

NEWS SPLASH

FALL 2015

IT'S HEATER TIME!

Along with the cooler air temperatures of Fall comes cooler pool water. Commonly, this is when most pool owners use their heaters (or install new ones), so it's a good time to review the basics of pool heaters and their operation.

Solar heating is an option but it only adds about ten degrees to a pool's temperature. When solar is not enough, we turn to either gas heaters or electric heat pumps. Each of these heaters have specific uses and advantages.

A gas heater (propane or natural gas) is mainly used for spas and smaller pools. It heats up water very quickly and can bring a spa up to 101°F in less than an hour. The downside to gas is that they can have a high fuel cost. Installed, a new gas heater runs about \$3,000 and will last 6-8 years.

An electric heat pump is the most common type of pool heater in Florida. These heaters operate by extracting heat from the surrounding warm air and transferring it to the pool water. They are in some ways a form of solar heating since their heat source is the air. In turn, heat pumps have a low cost of use. Heat pumps work slower than gas heaters, taking a day or two to heat up a pool.

An electric heat pump, installed, costs \$3,000-\$4,000 and have a life span of about 8-12 years. They resemble an air conditioning unit with a fan on top.

If you have any questions about pool heaters, please ask your Technician or contact our office. We are a state certified pool contractor so we can fully assist you in any heater sale, repair or installation. License #CPC1458619

CHANGES IN CHLORINE USE

During the warmer months of the year we use chlorine tablets for their ability to supply a continuous stream of chlorine as they dissolve. In the Fall and Winter, with the decreased amount of sunshine, lower pool temperatures and generally less pool use, we switch over to liquid chlorine.

Liquid chlorine is a bit different from tablets, not only due to its form (liquid vs. solid) but also in its strength and pH.

Sodium hypochlorite is the chemical name of liquid chlorine. It contains about 12.5% active chlorine and is commonly stored in yellow 2.5 gal. plastic jugs. Its pH is very, very high at about 13.

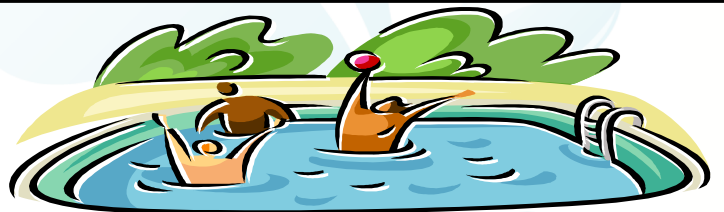
Tablet chlorine is often referred to as "tri-chlor" and is 90% chlorine. Its pH is the opposite of liquid chlorine, being very low (acidic). Tri-chlor tablets contain a stabilizer that protects the chlorine from sunlight damage.

Because of the vastly different pH values, we must make adaptations to your water's alkalinity (related to pH) when we change chlorine forms. We take these and other actions to insure your pool looks beautiful no matter what the season.

SAVE \$\$\$ WITH COVER FREE

If you want to protect the heat in your pool and save money at the same time, ask your Technician about Natural Chemistry's Cover Free product. Only 1-2 oz. per week will reduce evaporative heat loss by up to 80% and costs just \$35 per quart.

Don't forget our Referral Reward Program - each new customer you refer earns you a free month of service!



Kirk Bradley, *On-Time Pool Service, Inc.*

5411 America Drive, Sarasota, FL 34231 • Phone 941.224.0404 • www.ontimepoolservice.com