

Consider a large apartment pool in Alamitos Heights that's been resurfaced twice in the last decade, and both times the finish failed early within a few years. The culprit wasn't the finish material, it was poor surface prep. Getting a long-lasting commercial pool resurfacing result comes down to what happens before any new material touches the shell. Hydroblasting equipment shifted how serious commercial pool contractors approach plaster removal, and understanding how it works lets property managers and HOA boards make smarter decisions.

What Hydroblasting Actually Does

Hydroblasting employs extremely high-pressure water jets to remove failed plaster, calcium deposits, algae staining, and bond coat remnants from a pool shell. Different from mechanical grinding, which grinds the surface with rotating tools, hydroblasting penetrates low spots and rough texture that a grinder won't consistently fully address. The end product is a clean, open substrate that holds new plaster or an aggregate finish far more securely.

With a community pool or hotel pool that sees constant bather loads year-round, bond coat adhesion isn't a minor detail. Long Beach's marine air and hard water conditions promote calcium scaling on tile lines and throughout the shell surface. That mineral layer has to come off completely before a new finish coat goes on. Hydroblasting addresses that task more thoroughly than hand tools.

Prep Quality and Long-Term Finish Durability

Every commercial pool resurfacing job succeeds or fails on the quality of pool shell preparation. Applicators who skip the prep phase to cut schedule are setting up an early callback. When a shell prep job is complete, the new finish adheres to a rough, open surface rather than adhering to residual old coating. That difference appears in how long the finish lasts.

Property managers in areas such as Belmont Shore, Naples, and Park Estates often ask why one resurfacing job lasts for years while another degrades early. The reason almost always traces back to surface prep. Hydroblast systems give the contractor precise control over how deeply the shell is stripped and opened. That control is tough to achieve with mechanical tools alone.

- Water jetting removes calcium scaling more thoroughly than mechanical grinding on standard pool shells.
- Failed plaster is removed without damaging the structural concrete shell.
- Sloped floors and tight corners get cleaned that grinders miss.
- Bond coat adhesion holds much better on a high-pressure prepped surface.
- Coordinating the prep phase properly reduces total pool closure for HOA pools.

Mechanical Grinding vs. Hydroblasting

Mechanical grinding has its place, but it comes with limitations on a commercial-scale pool shell. Grinders work well on flat, accessible surfaces, but apartment pools include steps, benches, sloped transitions, and narrow sections where rotating [residential pool resurfacing](#) equipment leave gaps. Those skipped sections end up as problem areas in the finished surface.

Hydroblasting equipment get into those zones more easily. The pressure stream adjusts to pool contours in a way that a spinning disc doesn't. For a C-53 licensed commercial pool contractor doing full resurfacing work on a sizable hotel pool, combining both methods, hydroblasting for general prep and grinding for specific problem areas, produces the most complete pool shell preparation.

How Downtime Fits Into the Process

Long Beach doesn't get a true winter shutdown for pool use. Property managers coordinate commercial pool resurfacing to avoid peak swim periods, and each day the pool is down matters. Hydroblasting is loud and produces a considerable slurry that needs to be handled properly per health department guidelines.

Qualified commercial pool contractors plan the hydroblasting phase at the start of the downtime period. That lets the shell adequate time to dry and cure before bond coat and finish gets installed. Compressing that drying window results in delamination later. At Adam's Pool and Spa Service, prep scheduling is built into the resurfacing timeline from the start.

What Goes On After Hydroblasting

Once the pool shell preparation is finished, the facility operator chooses the finish type. Pebble finishes are durable in heavily used apartment pools because the rough profile masks surface scuffs more effectively than white plaster. Quartz finishes offer a mid-range option with reliable performance and smoother appearance than pebble.

Traditional plaster is still the most budget-friendly finish option, but it requires excellent surface prep to hold up, especially in Long Beach's high-calcium conditions. Tile line work and coping are frequently completed at the same time as the replaster to prevent a second closure. Chemical startup after refill is essential to protecting the new finish from day one.

Compliance Considerations in Commercial Resurfacing

Resurfacing a commercial pool is more than a cosmetic fix. It's also an chance to address ADA access, drain and safety compliance, and regulatory requirements that came up during the last inspection. Doing a full replaster during the closure window makes it practical to replace or add main drains and additional safety hardware.

Facility operators managing pools in Seal Beach, San Pedro, or Sunset Beach deal with the same inspection requirements as those in Long Beach proper. Having all compliance work done as part of the one shutdown prevents a future closure cycle. Adam's Pool and Spa Service coordinates that work as part of the overall project.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is hydroblasting just high-powered pressure washing?

Standard pressure washing uses much lower pressure and is suited for cleaning surfaces, not blasting off adhered plaster or calcium deposits. Hydroblasting works at far higher pressure, enough to removing failed plaster from a concrete shell without damaging the base concrete. It's a completely different operation.

Will hydroblasting crack or weaken the shell?

When used by an trained commercial pool contractor, hydroblasting clears surface contamination without damaging solid concrete. The operating pressure are set for this specific application. Shell defects show up during the prep phase and repaired before fresh plaster is put on.

How long does the hydroblasting phase take on a commercial pool?

How long it takes depends on pool area, existing finish condition, and the degree of failed plaster. A compact apartment pool is completed more quickly than a large hotel or community pool. The team at Adam's build the hydroblasting timeline into the closure window so nothing gets rushed.

How important is bond coat adhesion for a long-lasting finish?

Weak bond coat adhesion results in peeling, fresh plaster pulls away from the shell in sections. With a hotel pool that sees constant use, that failure shows up fast. Complete pool shell preparation through hydroblasting gives the bond coat a clean surface to bond with.

Is wastewater disposal part of the resurfacing service?

Absolutely. Hydroblasting creates a significant volume of contaminated water that can't just flow to the gutter, regulatory requirements prohibit that. Adam's Pool and Spa Service handles slurry management as part of the resurfacing job. Contact the team at (562) 522-2203 to talk through how that fits into your resurfacing plan.

How do I get a quote for commercial pool resurfacing with hydroblasting prep?

Get in touch through adamspoolandspa.com or contact Adam's Pool and Spa Service directly at (562) 522-2203. We'll come out to look at the pool to assess the shell, the existing finish, and site access. Factors that influence the estimate involve pool size, finish type, shell condition, and project timing. Adam's works throughout Long Beach and surrounding communities including Seal Beach, Lakewood, Signal Hill, Huntington Beach, and San Pedro.