

WATERLINES Retail Store Issue

Poop Happens, Now What?

Dare we utter those dreaded words... "Oh no! Someone pooped in the swimming pool, now what?"

When there are children swimming in the pool your bound to have an, AFR (Accidental Fecal Release). Here's what to do if poop happens to you!



What is the first thing that pops into your head when you think about water safety? Drowning? Slipping? Lightning? All good answers, and all are very important. But, did you know that germs can contaminate swimming water? These germs cause RWIs that make many people sick.

RWIs are caused by germs such as "Crypto" (KRIP-toe), short for *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia* (gee-ARE-dee-uh), *E. coli* 0157:H7, and *Shigella* (Shi-GEL-uh).

HOW ARE RWIs SPREAD?

RWIs are spread by swallowing pool water that has been contaminated with fecal matter. How? If someone has diarrhea, that person can easily contaminate the pool. Think about it. Pool water is shared by every swimmer. Really, it's communal bathing water. It's not sterile. It's not drinking water.

The good news is that germs causing RWIs are killed by chlorine. However, chlorine doesn't work right away. It takes time to kill germs and some germs like Crypto can live in pools for days. Even the best maintained pools can spread illness. Using a product such as SeaKlear's PRS Stage 1 & 2 effectively traps algae, *Cryptosporidium*, *E. Coli* and *Giardia* in the pool filter. PRS allows the pool filter to trap particles that are too small to be trapped by conventional filtration methods. Use PRS as a preventative treatment when the bather load is heavy, children will be swimming or simply for peace of mind.

CONTINUED ON THE BACK



Pool Sense Tips

Tip 1: With hot summer temperatures just around the corner, your pool needs much closer attention. The slightest bit of cloudiness or discoloration on your pool walls is a tip-off that a serious algae problem is about to confront you. The best solution is to shock the pool with one gallon of liquid chlorine for every 10,000 gallons of water, and then add Algimycin 2000. Brush the pool thoroughly after treatment. Use Algimycin 2000 on a weekly basis as a preventative measure against algae. Both products are stocked in the NSPS Retail Store.

Tip 2: It's very important to test the cyanuric acid level of your swimming pool water during the first couple of weeks your pool is open. The levels should be between 30 and 40 ppm. If you do not have a cyanuric acid test kit, NSPS will be happy to test a sample of your water for you. Just bring in a sample to Ben or Ed and remember to ask for your free NSPS water testing bottle too!

This Weeks Featured & Recommended Items



SeaKlear PRS Stage 1 & 2

\$52.95



Reusable Swim Diapers

\$5.00 each

Retail Store Hours

Monday through Friday

7:00am - 5:00pm

Saturday

8:00am - 1:00pm

North Shore Pool & Spa Inc.

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On / Off Measurements ... Detecting Swimming Pool Leaks



My pool is losing water. What do I do?

There are several causes for swimming pool leaks, but these listed below are the most common causes..

There are two types of leaks. The first is a *suction* leak, found in the pool skimmers, the main drain or the front of the pump. The second is a *pressure* leak from the back of the pump to the inlets that return water to the pool.

Breaks in any of the pool lines can cause water loss, but suction lines generally draw air and lose small amounts of water compared to a leak in a pressure line, which can cause massive water loss.

There are always exceptions to the rule though. In the case of pool leaks, if a main drain breaks down low, it could actually empty the pool to the level of the break. Such a massive leak is not normally attributed to a break in the suction line.

Another place to look for air leaks is the top of the hair and lint trap, which needs a good gasket and a smooth surface for the gasket to seal on.

A poorly operating chemical feeder can suck air when the filter is being backwashed or it could be a loose nut around the stems of the main drain or skimmer valves.

When looking for a leak, NSPS always measures how far the water level drops in 24 hours, first with the pump on, then again with the pump off. If a pool loses more water with the pump on, we suspect the return line, automatic cleaner line or the backwash valve leak. If the pool loses more with the pump off, we suspect the skimmer or main drain lines leak. This helps us to determine where the leak is originating from.

If you suspect you are losing water, perform On/Off Measurements and then contact either Matt or John, Service Managers at NSPS with your results. Your findings may warrant a service call to investigate the water loss further.

Poop Happens, Now What? continued



Someone pooped in the swimming pool, now what?

For both formed-stool and diarrheal fecal incidents:

1. Close the pool to swimmers. If you have Pool/Spa Combo that uses the same filtration system — all pools will have to be closed to swimmers. Do not allow anyone to enter the pool(s) until the disinfection process is completed.
2. Remove as much of the fecal material as possible (for example, using a net or bucket) and dispose of it in a sanitary manner. Clean and disinfect the item used to remove the fecal material (for example, after cleaning, leave the net or bucket immersed in the pool during disinfection).

VACUUMING STOOL FROM THE POOL IS NOT RECOMMENDED, it will contaminate your vacuuming equipment.

Formed stool in the pool? Formed stool can act as a container for germs. If the fecal matter is solid, removing the feces from the pool without breaking it apart will limit the degree of pool contamination.

3. Raise the free chlorine to 2 parts per million (ppm) by shocking the pool with chlorine and maintain a pH of 7.5 or lower. The pool temperature should be 77 degrees or higher. Keep the pool closed for approximately 30 minutes. The filtration equipment should be operating while the pool reaches and maintains the proper free chlorine and pH concentration during the disinfection process.

Diarrhea in the pool? Those who swim when ill with diarrhea place other swimmers at significant risk for getting sick. Diarrheal accidents are much more likely than formed stool to contain germs.

3. Raise the free chlorine concentration to 20 parts per million (ppm) by shocking the pool with chlorine and maintain pH of 7.5 or lower. The pool temperature should be 77 degrees or higher. The free chlorine and pH should remain at these levels for at least 12 hours and 45 minutes. Do not swim during this time frame. The filtration equipment should be operating while the pool reaches and maintains the proper free chlorine concentration during the disinfection process.
4. Next backwash the filter, do not return the backwash through the filter. If you have filter cartridge elements replace them.
5. Allow swimmers back into the water only after the free chlorine and pH levels have been returned to the normal operating range.

Always have young children wear a reusable swim diaper when swimming in the pool. There are several brands of disposable swim diapers on the market, these are not recommended. A reusable swim diaper should fit snugly around the child's waist and legs. North Shore carries two different brands of these swim diapers. These swim diapers are currently on SALE in our retail store for \$5.00 each. Pick one up today!

If you are unsure about the amounts of chlorine, pH or SeaKlear PRS to add to your swimming pool to achieve the recommended levels please contact Ben or Ed in the retail store 847-564-4910. They will be happy to assist you.

NSPS offers FREE water testing! Bring in a sample of your POOL or SPA water today!

