



PURE WATER

TOTAL HOME LEISURE

CLEARING A CLOUDY POOL

There are several causes and a few cures! Clear water allows you to see whether a coin sitting on the deep end bottom is at “heads or tails”. Patience and persistence will get you back to sparkling water.

- 1 DO NOT try to clear up the pool if there is a lot of debris on the bottom, or live (green) algae in the pool. Remove the solid waste from the bottom of the pool first, and kill off the algae (following our “algae prescription”) before the pool can be cleared up. If the pool is too cloudy to see bottom, you still need to vacuum the pool thoroughly before you try clearing the cloudiness.
- 2 CIRCULATION & FILTRATION! Cloudy water often has little to do with chemistry or chemical solutions, and everything to do with filtration. Fine particles of material are often the cause of cloudiness, sometimes the ‘fix’ is as simple as trapping those particles in the filter. Despite high energy costs we recommend that you run the pump 24/7 in season, and be sure your return jets are pointed down to sweep the bottom of the pool. If you have a sand filter, DO NOT backwash before the filter pressure is 7 PSI higher than clean pressure, as a sand filter performs better when it is a little dirty. If cloudy water is a recurring problem, chemically clean the sand with Filter Brite or Filter Perfect. If the sand bed is saturated with greases or sediment a filter that has not been chemically cleaned may have lost the ability to handle fine sediment that can cause cloudiness. Eventually, replacing the sand may be necessary. If the equipment is more than 15 years old, a perpetually cloudy pool may indicate that you need to replace the pump and / or filter. An old pump will often slow down and the water flow may be diminished so that you are just not getting enough water movement and turnover to clear it up. Finally, keep your solar blanket off a cloudy pool as this will allow proper oxidation of cloud-causing organic wastes.
- 3 BALANCE & pH. If the pH is 7.6 or above, the pool will be very hard to clear. If you are using a lot of shock, you will need to use Muriatic Acid or Lo & Slo, in tandem as shocking the pool also tends to raise the pH. Other elements such as improper levels of stabilizer and alkalinity can make it harder to clear a cloudy pool. When trying to clear up a cloudy pool, maintain a pH of 7.2, and have your water professionally tested to ensure the balance is correct before adding extra chemicals or treatments.
- 4 SANITATION: IS THERE CHLORINE IN THE POOL? Maintain a high level of sanitizer at all times if the water is cloudy, as chemical demand is likely to be VERY HIGH. If you keep testing zero chlorine, you may need to shock repeatedly, use extra pucks, and turn up the chlorinator, especially if there are organic wastes contributing to the cloudiness. If chlorine keeps “disappearing” that is a sign that organic wastes are at least partly to blame, so you may need to double or even triple the normal dosage. When shocking a cloudy pool we suggest that you use liquid chlorine or hTh extra. Using weaker calcium based shock on a cloudy pool can make the water even cloudier.
- 5 CLARIFY. Use a clarifier if the above steps do not resolve the matter. Polysheen and Clarifying Tabs are perfect if the pool is a little cloudy. If it is very cloudy (if you cannot see the bottom in the deep end) use Power Floc or Pool First Aid. Follow the directions carefully. Power Floc, once applied, will only work if you turn the pump OFF to allow debris to settle! Power Floc USUALLY works within 24 hours, but may need an extra day. Power Floc will drop sediment to the bottom of the pool, this sediment must be vacuumed out. We recommend setting your filter head to the waste position when you vacuum this debris as it can clog a sand filter very rapidly. Weekly treatment with Pool Perfect / Phos Free is an excellent follow up treatment to help prevent cloudy water.

IF YOU CONTINUE TO HAVE PROBLEMS CALL US AT (613) 726-0099