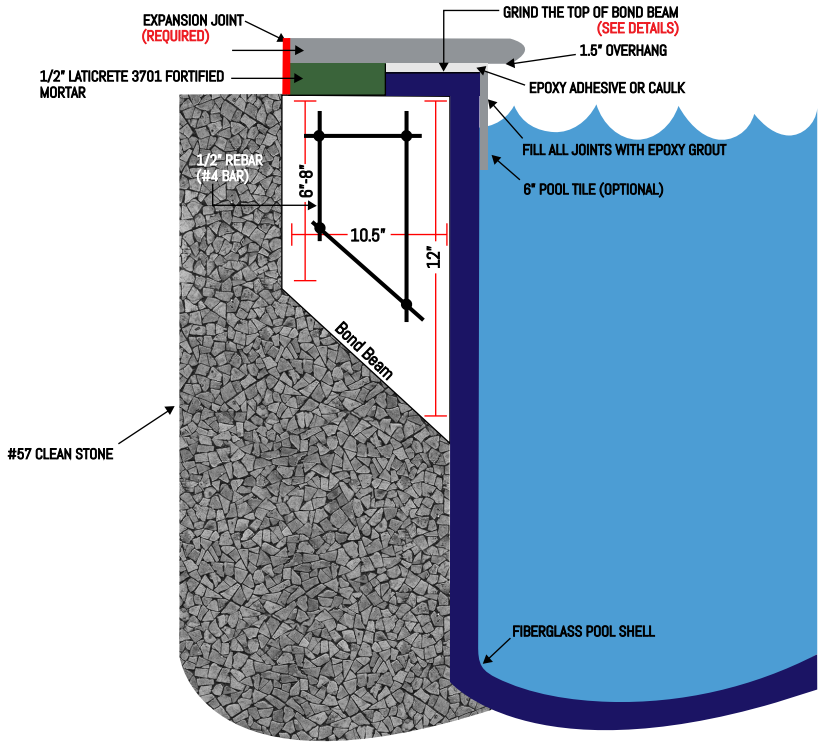
POOL & SPA COPING (FIBERGLASS POOLS)

MSNSC – Marmiro Stones Natural Stone Coping



WARNING

STOP

Epoxy mesh-backed stone is used to increase the strength of stone due to natural veining. This must be removed with a grinder before installation.

Laticrete® LATIPOXY® 300 Adhesive is required for long-term adhesion of the stone to Fiberglass shell .

1) PREPARATION

a. Inspect the fiberglass shell & concrete collar.

b. Confirm the shell is level, fully backfilled, and braced, per the pool manufacturer's procedure before collar or coping work begins. Verify plumbing penetrations and skimmer height.

c. Inspect the concrete bond beam at the pool perimeter – it must be sound, clean, and recessed to accommodate the coping thickness and mortar. Scarify concrete to promote adhesion.

d. Isolation from the fiberglass shell: Plan a continuous soft joint (backer rod + sealant) between the coping and the fiberglass lip/gelcoat – do not rigidly bond coping to the shell.

e. With a cup grinder, grind the top bond beam of the fiberglass shell to make sure we get a good bond of the adhesive from the fiberglass to the stone.

2) COPING LAYOUT

a. Dry-fit MSNSC around the pool, planning all corners and curves first.

b. Establish a slight slope away from the pool and a consistent overhang.

c. Expansion joints: Coping-to-deck expansion joint (typically ½"), using backer rod + Laticrete® LATASIL™.

d. Account for a 1"–1 ½" overhang at the fiberglass lip (backer rod + Laticrete® LATASIL™).

3) SETTING BED & BACK-BUTTER

a. Mortar Bed (Wet-laid look on concrete collar)
   - Pre-dampen collar (concrete bond beam) and slurry bond coat with Laticrete® 254 PLATINUM™ just ahead of placement to the concrete bond beam.

b. Fiberglass Bond Beam
   - Apply adhesive – Two options:
     (1) BOSS® Pro 801 Silicone
     (2) Laticrete® LATASIL™

c. Back-Butter
   - Trowel a thin, even slurry/back-butter of Laticrete® 254 PLATINUM™ to the coping's underside immediately before placement.
   - Timing matters: Set while both the collar slurry and the stone back are fresh (not skinned) to ensure full wet contact.
   - Press/Tap with a rubber mallet to achieve continuous bedding.
   - Only spread what you can cover in 5–10 minutes, re-skimming if any skinning occurs.

4) INSTALLATION

a. Corners & Curves
   - Set corners first. For mitered corners, leave about ¼" for grout.
   - For curved sections, use smaller pieces or adjust joint widths to maintain a smooth radius.

b. Maintain Joint Width
   - Do not butt-joint the stone. Use spacers to keep joints uniform.
     - Typical joint: 1/16" minimum to ½" maximum, depending on stone calibration.

5) FINISHING

a. Grout Joints (Required)
   - After the mortar sets, grout with Laticrete®'s PERMACOLOR® (cement) or SPECTRALOCK® (epoxy). Fill fully and strike flush; clean with water and a sponge. Epoxy is highly stain-resistant in splash zones.

b. Isolation & Expansion Joints
   - Fiberglass lip soft joint: Under coping at the top of fiberglass shell.
     - Seal with BOSS® Pro 801 Silicone or Laticrete® LATASIL®
   - Deck Expansion Joint
     - Maintain a ½" joint between coping and deck. Place backer rod at the bottom of coping and add Laticrete® LATASIL® on top of the backer rod.
     - Clean the top expansion joint, making a smooth clean joint.

6) BEST PRACTICES

a. Never rigidly bond coping to the fiberglass shell – always maintain an isolation joint.
b. Keep collar and mortars clean and free of release agents; pre-dampen porous concrete before bonding.
c. If installing waterline tile, prioritize placing it before the coping and follow the shell manufacturer's adhesive/grout guidelines, (epoxy is often recommended).