

Phosphates – The latest enemy

PURPOSE

Once a phenomena of the Northern Hemisphere, phosphates are currently Australia biggest issue. This Bulletin looks at how to handle the latest enemy of Pool & Spa Owners.

BACKGROUND

Phosphates are a natural result of pollution. They are airborne and are transferred into pool & spa water carried by wind, leaves, dust, on bathers and through grass and other matter carried in/on feet or in the water source (particularly tank water).

Phosphate is the favourite food source for algae. Algae enjoy warmth, moisture and a staple diet of phosphate.

INFORMATION

It is true that whenever phosphate is present in water two things are certain to follow:

1. Sanitiser use will noticeably increase in usage.
2. The algae will bloom like never before in all varieties. In some locations, we are seeing increased mustard algae, in others green, black and even pink algae are thriving.

It is well documented that, the higher the phosphate levels the more excessive the consumption of sanitiser and the more stubborn the algae are to control and eliminate.

Small amounts of algae, (that cannot be seen by the naked eye only under a microscope); consistently enter the pool attached to dust, leaves, grass on feet, on our bodies and bathers.

Once in the pool or spa, they have everything they need – phosphate, sulphate and nitrate as nutrients, sunlight, heat or moisture and so they multiply like rabbits, and become a threat to sanitisers like chlorine, bromine and even Poppit Spa Sanitiser and Poppit Sanosil Sanitiser

They rapidly destruct chlorine just as they do any other sanitiser.

The tiny spores of algae explode into a colony of algae with amazing speed. In spas, the “tell tale sign” – even before you can see the algae, is that your sanitiser use will increase dramatically and, often, a fume like vapour will be noticeable which tickles the throat and, on occasions can cause coughing.



Poppits

Technical Bulletin

Phosphates – The latest enemy

One of the traditional ways to treat visible algae has been to “shock” the pool with massive doses of lithium or chlorine. This is not only harmful to the environment, the spa headrests and jets, but is also potentially a health hazard. Besides this, the effects are very short lived, as these products are not true algaecides.

If algae are present, even when you “shock” treat with Poppit Quick Fix the same thing occurs. These methods tend to oxidise the algae but in doing so, a portion of the phosphate contained in the “dead” algae is released back into the water, (as the algae die in the filter).

In mild cases, using 30 ml/ 1,000 litres of water of Poppit Pool & Spa Complete Maintenance followed by thorough and frequent cleaning of the filter cartridges with Poppit (phosphate free) Filter Cartridge Cleaner will not only remove the problem, it is an extremely effective preventative. It is recommended that Poppit Pool & Spa Complete Maintenance is used every 3-4 weeks and filters are cleaned weekly

In cases where the algae have established a hold, It is recommended that pool & spa owners (and service people) tackle this growing problem with a two-pronged attack as a preventative measure

FIRST, treat with a phosphate remover and algaecide that is powerful enough to control all strains of algae! Pool Poppit 3 month algaecide is considered by most professionals to be the strongest. This is the only algaecide compatible with Poppit Spa Sanitiser and Poppits Sanosil. Follow instructions on the label 30 mL / 1,000 litres is generally sufficient to kill the algae and will clean up the spa within 48 -72 hours..This will provide protection for the life of the water in the spa

SECOND, clean the filter cartridges thoroughly with Poppit Filter Cartridge Cleaner. In fact take a look at this **EXTRACT** from U.S. Pool & Spa News:

A high level of phosphates can make pool service a nightmare, helping spawn algae blooms at a breakneck pace. The pools on your route may be at risk because many water treatment centres add phosphate to reduce friction and preserve plumbing lines.

With high-phosphate water coming out of the tap, pool service people should take a proactive

(Phosphate removers do not actually remove the phosphates. Instead, they form an insoluble molecule that becomes trapped in the filter. Thus, make sure to clean your filter after using these products).

May we add – Poppit Filter Cartridge Cleaner - does not contain phosphate, sulphate or nitrate. The only cartridge cleaner that can make that claim is Poppit Filter Cartridge Cleaner

Make sure that you have some on hand at all times and step up the cleaning of your filters to weekly.