



LANDI

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What is Algae?

Algae is a living aquatic plant-like organisms that multiplies rapidly on warm sunny days.

Algae can cloud and color water, but is not harmful to swimmers, however is not pleasant to swim in and can be an eyesore.

What causes Algae problems?

Everyone has, at one time or another battled the occasional algae bloom. Algae spores constantly enter the pool, brought in by wind, rain or even contaminated swimsuits or equipment. Conditions like improper water balance, warm temperatures, sunlight and presence of phosphates and/or carbon dioxide can allow algae blooms to occur overnight.

Of course lack of proper circulation, filtration and sanitation play a big part of this.

What problems can Algae cause?

Algae can take a considerable amount of time and money to get rid of. It is therefore best to use preventative chemicals and techniques to keep algae blooms minimal and/or non-existent.

In addition to clogging up sanitation pathways in the water, algae also clogs up the pores in filters, decreasing filter effectiveness and requiring more backwashing and filter cleaning.

Algae creates a chlorine demand in the water, actually consuming chlorine that should be working on killing bacteria and other contaminants. Therefore when algae is present sanitizer and shock is used up almost immediately.

What types of Algae are there?

There are over 21,000 known varieties of algae! In the pool business we avoid all of the complication by referring to algae by the color they exhibit.

- **Green Algae:**
An extremely common variety, green algae will usually rear its ugly head immediately following a hazy condition in the water from a lack of proper filtration and/or sanitation. It is frequently found free floating in the water, although it also will cling to the walls.
- **Yellow Algae:**
A wall clinging variety, also called mustard algae, is usually found on the shady side of the pool. It is sheet forming, and can be difficult to eradicate completely. Once begun, a pool owner could spend the entire season fighting yellow algae; re-infection is common. This variety is resistant to normal chlorine levels and must be dealt with firmly.
- **Black Algae:**
Perhaps the most aggravating strain of algae. Black algae will appear as dark black or blue/green spots, usually the size of a pencil eraser tip. Their roots extend into the plaster or tile grout, and unless the roots are destroyed completely, a new head will grow back in the same place. The heads also contain protective layers to keep cell destroying chemicals from entering the organism. Like yellow algae, black strains can bloom even in the presence of normal sanitizing levels and proper filtration. I was once told that this form of algae commonly enters a pool inside the swimsuit of a person who's recently been to the ocean.
- **Pink Algae:**
Not really an algae at all, but a form of bacteria. Appears as spots or streaks in corners and crevices. It is slow to spread and rare that it will bloom over an entire pool.

How is algae prevented?

Proper chemical balance, sanitizer levels and filtration will prevent opportunities for algae to bloom.

Improper pH balance (too high or too low) and low chlorine (or sanitizer) level can give algae a great start.

Proper Filtration:

Sand & Cartridges filters should be run at least 10-12 hours every day.

DE (Diatomaceous Earth) filters should be run at least 8-10 hours every day.

Regular brushing prevents dirt from harboring in the pores of plaster & seams of liners which is a good start for an algae colony.

The use of specialty chemicals or algaecides is recommended to provide a back up to normal sanitation and filtration processes and is completely necessary for many pools.

These chemicals are described below:

- **Potassium TetraBorate (Brand Names include Synergy Initiator, Proteam Supreme, Natural Chemistry Foundation, & Simplicity Maximizer)**
This chemical, when added to the pool water in proper dosage, prevents algae from converting carbon dioxide into the fuel it needs for growth.

Algae Preventatives

- **No Mor Problems** – For use to prevent the start and/or return of algae, slime, and mold – An Algaecide and Clarifier in one!
- **Polyquat 60** – Made from Polymers - long complicated chemical strains that behave in water as both a preventative and destroyer.

Algae Destroyers – Any Algaecide used to kill Algae must be used in conjunction with a chlorine shock – a sales associate would be happy to give you step by step instructions based on your problem.

- **Green Treat** – Treats Green Algae
- **Swamp Treat** – Treats Swampy Water/Severe Green Algae
- **Yellow Treat** – Treats Yellow or Mustard Algae
- **Severest Algaecide** – Treats all types of Algae, specifically Black Algae
- **Pink Treat** – Treats Pink or Red Algae(Bacteria)

Remember!

Before, after, and while treating algae you must continue to run your filter as much as possible, backwash/clean as needed, brush the pool walls and bottom, keep sanitizer in the water(Chlorine/Bromine Tablets), continually double shock the pool until it turns cloudy or a bluish/gray color.

Filter, Filter, Filter!!!!

With Sand filters once the water turns from green to cloudy it may be necessary to use a flocculent to settle the dead algae particles to the bottom so that they may be vacuumed out of the pool through waste.

What do you do once the water is clear?

Once the pool has cleared up re-balance all of your levels and be sure to keep them balanced.

Also make sure your water is tested and treated for phosphates, now would be a good idea to add Borates to the water(as mentioned earlier borates suppress Carbon Dioxide, which fuels algae, they also have many other benefits!). Our products containing Potassium TetraBorate chemicals are Synergy Initiator, Proteam Supreme, Natural Chemistry Foundation, and Simplicity Maximizer.

Follow recommended weekly maintenance procedures for your sanitizer, if you are unsure stop by and we would be happy to help you and test your water for **FREE!**

Be sure to continue to run your filter as recommended!

Another item to look at is the method of sanitation and the type of filtering you have. Far too many pools out there were sold with marginal filter systems, meant to run 24 hours per day. Well, these systems get old and tired, or the new owners only run it 12 hours per day (or less). For good algae prevention, we need a combination of good filtration, sanitation and circulation. It may be time to consider changing the old pump and filter. It's cheaper and easier to pay a little up front for more chemicals, electricity or better equipment than all the money and aggravation spent on fighting algae blooms.