

# How to install your ABOVE GROUND POOL LINER

Installation is best done on a warm, sunny day. If it is raining, or below 18°C, you should not attempt installation.

## Preparing the Pool Site

The week before: Treat the pool site for Nut Grass. (Nut Grass seeds can lay dormant in the ground for up to 10 years).

The day before: If you had issues with microbial staining on a previous pool liner, you must treat the area with a diluted chlorine wash to kill any remaining microbes.

For best results, a ground sheet (eg. black plastic) can be placed between the sand and the liner. It can be secured to the pool wall just above the sand cove with tape. Alternatively, you can place it under the sand base.

**The sand base** should be 5cm (2") deep over the entire floor of the pool, and form a cove all the way around the wall of the pool at least 15cm (6") high. This base forms the floor of the pool, and supports the liner. (When the pool is filled, there is an enormous amount of weight on the liner so it is important that there is no space between the liner and the sand).

Step 1. Smooth and spread the sand using the back of a garden rake or a 150cm (5') piece of timber as a screed. You may find the sand easier to work if it is slightly damp (but not wet). When the sand floor in the pool is completely smooth, compact it down by tamping or rolling. Once compacted use a fine broom to remove any compaction marks. It is important to leave a smooth finish as any lumps will be magnified once the pool is filled.

Step 2. Clean down the walls of the pool - ensure it is free of any sand, metal filings etc as these can damage the liner. Using a PVC insulation tape (or similar), tape over the wall join bolts on the inside wall. Remove the top copings from the pool (if applicable to your pool - most smaller pools have a small round metal capping that should not be removed). Tape over any sharp edges before the liner is fitted.

## Fitting your ABGAL Pool Liner

Step 1. Carefully unpack the liner from the carton. **Do not use any type of knife or sharp object to open the box.**

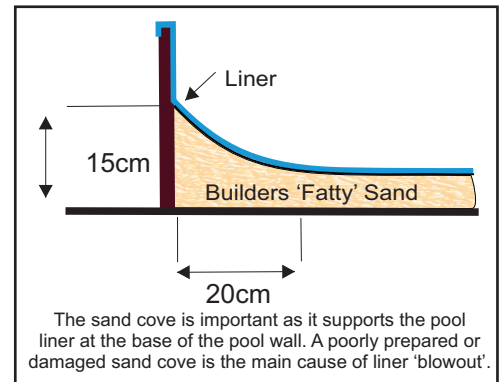
With one or more people inside the pool, pass the liner into the pool and place it in the middle at one end - at the shallow or narrow end if you have one. Take care when handling the liner as sharp objects, even shoes, may damage it.

Step 2. Unroll the liner toward the other end of the pool and gently open it out, making sure you do not disturb your sand base. The shiny side of the liner is the back - this is placed against the sand, and the embossed side faces the water. Spread the liner so that the wall-to-floor seam lies evenly (about midway) on the coving around the edge of the pool. Place the top edge of the liner over the wall of the pool by about 15cm (6") starting at each end first then at either side (clothes pegs are useful at this stage to hold the liner in place).

On some pools the liner may appear to be too small in the perimeter. This can be adjusted by evenly tensioning the perimeter of the liner as you place the top edge over the wall of the pool.

Check that there are no diagonal wrinkles in the wall of the liner as these indicate either an uneven overlap or the wall is not square with the bottom. Rectify this by moving the top of the liner in either a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction until all wrinkles disappear. Check that the seams on the floor of the liner are running straight and that the base of the liner is flat with all the large wrinkles removed.

Step 3. Removing the remaining wrinkles - If your pool has a deep end, you must use the vacuum method. If you have a flat floor pool, it can be done manually, but using the vacuum method gives a better result.



Put the liner wall up over the pool wall and hold in place with the plastic coping strips. Adjust the overlap to remove all wrinkles.



## Hand Method

Check your garden hose has no sharp fittings that could damage the liner. The liner can be very slippery when the water starts to go in, so its best to get into the pool before the tap is turned on. Let the pool fill to 25mm (1") of water over the entire floor, then turn the hose off. **Do not over-fill.**

Starting in the middle of the pool, work the wrinkles out towards to walls. This is best done on your hands and knees, working in a circular motion. Gently push the wrinkles out, gradually moving all the surplus liner material to the edges of the pool. **IMPORTANT:** If there is more than 5cm (2") of water on the liner, it will be almost impossible to move any wrinkles - attempting to do so may cause damage to the liner. Once you are happy there are no wrinkles on the floor, adjust any surplus liner material over the edge of the pool and continue filling the pool until the water is 15cm (6") deep (or until it is 5cm (2") above the cove). Remove the slack from the wall of the liner, section by section. The wall of the liner should not have any horizontal or diagonal wrinkles in it.



Cover the bottom of the pool with about 2cm of water, and start to remove all floor wrinkles by working from the centre out towards the wall.

**DO NOT OVER-TENSION THE LINER.** Liners are designed to fit snug without any excess tension. Secure the liner with the coping sections (as per your pool manufacturers instructions) and continue to fill the pool to 30cm (12") deep. At this stage you need to check the tension of the liner around the perimeter of the pool and if necessary remove the sections of coping near the affected area and release the tension.

## Vacuum Method (Recommended)

Recommended for all pools - *essential for deep-ends*. Tape over the skimmer opening with a suitably sized piece of cardboard and masking tape. Place the hose of a vacuum cleaner (a Wet & Dry type is ideal) through the return hole in the wall of the pool until it is 30cm (12") above the sand. Tape around the hose at the wall to make it seal. Double check the liner has no large wrinkles or surplus material and make sure it is secured by the plastic strips.

**IF THE POOL IS A DEEP END STYLE, OR THE LINER APPEARS TO BE TIGHT, PLACE THE TOP RAILS ON THE POOL BEFORE SWITCHING ON THE VACUUM CLEANER.**

When the vacuum is turned on, you'll see the liner start to suck down to the walls. As it sucks down, continually work the wrinkles out toward the edge of the pool. You may have to switch the vacuum off to adjust the tension of the liner a few times - this is quite normal. Once you have the liner vacuumed out and **ALL** the wrinkles removed, start filling the pool with your garden hose. Make sure any fittings on the hose are removed or protected so they do not damage the liner. **LEAVE THE VACUUM CLEANER RUNNING UNTIL THE POOL IS 30cm (12") DEEP.** Now you can turn the vacuum off. Carefully remove the vacuum hose and cardboard from the wall of the pool, making sure you get all the tape off. Do not allow any to fall in behind the liner.



Tape up skimmer hole with cardboard and put the vacuum hose through the return hole in the wall so the hose is between the pool wall and the liner.

## Connecting the Filter

When connecting your filtration system through the liner, it is important that there is at least 30cm (12") of water over the floor of the pool, (but no more than 15cm (6") below the filtration opening).

Step 1. As per your manufacturers instructions, fit the skimmer box onto the wall of the pool by placing one gasket on the outside of the wall and the other between the liner and the escutcheon (plastic face) plate.

Use a clear silicone sealant on all faces for a positive sealing.

Step 2. Secure the escutcheon plate with the screws provided with the skimmer box. When secure, neatly and carefully trim the liner material from the skimmer opening with a sharp knife.

Step 3. To fit the pool return, cut a hole in the liner about 10mm (3/8") smaller than the hole in the wall of the pool. Fit the return fitting through the wall using a gasket or silicone sealant on each side of the wall.

Tighten the fitting firmly to ensure there are no leaks.

Step 4. Connect the rest of the filtration (if required) then fill your pool to the desired operating level (usually half way up the skimmer opening).

For more detailed instructions go to [www.abgal.com.au](http://www.abgal.com.au) or scan this code to go straight our video instructions.



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