May Newsletter

Your swimming pool is an investment and in some cases can add value to your property. We want to help you protect your investment. It is no secret that owning a swimming pool can be costly at times. This is why many pool owners try to maintain their own swimming pools. This may sound like a good idea and it is a little cheaper if you have the time, knowledge and experience in maintaining a proper chemical balance and keeping your pool free from debris. Included in proper maintenance of a swimming pool is also extensive knowledge of your swimming pool equipment. If you have the time and knowledge it may be okay and cost effective to clean and maintain your own swimming pool. The problem is that most pool owners lack time and knowledge to properly maintain their swimming pool. Let's face it - cleaning a swimming pool is not that difficult if you have time. It's the chemistry that is most crucial to the health and clarity of your swimming pool and this is where most do-it-yourselfers lack experience. Improper chemical balance is the main cause for rough plaster, rust stains, green algae, yellow algae, black algae, slimy water, cloudy water, calcium build up, etc... If one does not have experience in maintaining swimming pool water it is not recommended to maintain your own pool. Having such knowledge is the key in preventive maintenance. You may think your pool man is there just to remove leaves and debris out of your pool. But there is a way more important mission we have as your pool service. We are preventing the water from damaging your swimming pool. The leaves and debris are just one small portion of what we do. Our main goal at "Crystal Clear Pools" is to make sure your swimming pool is safe, clean, and in good working order all year round. We are in constant battle with the chemistry to ensure this is the case.

Chemicals can also be very costly to buy from a retail outlet especially when you are fighting algae or using the pool a lot. This is your biggest expense. As one of our swimming pool service customers you will no longer have to worry about buying chemicals including conditioner, tablets, acid, chlorine, algaecides etc.. it is all included in our new Flat Fee Service. This means no EXTRA FEES appearing on your bill. Sign up today to enjoy a huge savings! While looking for pool maintenance companies, look no further than "Crystal Clear Pools", for all your maintenance and swimming pool repair service needs. Thank you for reading and we look forward to serving you!

Crystal Clear Pools of Florida

■ Pool & Spa Service ■ Pool Supplies ■ Pool & Spa Repair

Preventative maintenance is the key.

Swimming pool repair is one of those projects that can make a world of difference in how you and others view your home. While certainly not the most pressing task in the world, neglecting swimming pool repairs is a recipe for bigger issues down the road. An unused pool is not only an eyesore, it's also a huge waste of valuable space; one of the most effective ways to keep your pool up and running is to tackle swimming pool repairs as soon as possible and to keep up with your swimming pool maintenance. Often, regular swimming pool maintenance is able to reduce the frequency of pool problems significantly, saving you money and hassle over time. Hiring a company for your swimming pool maintenance is certainly the easiest way to go, but as many homeowners find pool upkeep to be a fun and fulfilling do-it-yourself project, doing the research on how to do your own swimming pool maintenance will often save you a little money and provide you with an enjoyable hobby, too!

NEED HELP TROUBLE-SHOOTING YOUR POOL/ SPA? Call our office or Email us. We will schedule one of our experienced technicians to troubleshoot your concern and provide you with our recommendations to keep your pool/spa operating as it should.

(Please note that there is a service charge for this).

Pool automation makes YOUR life easier.

Adding automation takes the work out of pool and spa ownership by automating all work-intensive functions, such as sanitization, balancing pH, cleaning and filtration. For even more control, customize your system to manage other backyard features — landscape and pool lighting, water features, and more. Take control as far as you can – even right into the water with a wireless, waterproof remote. Perhaps best of all, automation can save you money — by automating essential pool and spa functions, you can save up to 70% on your pool's energy costs.

For vacation homes the addition of automation to your pool system has so many benefits. The most important has to be that no more will you need to ask your guests to walk to your pool equipment simply to switch on the spa, all they need to do is walk onto your pool deck, turn the timer or hit the button and the valves will automatically change for them. No More will you have to hear that the spa was left running all night or that you have to call someone out to re-set your valves as the guests have moved them. Automation also gives you the ability to rent your home with Spa heat only.

Chemically Cleaning a Cartridge Filter Element

We reccommend chemically clean your filter a minimum of twice a year or when pressure cannot be relieved by rinsing. Depending on the bather load or environment your pool is subject to, you may need to chemically clean your filter more often. If any of the bands on your filter are broken, the pleats are not straight up and down, or the top or bottom of your filter are not flat and symmetric, you'd be better off to invest in a new cartridge filter element.

- Hose off the cartridge element as you would for your normal cleaning.
- Remove the threaded drain plug at the bottom of the filter tank to allow the rest of the water to drain out.
- Fill a large, clean bucket or trash can half way up with water.
- Add a de-greaser to the water in the bucket. The amount of de-greaser you will need depends on how big your cartridge element is, and the size of the bucket you are soaking it in. You will need to use more de-greaser for very dirty filters, or those that have gone longer than suggested since their last chemical cleaning.
- Place the element in the bucket, and fill the rest of the bucket with water.
- Soak for at least four hours. If the solution does not cover the top of the element, it will be necessary to soak it for four hours, flip it over, and soak it for another four hours.
- While the element is soaking, take your garden hose and manually rinse out the filter tank. Don't forget to replace the drain plug when you are finished. This is also a good time to clean-up and re-lube the tank o-ring.
- Rinse off the element and rinse out the bucket.
- The following steps may not be necessary! Test to see by placing a few drops of acid on the pleats. Proceed if you see any bubbling. If you do not see any bubbling, do not proceed - your chemical cleaning process is completed.
- Again fill the bucket with water, and add a de-scaler to the water in the bucket. The amount of de-scaler you will need depends on how big your cartridge element is, and the size of the bucket you are soaking it in. You will need to use more de-scaler for very dirty filters, or those that have gone longer than suggested since their last chemical cleaning. You may substitute an acid solution for the de-scaler. Add one gallon muriatic acid for every four gallons of water.
- Place the element in the bucket and fill the rest of the bucket with water.
- Soak for at least four hours, but not more than 24. If the solution does not cover the top of the element, it will be necessary to soak it for four hours, flip it over, and soak it for another four hours.
- Rinse off the element and rinse out the bucket. This completes the chemical cleaning process.
- 14. Reassemble your filter.

SIGNS YOUR SWIMMING POOL NEEDS CLEANING

That green tarp covering your pool? You DON'T have a tarp on your pool

FIVE KEYS TO POOL CARE

Many of the most common pool care problems can be avoided, or at least minimized, by simply mastering these five keys:

♦ **Circulation** - The more the water moves, the harder it is for problems to take hold. Additionally, properly circulated water insures that chemicals are properly mixed throughout the pool.

♦ **Filtration** - Filtered water removes insoluble waste particles that can cloud the water and compete with bacteria and algae for the sanitizers attention.

♦ **Cleaning** - Vacuuming and brushing debris and biofilm in the pool and on the surfaces prevent the growth of bigger problems, making it easier to keep the water clean. Routine use of a skimmer net is helpful in removing floating debris to prevent it from settling to the bottom of the pool.

♦ **Chemistry** - Adding the proper amount of the right products at the right time insures that the water stays clear, clean and healthy.

♦ **Testing** - By measuring critical water factors, you can make sure the water is balanced and an adequate sanitizer level is being maintained.

Paying attention to these five keys will guarantee the beautiful water you expect. It should also be understood that poor filtration or inadequate circulation cannot be overcome by adding more chemicals. Numerous water problems are related to poor or inadequate filtration and/or circulation.

Algae Prevention

Algae is the second major enemy of pools. These microscopic plants do not carry disease like bacteria. But they do multiply rapidly, and they can cause several problems:

- The pool becomes unsafe, since the bottom of the pool cannot be seen, and the bottom becomes slick
- The problem will be very costly to remedy
- The pool will be a poor advertisement for future pool ownership
- Algae rarely shows up at a good time.

There are three basic categories of pool algae: Green Algae, Mustard Algae, and Black (actually Blue-Green) Algae. But within these categories are literally hundreds of different species. Algae can be found in all areas of the world, from the ice-caps of the two poles to the most arid of deserts. The ease with which algae can adapt to a variety of environments is the very characteristic that makes algae control so important in a pool.

If algae is allowed to get a good foot-hold in a pool, it can be a friend for life (well, a long time anyway). It can be a suitable companion for the bacteria as well. When algae respire (breathing in carbon dioxide and exhaling oxygen) the algae is actually feeding the bacteria (which breath in oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide). This relationship, between bacteria and algae, can rapidly get out of hand causing a pool to "turn on you" over night.

To fight back, you need products formulated to work together. The key is to prevent algae from growing to begin with.

The first line of bacterial defense is the primary chlorine sanitizer, but in order for the Step 1 chlorine to do both jobs (killing bacteria and killing algae) the amount of Free Available Chlorine would have to be increased to at least 6 to 9 ppm FAC, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The "Shock" treatments in Step 2 also control algae growth (in addition to breaking down body oils, perspiration, urine and wind-blown debris), but those treatments are only performed once or twice every two weeks.

To fight the growth of algae effectively, you need the Step 3 Algae Inhibitors, to provide 'round-the-clock protection. In addition to inhibiting the growth of algae, the Step 3 products also have a surfactant capability. The word surfactant comes from its description: Surface Active Agent. It applies to any chemical compound that can decrease the surface tension of a liquid (water). When you add a surfactant to pool water, it helps the water penetrate the cracks and crevices where algae hide. And of course, the water brings the FAC and any other algae-killing chemicals with it. By adding an algae inhibitor on a regular schedule, you can control these microscopic plants before they cause problems. And that's the whole purpose of Step 3.

HOW TO "PULL" A GOOD WATER SAMPLE

You must keep your sample in a neutral temperature environment until you can bring it in or drop it off. Keep it in the house, or bring it in to work with you. You may even pull your sample the night before, if necessary.

- Make sure the pool has been circulating for at least 2 hours.
- Do not pull your sample near the skimmer (where the water is drawn off of the surface), or near a return (jet or inlet).
- Use a clean Ziploc®-type bag, or a jar or bottle (DO NOT use a soda bottle, pickle jar, or mayonnaise jar).
- Rinse the vessel several times with the pool water.
- Turn the vessel completely upside down and submerge it to at least 18" (which is past your elbow), turn it right side up and wait for it to stop bubbling (signifying that it is full).

SIGNS YOUR SWIMMING POOL NEEDS CLEANING

Kids still pee in your pool, but they refuse to get in it first.