Three methods for repairing cracked steps in vinyl-lined inground swimming pools

Method 1  Dry Repair of Cracks

Chase the crack with a grinder, Dremel tool or saw blade to give the crack some depth and allow better adhesion for AquaBond SR-3000 Structural Repair Compound. Smooth and clean the prepared crack with sandpaper, then wipe with isopropyl alcohol or acetone to remove any residue and then apply the SR-3000 adhesive. Finish-sand the repair as needed or use Aquabond's patent pending polyethylene film application process to produce an amazingly smooth finish.

Material list:
1. DMK-3000 Structural repair adhesive kit.
2. Optional: PEF-01 or PEF-10 Polyethylene Film Adhesive Applicator System

Method 2  Sand-slurry and Foam Injection for Reinforcing Under-step Support

This option requires a visual field assessment for erosion of under-step support. You will need to replace as much sand as possible then fill the rest of the void with AquaBond’s PF-3f7 High Density Polyurethane Injection Foam.

You may have to hole-saw or drill each step to visually make a determination. (Remember to keep the pieces you hole-sawed out for reattachment later in this repair). If there is sand erosion, then you can add sand slurry (water soaked sand) into those holes, leaving a 2-3 inch gap for room to inject the foam. Inject foam slowly through hole into wet sand slurry at multiple angles to create a good sand-and-foam foundation under the step. The foam can take 20-25 minutes to fully expand so be patient. It expands as much as 15-25 times its original volume so inject slowly and pay attention to how things are going.

Once the foam is injected and cured, you can cut some of the foam out, 1/4 " deep, and dispense AquaBond SR-3000 Structural Repair Compound there and replace the cut-out pieces. Fill any gaps or edges to level the repaired area. Sand or grind the SR-3000 level if necessary, to remove any rough edges.

Material list:
1. DMK-3000 Structural repair adhesive kit
2. DMK-377 Foam Injection Kit
3. Optional: You may need additional PF-37 foam cartridges for larger voids
4. Optional: Additional SR-3000 Structural repair adhesive 50 ml cartridges

Method 3  Dry or Underwater Step Tread Replacement (Requires our DM-400 Dispensing Gun)

First, repair any cracks as in Method 1 above.

Next, using Aquabond's VSRK-60 Vinyl Step Repair Kit, cut the new step tread to size. Trim front edge of new tread to finish 1/2" to 3/4" in from rounded front edge of the original step. Round-off the four corners and soften sharp edges. Fill all uneven surfaces in the old step tread with adhesive and apply adhesive liberally to entire backside of the new tread before setting it in place.

When doing a dry repair, use AquaBond SRX-3000-400 Structural Repair Compound to adhere the new tread in place over the old one. Caulk thoroughly around the perimeter of the new tread using the SRX-3000-400.

If doing the repair underwater, use AquaBond UW-5000-400 Underwater Repair Compound to adhere the new tread in place. Caulk thoroughly around the perimeter of the new tread using the UW-5000-400.

Material list:
1. For above water or dry step tread replacement, use our VSRK-60 Vinyl Step Repair Kit (Includes our DM-400 Dispensing Gun)
   1a. Optional: Extra VSRT-60 Step Repair Treads
   1b. Optional: You may need additional SRX-3000-400 adhesive cartridges for larger repairs or multiple steps
2. For underwater or wet step tread replacement, use our DMK-5000-400 Underwater Repair Kit. (Includes our DM-400 Dispensing Gun)
   2a. Optional: You may need additional UW-5000-400 adhesive cartridges for larger repairs or multiple steps
   2b. Optional: Extra VSRT-60 Step Repair Treads

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