

Circulation System Down

During every pool owner's tenure there will come a time when the system becomes temporarily inoperable. This could be because a pump failed, an equipment leak or any other wide variety of issues that can arise with a swimming pool. This FYI sheet is designed to help understand what we need to do to keep a clean and clear swimming pool from going green and cloudy when we cannot rely on the equipment.

The primary thing we need to concern our selves with is keeping chlorine in the water. Since we cannot rely upon the system to inject new chlorine for us, we will have to add it manually to the water. There are numerous chlorine-containing compounds we could use for this function, but our preferred compound would be Sodium Dichlor due to its relatively neutral pH, and that it is a stabilized chlorine meaning it can resist UV degradation. Liquid chlorine can also be used effectively, but it has a high pH which can lead the need to offset that impact. One pound of Dichlor or 1 gallon of liquid chlorine (Sodium Hypochlorite) can add about 5ppm of chlorine to 20,000 gallons, which is about the same for liquid chlorine (1 gallon). We want to add enough product daily to the system to introduce about 5ppm of free chlorine to the pool.

Since the system is not operational, we need to take care when adding products to the pool. Any powder added, if not pre dissolved, should be brushed thoroughly to avoid prolonged contact with the surface of the pool.

Once products have been added to the pool a thorough brushing is recommended for the agitation of the water. This will help the water distribute the chlorine homogeneously throughout the pool.

The pool can still be used if there is a testable free chlorine level above 2ppm and under 5ppm in the water. Sanitation is our primary concern when swimming in a pool. If there is no testable sanitizer the water is not safe to swim in.

If done correctly, you can easily get a pool through two to three weeks of down time without losing water quality. If the pool gets hazy do not worry as it often clears within the first few days of restoring circulation. Once the pool is functioning again correctly, you should have the water tested professionally to re balance the chemistry.

