Growing Spaces

Where life thrives.

Tank Liner replacement Instructions:

If the cause of the tank liner leaking is due to plant roots or shoots growing up through the liner and puncturing it then you may want to consider leaving the existing liner in place for extra resistance to these vegetative intrusions. The only slight problem with the leaving the old liner in place is that it becomes difficult to apply the pool coping to the double thickness thus created. We do have extra strong coping if you require. The first step would be to remove the existing liner.This is done by pulling up the cross bar and removing it and removing the coping. Obviously you will have drained the tank if not already drained due to the leak. If the puncture is at a higher level then the very bottom of the tank this will be obvious as the water will only drain down to the level of the puncture. This will give you a good clue as to its location if you did want to repair the leak with a vinyl repair kit rather than replace the whole liner.

If there is a small amount of residual water in the tank this can be removed by simply lifting up one end of the liner and pulling in such a way to spill the rest of the water into the sand at the bottom of the tank. Before inserting the new liner it is best to smooth the sand at the bottom of the walls tank and over the bottom crossbar. This is the time to examine if there are any sharp projections on the floor of the tank area which may need to be removed. Climbing in and out of the tank can be done with a combination of ladders or by having an assistant on the outside to help remove and replace the crossbar and using this as a method of pulling yourself in and out of the tank.

The most daunting task is to determine how the tank liner has been folded so that we can accurately position it so the long dimension of the liner corresponds to the long dimension of the tank. Often there is a welded seam running the whole length of the center of the liner, which ideally will be placed over the line of the bottom crossbar. Having opened the liner out enough to figure out its ultimate shape, try to centralize it side to side and front to back. Sometimes that can be difficult when you are actually standing on the liner, but I usually jump up and kick it at the same time to make it move around. It is very strong don’t worry about puncturing it.

The next part of the procedure is to place your foot at the junction of the floor and the wall of the tank and pull up vertically on the liner and drape it over the metal edge. Proceed to do this In a step by step fashion starting at the middle of the long side of the tank and working outwards towards the corners. The closer you get to the corner the more the tank liner will need to be pleated (folded) to accommodate the extra material which is

created when you try to put a rectangular piece of plastic into an oval shape. Try to have no more than three thicknesses of liner except at the very corners where more will be necessary. Make absolutely sure that the liner is well pushed into the corner, at the bottom of the angle and that no edge of the liner will end up below the water line when the tank is built. When you remove the old liner, you will get a good idea of what is involved in this folding technique. We put the coping back on the front edge of the tank and normally the back edge is held with one piece of coping in the middle and the rest of liner simply pushes down and drapes over the back wall. The final step is to replace the top crossbar. You may have to push very firmly on one end to wedge the crossbar into position. This should complete the procedure.