

NEWS SPLASH

Spring 2014

Here Comes the Summer!

With warm weather and the swimming season fast approaching, we're taking pro-active steps to help insure your pool water stays clean and algae-free. This includes:

- Increasing pump run times, generally by two hours as the longer water circulation lowers the opportunity for algae to gain anchor and start growing.
- Switching to use of chlorine tablets - these 'hockey pucks' slowly dissolve to release chlorine into the water over the entire week (see related story).
- Checking phosphate levels and reducing if necessary - this nutrient is key to algae's growth so reducing its level in pool water curtails algae growth sharply.
- Adding a specialty algaecide - by using this chemical twice during the summer months, we add an extra layer of protection against algae outbreaks.

No one wants to be around a green, algae-filled pool so with these actions, your pool will be healthy and beautiful all summer long with our weekly care. As every year, a small charge was added to this month's invoice to help cover the supplemental chemical costs.

Those Darn Oak Trees!

You don't have to be an allergy sufferer to know that we are in the midst of our annual tree pollination. This involves not only the various oak trees but also all the palms. It's been quite a mess but it is nearly at an end.

First came the fine yellow dusting of pollen covering everything - you couldn't miss it. The car washes did a lot of business and we scrubbed a lot of pool tiles.

Next the male flowers were shed by the trees. These larger pieces, sometimes called beards, were kept out of most caged pools. But pools that are open and exposed had skimmer baskets packed with debris.

Finally, a big storm front came through and washed down most of what remained and young, bright green leaves now adorn the trees. Onto the rainy season!

Tablets All Year - Easy but Wrong

Chlorine is available in many forms - gas, liquid, solid and powder. By far, the most commonly used in the pool industry is liquid (sodium hypochlorite) and solid puck tablets ('trichlor').

There are many differences between these two besides their physical form. The liquid version degrades very quickly and contains only 12% chlorine. The tablets however are very stable and hold 90% chlorine.

Because the tablets can also be simply put in a float or erosion feeder and last a long time, many people find them more convenient and easier to use.

There's a problem though. Tablets also contain cyanuric acid as a chlorine stabilizer. This chemical, added to protect the chlorine from the sun, never degrades itself so it stays in your pool water forever. After continually using tablet chlorine for a long time, the cyanuric acid level gets so high that the water chemistry can no longer be safely balanced. Subsequently, all or most of the pool water must be drained and exchanged with fresh. Not fun. This is one of the main reasons we only use tablet chlorine in the warmer months when higher chlorine demand exists.

Those yellow jugs of liquid chlorine get pretty heavy at over 20 lbs. each but they are required for proper chlorine 'management' of your pool water.

Did You Know...?

- ☉ The weight of an average pool's water is nearly 100,000 pounds!
- ☀ A swimmer will shed 10 -100 million bacteria during a 20-minute swim.
- ☉ The target pH of pool water is 7.5 which matches that of our eyes.
- ☀ All On-Time Pool Service trucks are equipped with GPS tracking for route optimization.



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