

RT SWIMMING POOL SERVICES

PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL SWIMMING POOL AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES SINCE 1970

AUTUMN 2020 NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our Autumn 2020 Newsletter. I hope that you, your family and friends are safe and well and have made good use of your swimming pool and spa facilities over the summer season?

We were really sorry to hear that we tragically lost one of our customers, Richard Place, to the virus and would like to send our sincere condolences to his wife and family for their very sad loss.

At the outset of the pandemic, we made the decision to continue operating with additional safety precautions. We felt it really important to ensure your facilities were properly sanitised for your safe enjoyment and exercise, particularly when we have been asked to play our part by staying at home for long periods wherever possible.

I am very pleased to advise that RT Swimming Pool Services are a Wave 105 'Cash for Kids 2020' Trade Champion. We have provided an initial donation which will help improve the lives of up to 10 disadvantaged children in the south who are affected by poverty, illness, neglect or have additional needs. We are looking at initiatives to raise as much money as possible for this thoroughly worthwhile cause. We have agreed to donate the first £100 invoiced to any new client who signs up to our services having mentioned 'Cash for Kids'.

In the following notes our Maintenance Director, David Brown has identified some lesser-known reasons why pools may go cloudy and green. In addition to those highlighted by David, it should be remembered that failure to change the sand in the filter (at least every five years), repair damaged or missing areas of grout, carry out a complete re-grouting (at least every ten to fifteen years), or repair/replace pool liners

may also be underlying reasons for problems occurring. In this newsletter we have highlighted some ideas for ongoing maintenance and improvements to your facilities, which should you decide to take up, we will make further donations to 'Cash for Kids'.

Should you wish to support Wave 105 'Cash for Kids' you can donate via our giving page: <https://www.cashforkidsgive.co.uk/donate/one-off/wave-105-everyday-trade-champion/rt-swimming-pool-services-limited/>

Following our move to business premises in a modern new unit at Holton Heath in 2018, and our transition to a private limited company on 1st May 2019, I am pleased to report that we obtained our SafeContractor Accreditation Certificate in March 2020. In order to obtain accreditation, we formalised our health and safety procedures as well as many other processes and we hope this will bring our clients additional peace of mind when engaging our services.

Thank you for your custom and support which has helped us keep going over a very challenging time. Stay safe and well.

Richard



Richard Tyrell
Managing Director



MAINTENANCE
CONTRACTS



SUMMERISATION/
WINTERISATION



GENERAL POOL
CLEANING



POOL EQUIPMENT/
CHEMICALS



RENOVATIONS
& REPAIRS



POOL PROBLEMS



POOL DESIGN & BUILD

As Maintenance Director it is my responsibility to ensure your pools, spas and equipment are always at their best for you to enjoy. However, hard as we try (and we do try hard), there are occasions where conditions get the better of us and your pools and spas become cloudy and/or green, often overnight and without warning.

Our resident 'Pool Doctor' Richard, believes that prevention is better than cure and there is no substitute for regular ongoing professional servicing. Where we provide regular servicing, we get to know your pool, spa and plant room inside out so that we can identify little irregularities and avoid small problems becoming big ones that can put your pool out of action.

Over the summer lockdown, some of you may have experienced problems with algae and or cloudy/green water, so we are taking this opportunity to explain some of the reasons why and how these problems arise.

There are actually over 50 different types of algae of every imaginable colour which can give rise to an algae infection on the walls and floor of your pool. It is commonly believed that under-chlorination is the cause of the algae infection. However, whilst this is sometimes the case, a pool regularly maintained with a chlorine reading of between 4 to 5 ppm can become infected overnight. Just one laurel hedge leaf and many other evergreen shrubs and bushes can carry up to 56 different types of algae spores, so one leaf can be the source of infection starting a fast-growing multiplying organism.

When this happens, the only answer is a shock chlorine dosing and the use of special knock-out algaecides to kill the algae which are then vacuumed as waste once killed. Unfortunately, this does mean your pool will be out of use during treatment, so it is most important to keep a close eye on your pool's condition.

Living where we do in such a privileged part of the country, does bring with it one or two problems for pool water.



David Brown
Maintenance Director

We are surrounded by pine and fir trees and all manner of lovely shrubs, bushes and trees which thrive in our climate. However, a very large number of these carry algae spores on their leaves as well as in their pollen and seeds which get carried by the winds and into your pools to start an infection.

Algae thrives on sunlight and phosphates which come from plants. In fact some water companies (but luckily not Bournemouth) actually treat their water with phosphates. Leaving your solar cover on continuously during hot spells creates very warm under-water which also encourages algae growth.

Cloudy/green pool water may also be caused by incorrect pH levels, which can cause a pool even with high chlorine content to turn, as can humid thundery conditions. Finally, it should be remembered that with heavier-than-normal usage during the lockdown, the chlorine levels become depleted more quickly leaving the pool vulnerable.

At RT Swimming Pool Services, we are on hand to assist, so at the first sign of an algae infection please inform us so that we can arrange a visit to treat the infection and minimise downtime. For next season our regular customers may wish to consider asking us to carry out quick intermediate visits to check the water balance and adjust the chemicals where required. Whilst there we will carry out a visual inspection to identify any lurking issues.

Now that the autumn is upon us, we will be commencing the winterisation process as soon as you ask us to. This will protect your pool and equipment from damage due to freezing water and keep it as clean as possible for next season.

Our usual process for winterising your pool is known as passive or complete winterisation. This process requires a complete shutdown of the filtration pump and water treatments. The swimming pool is totally closed during the winter season. However, there is an alternate approach which is becoming more widely used and is known as active or semi winterisation. Where this approach is preferred, a frost thermostat would need to be installed on the swimming pool pump. The frost thermostat is designed to detect when the air/water temperature falls below a certain level so as to activate the pump which in turn circulates the pool water to prevent freezing.

There are advantages and disadvantages to each approach and should you wish to discuss moving to active winterisation, please contact us to discuss the benefits. However, in the meantime we will continue with our usual approach.

David

The POOL DOCTOR



Over the next two pages we have detailed some ideas, which may save you some money in the long run and help the Wave 105 'Cash for Kids' Charity

Heatsavr™ - a Liquid Pool Blanket

Heatsavr is a patented product which is a bio-degradable liquid which forms a transparent monomolecular layer over the surface of a swimming pool whenever it is calm. This layer significantly reduces evaporation, which not only saves on water heating but with indoor pools can reduce the cost of humidity control and air heating requirements. An automatic dosing system ensures that the correct dose of Heatsavr is added to the pool at the same time each day.

Can people swim while Heatsavr is in use? Yes, Heatsavr is tested and proven to be absolutely safe. It's designed to be in use 24 hours a day and works whenever the pool water is calm.

Is Heatsavr safe for filters and plumbing? Yes, it is non-corrosive avoiding detrimental effect on pipes, pumps, filters etc commonly used in pool applications.

Is Heatsavr environmentally friendly? Yes. Not only does Heatsavr biodegrade into safe, simple compounds, but the reduction in energy use is especially beneficial. Swimmers in the pool will not know it's in use.

Is Heatsavr easy to use, and how do I apply it? Yes, this product is very easy to use. Whilst it can be applied manually using a measuring cup, it is recommended for the product to be applied via an automatic dosing system.

How much energy can I expect to save from using Heatsavr? Savings of 20 to 50% are possible, depending on variables pertaining to the operation of the pool.

Can Heatsavr be used along with a standard pool cover? Yes, Heatsavr will work when the cover is off, and will reduce heat loss around the edges and tears when the cover is on.

Please contact us should you be interested in having a Heatsavr automatic dosing system installed. We would be happy to provide additional information regarding the system and how this may result in cost savings for you. Should you decide to ask us to arrange for the installation of the automatic dosing system, we will donate a further £25 to the Wave 105 'Cash for Kids' Charity upon completion.

Changing the sand in your swimming pool filter – Why this pool maintenance task could save you money

When new, the filter sand in your sand filter has been ground to a size of .45 to .55 mm in diameter and is very rough. The roughness of the sand is what makes it efficient at filtering out the particles of dirt in the pool water. Over time the roughness of the sand is smoothed out as stones in the flow of water pass through the filtering system. As the sand becomes smoother, the efficiency of the filtering deteriorates. This means that the system has to run more frequently to accomplish the same task.



This can increase the amount of sanitiser required, thus increasing your chemical costs. We have found that after around 5 years, sand will be worn so much that it allows dirt to penetrate so deep that normal backwashing does not clean it completely. The result of this is shorter filter cycles requiring more frequent backwashing.

At RT Swimming Pool Services, we recommend that the sand in your filtration system is changed at least every five years. We have a great deal of experience in changing sand in filters. It is a dirty job and certainly not one of our engineers' favourites, it is an essential task that should not be delayed.

If the sand in your filter has not been changed in the last five years and you would like us to carry out a sand change, please contact us to book an appointment. Where we carry out the sand change between 1st November 2020 and 15th March 2021, we will donate a further £25 to the Wave 105 'Cash for Kids' Charity upon completion. In addition, our principal supplier SCP have generously agreed to discount each bag of sand by £2.58 per bag which we will add to our donation.

Re-Grouting your Swimming Pool

A question we often get asked at RT Swimming Pool Services is 'does my pool really need re-grouting?' Well this depends on a number of things:

- Does the pool keep going green?
- Are there black lines where the grout should be?
- Are there black spots?
- Is your pool becoming a problem?
- Are there areas of missing grout?

Where the grout is missing, algae spores will start to form on the porous surface under the tiles – algae loves porous surfaces and not in a good way!

As a rule of thumb, we would say you should consider having your pool looked at with a view to re-grouting after a period of around 10 to 15 years or earlier should you be experiencing a combination of the problems mentioned above, or the water has not been kept properly in balance with total alkalinity and calcium hardness at correct levels. Re-grouting will not only improve the look of your pool but will reduce the cost of chemicals used to remediate algae and black spots as well as the associated downtime following treatment.

If you feel it is time for your pool to be re-grouted, please contact us to book a free appraisal. Should you decide to ask us to carry out a re-grout between 1st November 2020 to 15th March 2021, we will donate a further £25 to the Wave 105 'Cash for Kids' Charity upon completion.



MAINTENANCE
CONTRACTS



SUMMERISATION/
WINTERISATION



GENERAL POOL
CLEANING



POOL EQUIPMENT/
CHEMICALS



RENOVATIONS
& REPAIRS



POOL PROBLEMS



POOL DESIGN & BUILD



Please contact us to discuss your swimming pool requirements!

Unit C15 | Admiralty Park | Station Road | Holton Heath | Dorset | BH16 6HX

01202 536455 **07977 036068**

info@rtswimmingpoolservices.com www.rtswimmingpoolservices.com

RT Swimming Pool Services Limited Registered in England and Wales No. 11872559