

# Understanding Scratches & Dents in Stainless Steel Tank Pools

Stainless steel tank pools offer sleek aesthetics and unmatched durability—but like all materials, they are susceptible to physical damage. Scratches and dents may not compromise the pool's function immediately, but they can affect long-term performance and appearance. Knowing how to prevent and manage these issues is key to preserving your investment.



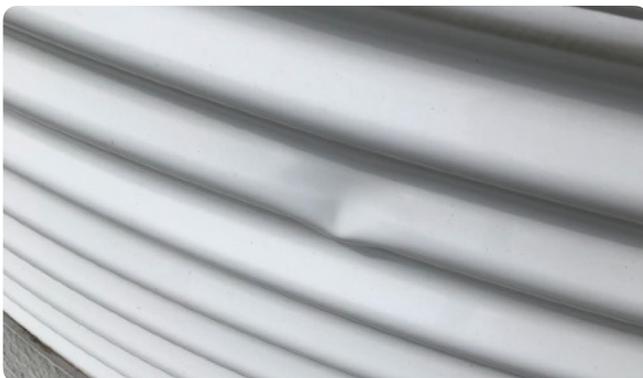
## Possible Causes

### Handling & Installation Damage:

Improper lifting, rolling or dragging during delivery or installation can leave marks or dents on the surface and base.

### Construction Activity Nearby:

Dropped tools, shifting equipment, or even grit and rocks from foot traffic during landscaping or paving work can cause surface damage.



### Inappropriate Cleaning Tools:

Using abrasive metal brushes or scrapers, especially during routine maintenance, can scratch the protective oxide layer.

### Furniture and Heavy Objects:

Dragging or placing metal or hard-legged furniture inside the pool can cause fine scratches or deeper scuffs on the floor and walls.

### Yard Maintenance (Mower Stones):

Small dents can be caused by stray stones or sticks flung from nearby lawn mowing. These projectiles can strike the pool wall at high speed and create shallow but visible impressions.

### Undermining from Washed-In Stones:

Heavy rain or improper drainage can wash loose stones underneath the pool base. Over time, these can create pressure points that push upward into the floor of the pool, forming visible protrusions or bumps that affect both comfort and aesthetics.

### Grit and Sand Transfer:

Grit fallen in or carried on feet then dragged across the pool floor by furniture or general use can create subtle wear lines or scratch the surface. This is especially common with nearby construction and children.

## Identifying Scratches & Dents

### Visual Clues:

- Fine lines or swirl marks, especially under sunlight or LED lighting
- Localised depressions or bumps in the metal
- Shiny streaks or scuffing in brushed or matte finishes
- Raised spots in the floor from underneath
- Rust forming on an unnoticed dent or scratch

## Preventive Measures

### Safe Handling During Delivery:

- Use soft slings, mattresses or padded supports when lifting and rolling.
- Avoid rolling the pool shell directly on hard or uneven ground.

### Site Preparation:

- Ensure a flat, compacted base using crusher dust or concrete slab.
- Place a ute lining or foam mats under the base.
- Install proper drainage to prevent erosion and under-pool washout.

### Use Proper Cleaning Equipment:

- Opt for soft-bristle or non-metallic brushes.
- Avoid scourers or any tools with exposed metal edges.

### Protect From Impact:

- Maintain a clear, stone-free mowing strip around the pool perimeter.
- Angle mower discharge away from the pool to avoid stone strikes.

### Furniture Care:

- Only use furniture with soft, rounded feet in the pool.
- Avoid dragging furniture—lift and place it gently.

### Control Grit:

- Encourage rinsing feet before entry.
- Vacuum the pool regularly to remove grit, sand, and fine debris.

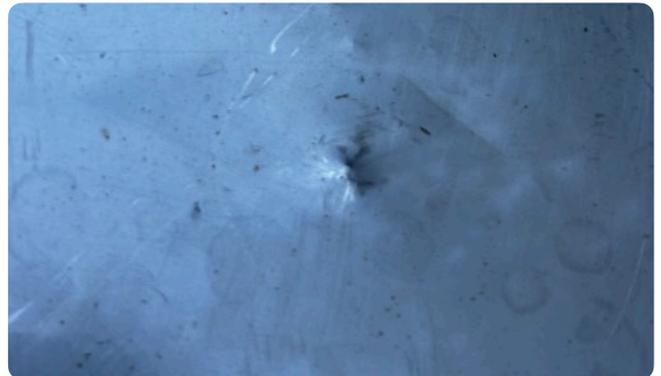
## Remedial Actions

### Light Scratches:

Buff with a fine plastic or nylon pad in the direction of the grain. Apply a stainless-steel passivation product to restore the chromium oxide layer—critical for corrosion resistance.

### Deep Scratches (with signs of rust):

If the scratch has broken through the oxide layer and developed rust, treat it promptly to avoid further corrosion. Clean the area using a non-abrasive stainless steel cleaner to remove grime and loose debris. Apply a phosphoric acid-based rust remover, such as Ranex Rustbuster, directly to the affected area. Allow the product to work per instructions, then thoroughly rinse and neutralise (i.e. sodium bicarbonate) the area to prevent reactivation. Once dry, apply a stainless steel passivating agent to re-establish corrosion resistance.



### Small Dents (e.g., from lawn mower stones):

To remove shallow dents, use a slightly curved 32mm stainless steel pipe or similarly curved piece of timber. Position the pipe inside the tank against the dent, and gently tap from the inside out using a dead knock hammer or rubber mallet. The thickness of the pipe and curved backing is essential to avoid creating further dents or flattening the profile of the tank.

### Moderate Dents:

Use the method above. While not usually structural, these may require professional assessment.

### Raised Protrusions (from sub-base stones):

If you detect bumps pushing up from the floor, it may indicate washed-in debris under the base. Drain and lift the pool for inspection and re-level the site if needed.