PUREWATER

TOTAL HOME LEISURE

CLEARING ALGAE PROBLEMS

Not all algae problems are alike! It can take anywhere from 24 hours to 7 days to eliminate an algae bloom!

1. Clear as much debris (leaves, etc) as possible out of the pool. Organic debris provides food for algae, and if your pool is full of decomposing organic waste it is very difficult to kill the algae! In addition, much of the chlorine you add is wasted trying to "kill" dead leaves rather than attacking the algae!

2. Adjust the pH to 7.2. Alage in the water tends to drive the pH up, high pH promotes algae growth and diminishes the potency of chlorine. Chances are if your pool is green, pH is high. Use muriatic acid or Lo & Slo, following the dosage on the package. Wait three hours, re-test the pH. If the pH is still high, repeat step 2.

3. Shock the pool. For a lightly affected pool, use the recommended amount of HTH Extra or Liquid Chlorine. DO NOT use "lite" or blended shock for killing algae. For a strong or severe case, or if the algae has been in the pool for more than 3 or 4 days, double the shock dosage. Be sure to leave the cover OFF THE POOL until it clears up.

4. Wait one hour then add the recommended dosage of a concentrated algaecide, either Eclipse or Erase are preferred. Do not waste time with weak 'bulk' algaecides as they lack the potency to kill stubborn algae.

5. Brush the pool thoroughly. This dislodges stubborn algae, helps the chlorine reach all parts of the pool, and accelerates the elimination of your algae problem.

6. If you use a timer, disable it. If you use a salt system, set it at 100% output. Leave the system running continuously at high output until things clear up. If your pool isn't circulating, the chlorine isn't reaching the algae in your pump, filter and pipes. Leaving your pool stagnant will cause the algae to start growing again!

7. Repeat steps 2 through 6 DAILY if the algae is stubborn. Step 4 can be skipped if you use a strong algaecide as it will stay potent in the pool for several days. It can take 2 to 5 repeated "shock, drop pH, and brush" treatments before algae is killed off. Do not be alarmed or surprised at the amount of shock you may go through.

8. IF algae resists repeated treatment with shock and algaecide, your pool may contain high levels of phosphates. If you are having limited success with traditional treatment options, bring a sample in to the store for a phosphate test, and, if necessary, you will need to add a phosphate removing agent such as Phos-Free.

9. Dead algae leave fine brown or white sediment in the water or on the bottom of the pool. Cloudy water may require the use of a settling agent, such as Power Floc or Pool First Aid. Fine particles can pass right though a sand filter, so vacuum dead algae with the filter set to waste or drain. Dead algae becomes food for live algae, so it is important to remove it as quickly as possible. After the algae is removed, chemically clean your sand with Filter Brite to prevent further algae blooms and improve your pool's filtration. If you use a cartridge filter, clean it thoroughly after the algae has been extracted.

10. Keep chlorine levels at a minimum of 3 ppm until clear and pH at 7.2 – 7.4 even after the algae is removed. Algae has a harder time getting started in water that is moving, chlorinated and properly balanced.

11. Follow up! Have you water tested monthly at Purewater and be sure to maintain adequate chlorine levels, pH levels and water balance. Use BioGuard Banish algaecide or Natural Chemistry Pool Perfect / Phos Free in weekly maintenance dosages to prevent further algae blooms. Remember Grandma's saying: an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

IF YOU CONTINUE TO HAVE PROBLEMS CALL US AT 726-0099