



Common Water Problems?

The following guide is designed to provide possible reasons and remedies for everyday pool operation problems, if uncertain or you require further assistance, please do not hesitate to call!

Brown Water?

Brown or 'reddish brown' water is usually caused by iron or rust entering the water.

Iron slimes flushed through from the inside of water pipes in the town reticulation system may occur during filling time when a heavy demand is placed on pipes which have been standing idle over winter.

The slime built up during the slow flow period is sloughed off into the water and enters the pool. If the water is adequately chlorinated, the iron will react with the chlorine and precipitate onto the pool floor.

Rust from corrosion in the filter and pipe work may also occur over winter.

It may be necessary to drain the pool during winter. If this is the case, the filter and pipe work also should be drained, in which further maintenance can be preformed as part of the winter shut down period.

Alternatively, the pH of the water in the system may be raised to around pH 8.0 and the filter sealed. As the pH rises the water will be less corrosive.

Black Water?

Black water is caused by manganese, a metal commonly found in waters on the east coast of Australia. It enters the pool from the town reticulation system by the same process as iron.

An adequate chlorine level and pH in the accepted swimming pool range will lead to precipitation of manganese. This can then be vacuumed off.



Blue Green Water?

Blue green colour results from copper. This has either been added as copper sulphate or comes from copper pipe work in the system. Copper may also deposit out as a greenish copper carbonate scale.

The remedy is either to cease using copper sulphate for algae control or replace all copper pipes with PVC pipe.

Hazy Water?

White hazy water is a common problem which may have a number of causes.

Algal bloom may be starting. The chlorine level should be tested and the dose increased. If dosing is already at a high level, the strength of hypochlorite should be checked.

The filter may not be keeping up with the swimmer load and may need checking.

The pool circulation pattern may be short circuiting.

Swimmers may be introducing more particulate matter than the filter system can remove. A request should be made that swimmers shower before entering the pool.

Cloudy Water?

If the pH has increased, precipitation of calcium carbonate may occur. This will largely fix itself and the precipitate may be vacuumed off the floor the following day. Hardness of the water and pH and water balance should be checked.

Post flocculation of alum may cause cloudy water. The pH of water passing through the filter should be checked and care taken that no pH reducing chemicals have been added to the filter system reducing the pH below 5.5 or above 8.5.

Corrosive Water?

Corrosion occurs when pH and total alkalinity is low. Corrosion attacks pool walls, pipe work and metal fittings and can seriously reduce the lifespan of a pool facility.

The best remedy for corrosion is to undertake a water balance then to calculate a point of balance which is neither corrosive nor scaling. This will usually be achieved by adding



either soda ash or sodium bicarbonate to raise the pH and alkalinity. Calcium chloride may be required to raise the hardness.

Please refer to the Langlier Saturation Index (LSI), or call for further assistance!

Scaling Water?

Scaling is the slow release of carbonates (calcium carbonate, copper carbonate etc.) either by the formation of crystals on walls and grout between tiles, or as a whitish cloudy carbonate precipitates which settles on the pool floor.

Scaling is not as bad as corrosion and in minor cases is self correcting. The addition of soda ash or sodium carbonate will cause a sudden precipitation of calcium in scaling water by raising the pH balance. The pH may then be returned to normal by the addition of dry acid.

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