



Minimise Your Pool Costs, Maximise Your Enjoyment

We are pleased to share some topical pool industry snippets that may reduce your pool running costs and make life easier.

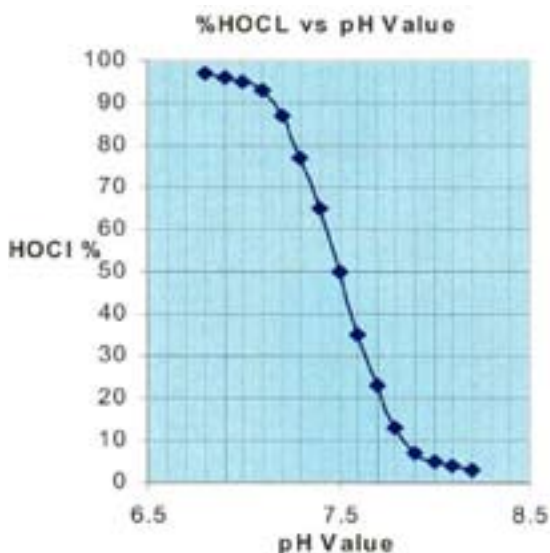
Will Your Pool Turn Green This Summer?

Many pool owners have suffered the unfortunate experience of the water turning green or the pool walls and floor becoming slippery. The established procedure to remedy this is to check the pH and give it a good shock dose of chlorine or similar oxidising agent.

However, recent studies have revealed that ever-increasing levels of phosphates found in tap water provide a micronutrient on which algae in pool water will thrive. There is now evidence that Water Authorities are actually adding phosphates to mains water to prevent scaling and corrosion in underground metal pipework. Because of this, there is no way to prevent its presence. During the summer months when evaporation takes place, phosphates becomes more concentrated in your pool water giving any presents of algae every opportunity to thrive. Shock dosing will remove the symptoms by eliminating the algae but will not solve the problem, as it does not reduce the amount of phosphates in the pool.

These recent findings have spurred the pool industry to formulate products that will remove phosphates from the water and we are pleased to offer them to our customers for the 2008 season.

We have been testing for phosphates in both the pool water and the mains water when opening customers pools this Spring and it is staggering to find the extremely high level of phosphates present. If you bring samples of your pool water and tap water into our Dorchester showroom, we will be pleased to test the phosphate level and supply you with LO CHLOR STARVER if required.



The Correct pH Level of Swimming Pool Water

Any customers who visit our showroom will know how we repeatedly express the importance to maintain a pH value in your pool water level as close to 7.2 as you can.

The graph shows the efficiency of Chlorine plotted against pH values. Please be aware that the vertical axis shown represents the efficiency of the oxidation process in the water to kill bacteria. This applies to whatever method of oxidation is employed, not just for chlorine.

pH correction chemicals are the least expensive products in the pool chemical range, and there are now blister packed phenol red test strips available. They are much easier to use than the foil encapsulated tablets previously sold.

Energy Costs

Ever increasing energy costs have caused many customers to ask us how they can run their pools in a more efficient manner. Here are a few suggestions you may consider.

Pool Water Heating

Swimming pools heated by oil or gas have never been particularly efficient. Swimming pool heaters have been traditionally imported from North America, where energy costs have never been a major consideration. We are pleased to say that, due to recent legislation, there is a new generation of **gas fired pool heaters**. These are manufactured in the UK which operate at 97% efficiency instead of 70-80% as achieved by the North American imports.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for **oil fired pool heaters**, where even the latest designs still operate at about 85% efficiency. As a result of this, some customers are considering changing from oil to propane gas fired heaters, or adding an electrically powered heat pump to their heating circuit.



Heat pumps fall into the category of Renewable Energy devices with coefficient of performance of up to 5:1 (5 kW of power out for 1kW supplied) in warm ambient conditions. This efficiency is reduced when the air temperature is down to 10 degrees Centigrade, but it is still the most cost effective way to heat a pool. The limitation is that at the beginning and the end of the season, when ambient temperatures are low it can take a long time to heat up the pool from cold.

Solar heating is always worth consideration, particularly if it is installed to compliment an existing pool heating system.

Pool Circulation Pump

The performance of modern pool pumps is appreciably higher than older models. This begs the question "why use a 1.1kW pump when a modern 600 watt will suffice?"

Installing such a pump, connected to a time clock set to the required pumping periods, could save you as much as 12kW a day in electricity. This is equivalent to leaving 100 watt light bulb switched on for 5 days!

Pool Covers

The use of a pool cover is essential in the UK if energy costs are to be minimised.

Ideally your pool should be covered at all times when not in use. If you find operation of your pool cover difficult or an inconvenience, there is now a host of innovative pool cover and roller options available to make life easier for pool owners.

New for this year is a range of solar powered reel systems that are fitted with an electric motor to automatically remove the cover from the pool with by operating a simple switch.



If you intend to keep your pool uncovered for most of the day, you may like to consider upgrading your bubble cover to a heat retention blanket. These have far better insulation properties to keep the heat in your pool at night.

Saving Water

Pool owners are constantly faced with a dilemma regarding conservation of water.

Backwashing is essential if one is to keep the pool water in good condition. Every time you backwash, you send pool water to waste and this needs replenishment from the tap. Tap water is colder than the pool water and therefore requires both heating and balancing with pool chemicals. An average backwash would discharge about 200 gallons down the drain. This requires 0.6kW of heat to raise it by 1 degree F, or 16.2kW to bring tap water back to pool water operating temperature, assuming 100% efficiency of the heating system! There are now products available which will allow you to backwash less, but still maintain good water quality.

Flocculation

Most customers are familiar with FLOCCULATION of pool water, and the effect it has on water clarity.

Flocculation is the addition of a pill, a liquid, a gel or a granular product to the water that make the very fine particles of dead algae or debris stick together to form larger particles that become large enough to be trapped in the filter media.

A good test to see if flocculation is required is to look for a "dusty" appearance of the water in front of the underwater light when it is switched on. Without flocculation, these tiny particles will pass straight through the filter and back into the pool.

Zeoclere Pool Filter Media

Zeoclere is an alternative filter medium to sand. It has a 400% larger surface area than sand and therefore improves the filtration efficiency by 60%, thus reducing chemical consumption and backwashing frequency. If your sand filter is due for a service (your sand should be changed at least every 5 years!) you may like to consider changing to **Zeoclere**.



Skimmer Basket Screen

The simplest form of pre-filtration for swimming pools is the addition of a "skim mor" fine mesh screen which is placed over the skimmer basket. This inexpensive product will remove sun tan oil and cosmetics from the water which will coat the media in the filter, and form a scum line at water level in the pool.



Multi-Cyclone Pre-Filter

New for 2008 is the Sustainability Award winning **WaterCo multi-cyclone** pre-filter that may be installed between the pool pump and the filter. Incoming water enters the unit tangentially, generating a strong centrifugal effect. Sediment spirals down to the sediment trap, while filtered water flows through the outlet and into the pool filter. We saw this being demonstrated at the SPATA Pool Show recently and were so impressed with it, ordered some for stock for this season.

The addition of this pre-filter improves filtration efficiency dramatically and provides a visual check on the debris that has been removed.

To show customers the advantages of this new product, we have assembled a working demonstration unit which can now be seen in our Dorchester showroom.

Alternative water treatment methods

To reduce the amount of Chlorine or other chemical products for dosing Pool water, you may like to consider one of the following options for pool water treatment.

Ultra Violet Water Treatment

For pool owners who cannot cope with normal levels of Chlorine in their pool, we have had tremendous success recently with Ultra Violet water treatment. Ultra Violet is commonly used on potable water projects such as bore holes and local authority water treatment plants. As such, it can very easily handle the potential disinfecting problems associated with swimming pools. Customers are advised that a very low level of free chlorine (0.5ppm) should still be maintained in the water but where it is being used on local pools, we have found that the water quality as second to none. Ultra Violet destroys combined chlorine and therefore the need to replace pool water with fresh is dramatically reduced

Salt Chlorinators

Another popular approach to pool water treatment is to install a salt chlorinator, which oxidises the water with the same type of salt as used in a dishwasher or water softener. Salt is added to the pool water to provide a saline solution that is about 1/10th the salt level in sea water. By a simple process of electrolysis this is converted to Sodium Hypochlorite.

Salt water chlorination was frowned upon by the UK pool industry for many years as the level of salt was very high and therefore deemed too aggressive for heat exchangers and other pool equipment.

Salt levels are now controlled electronically which means that extremely low levels of salt can now be maintained in the pool water that have no more taste than a teardrop. Available with or without automatic pH control these units are environmentally friendly and will save considerably on chemical costs.

Poolside paving

Algae Control on Poolside Paving and Patios

Continuing with environmentally friendly approaches to pool problems, we are pleased to offer a new chlorine free product for algae control around your pool. This formulation, Aquatrol, is a new bio product used extensively in the commercial swimming pool sector to disinfect changing rooms and other public areas. It has been discovered that if used in areas where there is a propensity for algae growth, such as poolside paving, timber decking or patios, it will kill algae spores that are present and prevent further growth if used regularly. This product has recently been used to treat the many waterside steps from which the Gondoliers collect and drop off passengers throughout the waterways of Venice. Closer to home, many of the harbour authorities in the South West are applying it to slipways and berthing pontoons to prevent algae growth and render them safe for people to walk.

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