of dirt, efflorescence and other contaminants. If necessary, clean Bond Kote by brushing vigorously while spraying with water; chlorine may be used as needed.

#### MIXING:

River Rok is made in batches of 4,000 to 20,000 lbs. (1,800 to 9,000 kg) using natural ingredients. For this reason there will be variations in shade between batches. Batch numbers are printed on the ends of each individual bag. It is important the user follow these instructions carefully to ensure the most consistent color throughout the pool.

Jobsite additives, such as calcium chloride solutions, pump-aides, or bonding agents can affect the color of this product. For best results mix product using only cool clean, potable water. If adding any other approved additives, hold a portion of the mix water to dissolve the additives, screen and add the final amount to mixer.

Additives should be introduced at the end of the mixing process. Ensure that the additives are mixed with water and pre-dissolved.



1. Separate the bags according to the batch numbers on the bottom of each bag. **Record all batch numbers. Warranties submitted without valid batch numbers are VOID.**

2. Blend different batches together in each mix according to the ratio present at the job site. For example: If there are 30 bags total on the job and there are 20 bags of Batch A and 10 bags of Batch B then use 2 bags of A to 1 bag of B in every mix. Coverage: each 80 lb. bag will cover approximately 18 - 22 sq. ft. to a thickness of minimum 3/8" - 1/2" inch. Surface roughness affects coverage rates.

3. The shelf life of River Rok is up to one year in unopened properly stored container. River Rok can be mixed by using low-speed paddle mixer, low rpm drill with mud paddle, ribbon blender or concrete plaster mixer. Measure and add 1 1/2 to 2 gallons (5.7 to 7.6 L) of clean potable water to mixer.

4. Hold back a portion of the water and add as necessary as mixing progresses. Lower water to cement ratios will produce plaster of greater strength and density. Therefore it is best to use as little water as needed to produce a workable mix. Excess water will reduce strength and increase shrinkage (check) cracks. Note: Mix water quality is extremely important. Well water or water high in metal and mineral content will cause discoloration in finished River Rok. Additionally, water of high hardness or alkalinity will cause the plaster to effloresce, releasing high levels of salts that produce calcium scale. Check mix water for metals, minerals, hardness and alkalinity before using.

Start mixer and add River Rok as quickly as possible to ensure that all the material has the proper mix time. Mix for a minimum of 5 minutes but no more than 10 minutes. This ensures even distribution of aggregates and increases the working time of the plaster. Insufficient mix time will result in uneven setting and shade variations.

Too much mix time will produce an

overall weaker plaster and may entrain undesirable air bubbles. As a rule of thumb, mix for only the amount of time required to produce a consistent, homogenous mix. Calcium Chloride may be used as an accelerator. It must be fully dissolved in water allowing impurities to settle out. Pour off the solution from the top being careful not to add impurities to the mix. The impurities found in calcium chloride flake and pellets have been known to cause discoloration in pool plaster. No more than 2% by weight of cement (about 1/2 lb. per bag) can be used. Overuse may cause discoloration.

#### **PUMPING:**

Although it is not necessary to use a plaster pump, many contractors do. Included here are some helpful hints for successful pumping. Increase the size of the pump manifold from 3" to 4". Change the valve ball from plastic to steel to improve longevity. Set plaster pump to the lowest gear by moving the belt. Always begin pumping with a full stroke on the main piston. This is accomplished by advancing the wheel until the cam is at its highest position.

Prepare a slurry of cement and water or pump aid and run it through the pump first to prime the pump and lubricate the hoses. Pour the mixed plaster slowly into the pump hopper. Do not pour all the material in at once. Agitate the material in the hopper to prevent separation of the cement and aggregate.

Avoid unnecessary stopping during the pumping process. River Rok aggregate will tend to settle in the pump manifold and hoses when the pump is stopped. Agitate the remaining material left in the hopper to reduce clogging. Do not try to clear a blockage using the pump. Disassemble and clean the manifold and hoses when clogged. Do not over-water mix. This will only cause the material to separate, clogging the pump and hoses.

#### **APPLICATION:**

Substrate should be cool and damp but not dripping wet. Mist the shell with cool, clean potable water. Non-absorbed

water may be removed by using sponges and/ or air. Standing water will weaken River Rok and may cause washouts. Note: Hot, dry shells will cause rapid setting of the plaster and result in check or shrinkage cracking and delamination. All materials and effected areas should remain above 50° degrees F (10°C) or below 100° degrees F (38°C) 24 hrs. prior and 72 hrs after placement. Discard unmixed material (lumps).

Apply plaster liberally with flat side of trowel using sufficient pressure to key in a scratch coat on the vertical surfaces. Beginning with the shady walls and working to the sunny walls, trowel a scratch coat onto the walls and allow to set up until it becomes tacky. The set time will vary according to the temperature and humidity. Once the scratch coat has become tacky, apply a finish coat to the entire pool surface beginning in bowl area and working toward the shallow end, troweling and blending walls and floor together to achieve a seamless appearance while working to a final thickness of one-half inch (1/2") (10 mm-12 mm).

Uniform troweling will help to ensure even exposure, reduce washouts and produce a comfortable slip-resistant finish. The technique of "Slick troweling" is recommended. During application make several passes with pool trowels to compact the aggregate and ensure a smooth dense finish. In this process the cement paste is brought to the surface during troweling, then removed with the trowel. This produces a slick surface and minimizes the exposure needed. Small amounts of lubrication water may be necessary for smoothing out and compacting the finish in this process.

The aggregate can be seen through a thin film of cement paste after troweling is complete. Special attention must be given to the filling in of spike holes. The applicator must be careful to fill all spike holes with River Rok aggregate to avoid visible spike holes. Extra care must be taken to ensure proper troweling in the coves and corners. Specialty trowels are required for these areas. Insufficient troweling in these

areas will result in roughness and washouts (loss of cement and aggregate) during the exposure process.

### **EXPOSURE:**

**Note:** You must have one workman for every 300 square feet to properly expose River Rok. The exposure time is limited to approximately one hour but will vary according to local conditions. Beginning too early or too late will result in uneven exposure. Some areas may be ready for exposure while other areas are still being troweled. Constant inspection of the River Rok for readiness is imperative. There are several techniques commonly used to expose River Rok. The following is a list of the most popular techniques.

#### **I. Water Washing With Brushes**

**Note:** This is the only approved exposure technique and produces the best results with River Rok Finishes. When the River Rok has lost its sheen or is no longer damp, it may be ready for exposure with soft bristle brushes and water. The material must be sufficiently set up to allow applicators to walk on the floor without leaving footprints. Wear white cotton socks or foam shoes when exposing River Rok. Boots and bare feet are not recommended.

Test the plaster for readiness by carefully washing a small area with a soft bristle brush. If the cream washes away without losing aggregate the exposure process may begin. Starting with sunny or fast setting areas begin washing away cement paste with water and brushes. Use a bucket first then progress to a soft flow of water from a garden hose as the material begins to harden. Begin using stiff bristle brushes as the set progresses. Examine the plaster for hot spots that may be setting quickly. Mist these areas with water to allow longer exposure time. Over-cured cement paste will not remove easily and may require stiff bristle brushes to remove. Avoid slow setting areas like shady walls and the bowl. Washing too soon in these areas will cause washouts. If an area washes out it must be re-troweled immediately. Keep some

extra River Rok mixed up for use in patching washout areas. Keep a sump pump running in the main drain at all times to discharge the wash solution. Dispose of wash as directed by local requirements. Avoid leaving hoses, buckets or any other items on the plaster during exposure. Any object left on the plaster during this critical phase may leave a "shadow" on the surface.

In the event of shadowing heat may be carefully applied to remove the discoloration. When all of the cement paste has been removed from the surface uniformly, the brushing phase is complete. If done thoroughly, this will complete the exposure process. If desired, the water washing may be followed by a light acid-wash to further enhance exposure of the River Rok finish. This is preferably done the same day after allowing for additional drying time, or early the following day.

#### **II. Acid Washing**

This technique is commonly used in cold climates or when the plasterers lack sufficient experience to undertake water washing. It is easier to do but can produce a less uniform finish. After troweling, allow the plaster to fully set up. This may take anywhere from one to a few hours or overnight, depending on local jobsite conditions. Begin acid washing by using a 25% solution of Muriatic Acid (higher concentrations may be needed for stubborn areas) and water to remove the cement film that may remain on the surface. Increase the concentration of the acid solution as needed.

Proper safety equipment must be worn at all times. Begin washing the bowl first and work up to the shallow end. Following this procedure will minimize "rivers" or streaks on the floor. Acid wash walls and steps last. Do not allow acid wash solution to puddle in the bowl area. Use a sump pump to constantly discard the run off after it is diluted and neutralized. The use of an acidwash additive to reduce fumes and ensure uniform coverage is highly recommended. Neutralize and discard the wash solution according to local requirements. Neutralize acid remaining on the River Rok with "soda

ash" and water to avoid discoloration.

#### **III. Wet Acid Wash**

**Note:** Also called Acid Start-Up or No Drain Acid wash. This technique is sometimes used after water washing instead of a standard acid wash. It is also used in areas where the fill water is high in alkalinity and or hardness. When use alone without water washing this technique produces the least desirable results. It will not remove all of the cement paste evenly and may result in a streaked appearance. Remove all metal such as ladders and lights from the pool and turn off the circulation system. After filling the pool test the alkalinity to determine the amount of Muriatic acid needed to lower the Total Alkalinity to zero. Distribute the acid evenly throughout the pool. Brush the pool thoroughly over the entire surface twice daily for 3 days. Add a sequestering agent and raise the pH to the proper level with Soda Ash. Start the circulation system and follow the start-up instructions.

#### **IV. Powerwash Exposure Technique**

Hard trowel pool to uniform smooth finish. Let finish air dry for 1-3 hours after completion. This technique begins by filling pool with 8 to 10 inches of water. This water will buffer acid solution during exposure process. Acid wash with 100% muriatic acid starting with walls working down to bowl. Leave acid on for approx. 1-2 minutes before rinsing off with hose. Keep constant water on floor to diffuse acid solution avoiding streaks. Keep acid washed areas wet thru entire process or cement paste will re-set. Complete acid wash on floor and bowl of pool, finish by pumping out water. Begin power washing phase with 2500 PSI machine using 45 degree nozzle. Keep tip 12 to 18 inches away from surface perpendicular to plaster finish. Power wash surface with approx. 20% overlap to ensure complete exposure. Start power washing walls from tile line thru cove of pool, finish with floor. Pump out remaining water, install main drain covers, lights and fittings.

**INITIAL FILL and BALANCING,  
& OPTIMUM POOL and SPA WATER  
CHEMISTRY CONDITIONS:**



In accordance with the National Plasterers Council, Inc. ("NPC") standards, it is recommended that the following pool and spa water chemistry conditions be maintained on an ongoing basis for the longevity of the interior pool and spa finish. These values are important to prevent corrosion, deterioration, discoloration, scaling or other problems. For more information refer to your local agency having jurisdiction or NPC.

Follow recommended fill and balancing procedures to ensure a successful start-up. Fill pool completely and without interruption with clean, potable water. The use of a filter during fill is strongly recommended. The initial fill water is the most important water that the pool will receive and must be tested, recorded and adjusted according to the following parameters by an experienced pool professional. For the first thirty days (30) the pH and alkalinity must be monitored and adjusted (if applicable) every three (3) to five (5) days. All other chemicals monitored and adjusted (if applicable) every seven (7) to ten (10) days. The pool water must be tested regularly and documented monthly by a reputable company using a computerized system. Monitoring the pool water regularly will not only affect the new finish but will keep it looking new. Improper water chemistry will void the limited residential / commercial warranty. It is recommended that a quality sequestering agent be used in the initial start-up in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and then a recommended maintenance dosage per the sequestering agent's manufacturer instructions.

**FIRST DAY:** Add sequestering agent upon initial fill per manufacturer's instructions. Adjust pH to 7.2 - 7.6 and total alkalinity to 80 -120 PPM. Maintain calcium hardness at a minimum of 125 PPM for the first three days, then adjust to 200-400 PPM thereafter. Dissolve chemicals completely in water and disperse throughout pool.

**SECOND DAY:** Record pH, total alkalinity, calcium hardness and temperature levels. Adjust pH to 7.4 -

7.6 and total alkalinity to 80-120 PPM. Dissolve all chemicals completely in water before adding to pool, and allow sufficient time for each chemical to be fully dispersed before adding other chemicals. **DO NOT ADD CHLORINE.** Brush entire surface twice daily for the first three (3) days.

**THIRD DAY:** Repeat steps from Second Day. Adjust chemistry to the following levels:

Free Chlorine:	1.0 - 3.0 PPM
pH:	7.4 -7.6
Total Alkalinity:	80 -120 PPM
Calcium Hardness:	200 - 400 PPM
Stabilizer:	30 - 60 PPM

Adjust circulating pump timer to normal operating hours. Brush the pool walls and floor daily for the first two (2) weeks. Do not vacuum pool with wheeled vacuum for 14 days. Putting a wheel cleaner in the pool prematurely can cause wheel marks/ tracks to show up on the pool finish. Do not install an automatic pool cleaner for 28 days. No salt should be added for 28 days. Please make sure the water pH and alkalinity is balanced prior to the use of salt chlorine generators.

### **DAILY WATER CHEMISTRY AFTER 28 DAYS**

Maintain the water chemistry using the **Langelier Saturation Index (LSI) maintained between 0.0 and +0.3.**

#### **Description / Pool & Spa Water Levels**

Free Chlorine –	
Above 4.0ppm	may cause corrosion
Total Chlorine	1 to 3PPM
pH	7.4 to 7.6
Alkalinity	80 to 120 PPM
Calcium Hardness	200 to 400 PPM
Cyanuric Acid	50 to 80 PPM
TDS	300 to 1800 PPM
	(Non-Salt Pools)
Salt Level	2500 to 3500 PPM
	(Salt Chlorination ONLY)

### **CAUTION:**

**WARNING-EYE IRRITANT** CONTAINS PORTLAND CEMENT Product is alkaline on contact with water. Avoid

splashing into eyes or contact with skin. During mixing or application avoid contact with eyes. In case of such contact, flood eyes repeatedly with water and call physician. Wash thoroughly after handling and before smoking or eating. Do not take internally. Contains free Silica. Avoid breathing dust. Prolonged exposure to dust may cause delayed lung disease (Silicosis). **WARNING:** This product can expose you to chemicals including silica, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer. For more information go to **www.P65Warnings.ca.gov**. Wear NIOSH approved mask for Silica dust. **KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.**

### **AVAILABILITY & COST:**

**Availability:** SGM has manufacturing and distribution inventory facilities throughout the United States and abroad, allowing for timely deliveries. Contact SGM, Inc. for local availability. **Packaging:** Multi-ply heavy duty lined bag, net wt. 80 lb. (36 kg). **Cost:** River Rok is competitively priced. For specific price information, contact SGM, Inc.

### **WARRANTY:**

SGM Inc. warrants this product will perform in accordance with its intended use for a period of one year from the date of manufacture. Any claim for defective product must be submitted in writing to SGM Inc. and samples of defect must be provided. SGM Inc. sole obligation will be to replace any product determined to be defective by SGM Inc. **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED HEREIN, SGM INC. MAKES NO OTHER REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING ANY WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR PARTICULAR PURPOSE. IN NO EVENT SHALL SGM INC. BE LIABLE FOR DAMAGES OF ANY KIND OR NATURE, WHETHER ARISING BY CONTRACT, TORT OR OTHERWISE. SGM INC.'S SOLE OBLIGATION WILL BE TO REPLACE ANY PRODUCT DETERMINED BY SGM INC. TO BE DEFECTIVE.** Customers may acquire an extended 5-year commercial or 10 year residential warranty. Refer to SGM warranty.

**MAINTENANCE:**

River Rok's lifetime will be greatly enhanced through proper and regular maintenance. Test and record water chemistry values once a week, and adjust as indicated per water-balance table recommendations. Brush entire pool, walls and floor weekly. Remove any debris and foreign materials immediately to prevent staining. Check and maintain filter, pump motor and skimmer baskets to maintain proper flow and filtering action. If unable to perform regular weekly maintenance, the services of a qualified licensed pool service professional should be obtained.

**TECHNICAL SERVICES:**

Technical assistance, including more detailed information, product literature, test results, project list, samples, assistance in preparing project specifications and arrangements for job site inspection and supervision, is available by contacting Technical Services Department.

(800) 641-9247  
(954) 943-2288  
Fax: (954) 943-2402  
[www.sgm.cc](http://www.sgm.cc)  
[ts@sgm.cc](mailto:ts@sgm.cc)



**WARNING:** This product can expose you to chemicals including silica, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer. For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov).

## RIVER ROK

### Natural Pebble Pool Finish



### TECHNICAL DATA

#### APPLICABLE STANDARDS

ASTM International (ASTM) ANSI American National Standard Institute (ANSI)

ASTM D 4086, ASTM E1477, ASTM E 1347

Many building departments and health departments require commercial swimming pool and spa finish coatings shall be comprised of a non-pigmented white cementitious binder and shall have a dry Lightness level (CIE L value) of 80.0 or greater and a wet Luminous Reflectance Value (CIE Y value) of 50.0 or greater. The Reflectance Value wet test shows the reflective value of a finish with “0” being the least reflective and “100” being the most reflective. Please see the recorded test values in the table below.\*

“Pool finish, including bottom and sides, shall be of white or light colored material determined visually to contrast least with a value of gray whiter than 50 percent black on an artist’s gray scale, or shown by reflectance testing to reflect more than 50 percent of visible light. Please see the recorded test values in the table. Please consult your state’s compliance requirements for commercial pool and spa finishes.

Reflectance Testing Values for River Rok Natural Pebble Pool Finish - Commercial Compliance				
River Rok Color	CIE L Value DRY	CIE Y Value WET	Reflectance Value WET 0 - 100	Munsell Value Scale <sup>(1)</sup>
AQUA REEF	85	80	67	8.5
SERENE SEAS	81	77	56	8
IMPERIAL WHITE	86	79	69	8.6
SAPPHIRE BAY	78	72	53	7.5

<sup>(1)</sup> The commercial compliant River Rok finishes have been evaluated and exceed the (MAHC) Model Aquatic Health Code of greater than 6.5 on the Munsell value scale.

## RIVER ROK Natural Pebble Pool Finish



### TECHNICAL DATA

#### APPLICABLE STANDARDS

ASTM International (ASTM)

ANSI American National Standard Institute (ANSI)

ASTM E903 standard test method for total solar reflectance (TSR). This includes ultraviolet, visible and infrared spectrum from 200 nanometers to 2500 nanometers. Readings will vary based upon atmospheric conditions.

Total Solar Reflectance (TSR).	
River Rok Color	Reading as a %
Emerald Black	9.6
Lucayan Blue	40.1
Imperial White	66.6
Granite	42.5

Standard test method for tensile adhesion to concrete [N/mm <sup>2</sup> ]	
River Rok	Reading as [N/mm <sup>2</sup> ]
NaCL 60° C Cycle	1.30
28 days	0.75

ASTM C 109 standard test method for compressive strength (psi) of hydraulic cement mortars.	
River Rok	Reading as psi.
24 hours	2690
7 days	5350
14 days	5540
28 days	6310

ASTM C 1028 standard test method for slip resistance.	
River Rok	Reading as %
Dry Finish (smooth trowel)	SR > 0.86
Dry Finish (exposed)	SR > 0.73

Standard test method for linear shrinkage (%)	
River Rok	Reading as psi
1 day	0.037
7 days	0.099

Our material is tested and certified by independent laboratories. All data is given in good faith, however, we reserve the right to change products and specifications without notice. SGM advises interested parties to satisfy themselves as to the accuracy of any data and seek certification if appropriate.

03/2025