

PebbleTec vs. Other Manufacturers

Category	PebbleTec	Other Manufacturers
Material Composition: Plaster-like vs. Exposed Aggregate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All finish lines use 100% silica aggregate; <u>no marble</u> in formulations. “Plaster-like” lines are PebbleFina and PebbleQuartz (hard-troweled, look like plaster but differ in composition and performance). Exposed aggregate lines also use 100% silica. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many plaster or ‘plaster-like’ mixes include marble (softer, less durable). Example: Universal White Cement commercial quartz is 50% marble / 50% silica. Exposed aggregate from recognizable brands (e.g., Stonescapes, Wet Edge, Universal) are typically 100% silica.
Compressive Strength (90 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PebbleFina: 9,271 PSI PebbleQuartz: 8,200 PSI Built for higher strength & durability than standard plaster. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marble-containing plaster-like finishes tend to have lower strength vs. 100% silica systems.
Manufacturer vs. Distributor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operates as a true manufacturer (not just a bagging/distribution brand). All raw aggregate is shipped to two dedicated plants for controlled processing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many brands bag at the quarry, with less control over cleanliness, sizing, and color consistency.
Fines (Cleanliness) & Smoothness After Acid Wash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactively removes fines (gritty/sandy particles) via careful screening and by keeping raw material dry so fines don’t stick to stone. Cleaner aggregate compacts better and exposes more evenly, reducing post-wash rough/overexposed areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fines often remain when bagging at source; they can dissolve during acid wash (day 2), leaving rough or overexposed spots—especially noticeable around the bowl/main drain if not managed on day 1.
Sizing Consistency & Contamination Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tight screening ensures Sheen is Sheen and Tec is Tec from load to load. Lower contamination risk thanks to controlled plant environment. Incoming loads are vetted for size and color to maintain specs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When material is bagged at a quarry, sizing can be inconsistent; higher risk of debris contamination (e.g., wood, foam, miscellaneous pieces) reported by builders.
Sample-to-Finish Matching (Color QA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each new load is tested so current bagged aggregate matches showroom samples (e.g., Ocean Blue sample from six months ago). Goal: drop a sample onto a completed finish and have it match closely—avoids QA nightmares. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Without tight vetting, color drift can occur (e.g., more gold than before), making installed finishes mismatch older samples and complicating quality assurance.
Installer / Builder Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New applicators consistently call the material “clean” (lacking fines/gritty garbage), which improves compaction and exposure consistency. Shasta Pools cited notably better size consistency after returning to PebbleTec; previous finish reportedly had size variance and contaminants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports of size inconsistency and contaminants are more common when bagging at the quarry and when process controls are looser.

Pigment System & Long-Term Color	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proprietary blend of organic + inorganic pigments engineered for long-term color steadfastness. • Blues use a higher level of cobalt—more costly and harder to source—yielding vibrant, durable water color. • Field performance: builders switching to PebbleTec report fewer issues with fading/blotchiness; examples include Presidential Pools citing a significant drop in pigment-related warranty work. • Colors like Blue Surf and Blue Granite are noted to hold water color for years with proper water chemistry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitors may use less expensive blues with lower cobalt content; fading and blotchiness complaints are more common in field reports. • Greater variation in long-term appearance has been reported across brands.
Additives & Installation Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P3 additive: a proprietary blend (optimized pozzolan + polymer fortifiers) that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Acts as a pump aid to prevent hose clogging. – Reduces mottling and shrinkage cracks. – Densifies the finish for longevity. – Minimizes need for other additives except modifiers (retardants/accelerants). – Enhances compaction & consolidation for a uniform final surface. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically rely on generic pump aids/additives not tuned to a single aggregate system; may not address mottling, shrinkage, or compaction as effectively.
Consumer-Facing Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoother, more consistent exposure and feel. • Better color uniformity that aligns with showroom samples. • Stronger finish vs. marble-bearing plaster-like mixes. • History of fewer pigment-related warranty claims post-switch (per builder feedback). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for rough spots after acid wash when fines are present. • Color/sizing inconsistency between batches can lead to mismatched expectations. • More pigment-related warranty issues reported by some builders.
Notes / Disclaimers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pigment formulas are proprietary; specifics are not disclosed. • Performance assumes proper water chemistry during the life of the pool. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generalizations summarize field feedback and may vary by batch, quarry, or local installer practices.