



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE • COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN NO. 04-08A

DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION

COMMON POOL/SPA PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

ALGAE – Green, cloudy water and/or dark green or black spots on pool shell.

- CAUSES**
- A. Insufficient chlorine
 - B. Not following routine pool maintenance, including testing and shock treating
 - C. Plaster in bad shape (i.e.: etched or cracked)
- REMEDIES**
- A. Super-chlorinate
 - B. Adjust pH to within an ideal range of 7.2 - 7.6
 - C. Brush spots with algae brush
 - D. Use approved algaecide
 - E. Refinish pool surface

CLOUDY WATER – Water appears murky or cloudy looking

- CAUSES**
- A. Algae
 - B. Inefficient recirculation and/or filtration
 - C. Improper chemistry (pH and disinfection levels)
 - D. Calcium particles coming out of solution
- REMEDIES**
- A. Inspect recirculation equipment for proper size and operation.
 - B. Adjust pH to within an ideal range of 7.2 - 7.6
 - C. Maintain chlorine level between 1.5-10 PPM
 - D. Check water balance. You can consult with a pool professional for this.

SCALE – White, gray or brownish deposits on tile, railings, and the pool shell.

- CAUSES**
- A. Calcium deposits caused by excessively hard water
 - B. Accumulation of dissolved solids (particles left as water evaporates)
- REMEDIES**
- A. Adjust pH to within an ideal range of 7.2 - 7.6
 - B. Use Scale or Iron Remover with a brush to remove scale deposits on plaster and tile
 - C. Check water balance. You can consult with a pool professional for this.

EYE-BURN AND CHLORINE-LIKE ODORS

- CAUSES**
- A. Improper pH
 - B. Chlorine has combined with organic material forming chloramines
- REMEDIES**
- A. Super-chlorinate to break up the combined chlorine (chloramines)

*Document available in an alternate format upon request

OFFICES IN: RIVERSIDE, BLYTHE, CORONA, HEMET, INDIO, MURRIETA AND PALM SPRINGS

For more information call (888) 722-4234

Department Web Site – www.rivcoeh.org