



Spring Newsletter

Crystal Clear Swimming Pools

Spring 2015

Solar Blanket Care

Make your solar blanket last as long as possible

There are several things you can do to make your solar blanket last longer.

Firstly, a solar blanket should always be installed on a roller, not only for convenience, but it will prevent the solar blanket from folding and cracking.

The main cause of solar blanket failure is the sun, believe it or not! When your blanket is NOT on the swimming pool you must protect it from UV rays. The UV rays will dry out the blanket and it will quickly deteriorate a dry, rolled up solar blanket. Roll up your blanket on the roller and cover the entire roll with a UV resistant cover.

The next leading cause of solar blanket failure is Chlorine. Do not put your solar blanket back on your swimming pool until at least 24 hours after shocking the pool. The high level of chlorine (above 3 ppm) in the pool water will rapidly eat away at your cover.

Water chemistry also has a huge impact on the life of your blanket. You must keep your water in balance. Do not allow your pH level to fall below 7.0 for extended periods of time as it will deteriorate your blanket.

Dirt, microscopic insects and leaf tannins all tend to have a low pH and will slowly eat away at your blanket. You should wash your blanket periodically with solar blanket cleaner.

For the winter you should cover your blanket and roller with a Winter Jacket. This will protect your blanket and roller from the winter elements.

You should also remove your blanket every 3 or 4 days in order to give your pool a chance to breath and prevent algae from growing around the bubbles.

Solar blankets and accessories are available from Crystal Clear.

A word about Automatic Vacuums



Automatic vacuum systems are great for convenience but if used improperly you could be damaging your pool and equipment.

The number one mistake everyone makes is leaving their automatic vacuum in the pool all the time. This not only leads to rapid wear of your vacuum but also your liner. This is especially true if your vacuum gets stuck at a ladder or on the main drain. I have seen a suction side vacuum eat a large hole right beside a ladder after just a few days.

You want to try and use your vacuum as little as possible. If you plan to use your pool on the weekend put the vacuum in the pool the day before then remove it once the pool is clean.

Do not shock your pool with your vacuum in the water. Leave the vacuum out for at least 24 hours.

UV rays and bad water chemistry can also deteriorate your vacuum, just as mentioned in the solar blanket article to the left.

The main cause of solar blanket failure is the sun!

Believe it or not!

The importance of water balance

There's more to water balance than just clear water

Water balance is not only important for bather comfort but also has a real impact on the overall life and efficiency of your pool and its equipment. Your pool may look crystal clear but it may not be healthy for you or your pool.

Sanitizer: The job of sanitizer is to stop algae from forming and kill any harmful bacteria in the water. If the sanitizer is too low your water will start to get cloudy and algae will begin to form. If the sanitizer is too high it can eat away at your equipment and accessories. High sanitizer can also cause eye irritation.

pH: This is a measure of how acidic or basic your pool water is. If your pH is low your water is acidic. This can cause your pool equipment to dissolve into the water as the acid eats away at all parts of your pool, like heaters, ladders and other metal equipment. If your pH is too high scale will begin to form inside your equipment making it much less efficient, and scale may form on other metal parts of your pool like ladders etc. Both high and low

conditions will make your sanitizer much less effective meaning you need to use more sanitizer than necessary. Eye and skin irritation may also occur with high or low pH.

Alkalinity: This is like a pH buffer, if the alkalinity is too high or too low it makes it very difficult to adjust and maintain the proper pH range. This may also cause corrosion of your pool equipment as well as eye irritation and cloudy water.

Calcium Hardness: You must maintain at least 175 ppm calcium hardness in order to prevent etching of swimming pool surfaces. This is extremely important in tile or concrete pools as low calcium will result in etching of the tiles.

Stabilizer: This is especially important if you are not using stabilized chlorine. Liquid chlorine does not contain stabilizer. This is also very important in a salt based pool. Think of it as a sunscreen for the chlorine. If you have low stabilizer the UV rays from the sun will quickly burn off your chlorine

and greatly reduce the effectiveness of a salt unit.

Dissolved Metals: These can cause stains to form on the surface of the swimming pool liner, stairs and other equipment. Copper and iron are the most common dissolved metals found in swimming pools. Metals can easily be removed by using a sequestering agent.

Phosphates/Nitrates: Both of these will drastically reduce the effectiveness of your sanitizer, especially in salt based pools. Algae likes to feed on phosphates and thrives when phosphates are present in the water. Phosphates come from many sources including garden fertilizer, cleaning products and plant debris.

You can easily test your water for sanitizer, pH and alkalinity using test strips. This should be done at least weekly.

*Contact us for complete
Electronic Water Analysis*

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Contact us if you have any questions or require further information about the contents of this newsletter, or wish to book an appointment.

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