

“Splash Zone”

Taylor's Pool Service - “The Pool Professionals”

NEWSLETTER – ISSUE 2 – WINTER 2011



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Greetings from the team at Taylor's Pool Service

Welcome to our latest newsletter. Each issue will strive to bring to you the latest tips, information, developments and suggestions to help you achieve a great looking pool just like the one above.

Well the mild Autumn has come to an end and we were kept busy in all departments. Our computerized in-store water analysis system was kept running red hot as customers have winterized their pools and started up their Spas as the chilly weather approaches. So again a BIG thank you goes out to you all for your continuing support over this time.

In this issue we reiterate the importance of winterizing your pool (no it's not too late to do!), cover the importance of checking your pool over winter so you don't get any nasty surprises when summer comes around and how to keep your spa clean, healthy and in good operation. So, happy reading and we hope you find this newsletter helpful

Happy Pooling & Spa-ing

We Sell The Best & Service The Rest

- ✓ New Pools & Spas
- ✓ Pool Renovations
- ✓ Pool Repairs
- ✓ Spa Repairs
- ✓ Replacement Pool Liners
- ✓ New Pumps & Filters
- ✓ Re-sanding Filters
- ✓ Filter & Pump Repairs
- ✓ Pool Valet
- ✓ Pool & Spa Covers
- ✓ Pool Sola Heating
- ✓ Heat Pumps
- ✓ Pool Fencing
- ✓ Automatic Pool Cleaners
- ✓ Salt Chlorinators
- ✓ Pool & Spa Chemicals
- ✓ Accessories

Winterizing your Pool – It's easy, and Inexpensive

“We just turn everything off over winter and worry about cleaning it at the beginning of summer....”

Does this sound like you? It is something we hear a little too often around this time of year. “It’s too expensive to do that (winterize) and it’s easier to either get you guys in or me to clean the pool myself at the beginning of summer”. But is it?

The average cost to clean up a green pool is \$500 - \$600 (chemicals & labour) and often, because the pump hasn’t been running, some repairs, such as bearing replacements, have to be done to the pump. This can add another \$300 to the cost. So you could be looking at anywhere between \$500 to \$900.

Compare this to the cost of winterizing your pool. The average cost for chemicals (6 mth supply) for a 40,000ltr pool is \$130, add to this the cost of running the filter for 2 hours a day, \$40 - \$50 for the 6 months and you have a total of \$170 - \$180. That’s less than \$1 a day. Not only is there an immediate dollars savings over this time but there is also the added benefit of less damage to your plant (filter, pump, pipes etc) and you also have a great looking pool all year round.

So what’s involved in winterizing your pool. Well – not much really. You need a good winter chemical kit, a little bit of chlorine and run your filter for around 2 hours a day. Easy really.

Due to changes in our climatic conditions, long gone are the days when you could pour in a bottle of winterizer and be assured of a clear pool at the start of summer. Our winters have become milder to the point where we have some warm “spring” days during winter. This milder weather tends to neutralize the winterizer effects.

Our recommendation for the winter kit is our Lo-Chlor Winter Pack. This comes complete with a bottle of Algaecide, a bottle of Starver (eats phosphates which are algae food) and a clarifying cube to help the filter remove any fine particles from the pool water. The Lo-Chlor Algaecide & Starver work together to combat algae and can be used year round. This kit will last the average pool owner 6 months. The kit comes with complete easy to follow instructions (see full instructions in the white panel) and is the system we use on all the pools we regularly service (valet).

Once the pool has been winterized, cover the pool (if you have one), set the timer and walk away. Usually you only need to remember to check the pool once a month and add a little chlorine (if needed). You re-dose with the remainder of the winter pack after 3 months which takes you through to the spring.

So as you can see, it’s not hard, it’s not expensive and it will save you a lot of hard work at the beginning of spring. You’ll be happy, your kids will be happy and your pool will be happy



How to Winterize your Pool so it won't look like this..

- 1) Firstly clean & vacuum the pool then ensure that the filter is set to run for a minimum of:-
 - a) 4-8 hrs / week for pools up to 30,000 ltrs
 - b) 8-12hrs / week for pools 30,000 – 50,000ltrs
 - c) 12-16hrs / week for pools above 50,000ltrs
- 2) Ensure that there is always some chlorine in the pool at all times. This helps to keep a minimal chlorine reading as well as preventing stagnate water developing in the filter tank. Running the filter also helps prevent rust forming on the motor bearings.
- 3) Before adding the Starver, phosphate levels should be checked prior to initial dose, then 3 monthly during winter. Treat with initial dose, usually 500mls
- 4) Add the required amount of winterizer, usually 500ml, every 3 months
- 5) Cover the pool if possible. If not covered, scoop leaves etc out on a weekly basis and vac pool at least monthly.
- 6) Check / water test pool at least monthly and adjust Total Alkalinity & pH levels if required. If chlorine is nil, shock dose with chlorine.
- 7) If at any stage you notice the pool starting to go “off”, shock dose with chlorine

If you have any problems – give us a call on 06 835 3065 or email us at office@poolman.co.nz



Help with Spas

Spa Pools are a great way to relax, unwind, warm up and just soak your aches and worries away. There is just nothing like it. Below is some helpful information on how to get the best from your Spa:-

SAFETY SUGGESTIONS FOR SPA USE

It makes good sense to establish safety practices around your spa. Review the safety rules at the beginning of each spa season. Some suggested rules are listed below:

General Spa Safety

- * No running, pushing or horseplay around the spa.
- * If covered in grass or mud, shower before entering the spa. This will reduce the amount of bacteria and contaminants that you bring into the spa.
- * Keep all glass and other breakables away from spa area.
- * Never use electrical appliances around the spa area.
- * DO NOT use during thunder or lightning storms.

Pool Safety for Young Children

- * A supervising adult should be present whenever children are using the spa.
- * Make sure your pool gate and fence operate safely/correctly.
- * Make sure spa cover is fitted and locked.

Be prepared for an Emergency

- * Keep a complete first aid kit in a clearly marked and convenient location. Keep this

kit out of the reach of children.

* Keep instructions for mouth-to-mouth resuscitation in the spa area. Print these instructions on waterproof material.

* Encourage all family members to learn mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

* Know your emergency telephone numbers.

Environmental Tip: DO NOT drain into stormwater, a stream, river or lake.

Some Common Spa Operation Questions:-

My Spa is not Heating:-

The Heater operates via a pressure / flow switch. This is a safety backup system. The pressure / flow switch turns the heater mode on or off. This is to prevent a heater meltdown if say, the spa had sprung a leak and no water was passing through the heater. Therefore the pressure / flow switch must have sufficient water flowing through it to activate the heater and the biggest culprit (99%) to this problem is The Filter Cartridge. If it has not cleaned properly or is worn it will reduce the flow of water passing through the switch turning the heater off. To check if this is the problem, remove the filter cartridge and run the spa. You will know within an hour or so if this has worked. If it has, great. Clean or replace the filter cartridge. If not, you will need to contact us.

I have just refilled my Spa and no water is coming through the Jets:-

Did you close off any valves. If so, open them. If not or they are open then this is usually caused by an air blockage in the pump. Sometimes air is trapped in the pump and therefore wont prime. The cure for this is to "Burp" the pump. This is done by turning the spa off and slowly releasing the mac union (a big nut looking thing) situated just above the pump. As you slowly release the mac union you may hear air escaping and then water begins to leak out. At this point re-tighten the mac union and run the spa. If the problem persists you will need to contact us.

When I turn on the air to the water jets, water comes out of the knob:-

This is due to "Back Pressure" caused by water not being able to get through the jets quickly enough, therefore as soon as you open the air intake valve the back pressured water has an easy way to escape. As soon as you close the valve the leak stops. The main cause of this is simple. Check the Jets. Are they all open? 99% of the time we find "the kids" must have closed off some of the jets. Simply open them and recheck. If the problem persists it could be blocked jets or kinked tubing. Either way, you will need to contact us.

Spa Start Up Tips:-

With the cooler weather now here it's time to get the spa in order.

Start the "spa season" by starting with fresh clean water.

- 1) Remove the existing filter and clean (soak) with a purpose filter cleaner. If the filter looks "manky" or is more than 2 years old – replace it.
- 2) Fill the spa (if not already full) and run a "spa cleaner" through the spa. This will "degrease" the pipes of scum and built up body fats.
- 3) After this "degrease", empty spa and wipe down (clean) spa surface, behind head rests and cover.
- 4) Refill spa, prime system and turn it on. Refit the cartridge when it has been properly cleaned.
- 5) Test water after a few hours and treat as needed. Re-test when at its desired and make temperature and make any adjustments required
- 6) Sit back and enjoy the soak

Free In-Store Water Testing

Hot Tub/Spa Rash – Pseudomonas Aeruginosa

(Aurigenosa)

This is a commonly occurring bacteria found in water and soil.

Listed as an “opportunistic bacteria” that can cause:

- Urinary Tract Infections
- Dermatitis (Skin Rash or Pseudomonas Folliculitis)
- Respiratory System Infections
- Swimmer’s Ear (Otitis Externa) – please see your local doctor for treatment
- Other systemic infections

In Spas and Hot tubs, a very likely cause of skin rash is Pseudomonas Aeruginosa (PA). Pseudomonas feeds in oil and grease present in the spa water (mainly from body oils and skin treatments brought into the spa from bathers NOT properly showering prior to entering the spa or hot tub) and can multiply rapidly under ideal conditions (such as lack of proper sanitizing procedures). In swimming pools, PA can be found on various areas such as pool coping, waterfall edges, ladder steps etc. PA infects the hair follicles on the body. If infected, you will notice the following characteristics of Pseudomonas Aeruginosa:

- Itchy rash 8 to 48 hours after contamination
- Rash can occur on arms, legs or trunk of body
- Rash disappears 7 to 10 days without treatment

Perform the following procedure to treat the infected spa or hot tub:

- 1 Add spa pipe cleaner and run for 1 hour
- 2 Shock with four times the normal dose of spa sanitizer. Turn on the jets and circulate for 2-3 hours. The bacterial growth usually builds up in the lines, so it is necessary to flush them thoroughly.
- 3 Drain the spa and clean all spa surfaces that may come in contact with a bather’s skin (especially arm pits, chest & back) – above & below the waterline including head rests, the filter chamber and even the top edge of the spa that is in contact with the cover.
- 4 Remove the filter and soak in a solution of chlorine and water during treatment. (2 Tbsp of Chlorine/20 ltrs of water)
- 5 Refill spa with fresh water.
- 6 Chemically clean the Filter with Cartridge Cleaner and/or replace.

- 7 Rebalance spa and shock. Do not enter spa until sanitizer level drops below 4.0 ppm.
- 8 As an additional precaution, Taylors Pool Service STRONGLY RECOMMENDS cleaning the underside of the spa or hot tub insulating cover. Not cleaning the cover could re-contaminate the spa or hot tub surface with the PA bacteria.

Be sure to seek medical attention from a qualified doctor. Do not self-diagnose ANY condition. This page is provided for informational purposes ONLY.

Treatment of Swimming Pools is similar. Regularly clean by brushing & thoroughly wiping the suspected areas with approved cleaners or sanitizers (i.e. chlorinated pool water).

Prevention:

Enforce shower rules before entering spa or pool.

Maintain 1-3 ppm Free Available chlorine in residual spas or pool and 3-5 ppm in commercial spas or pools.



Well that’s it for our second Newsletter. I hope you found it interesting and informative. If there is anything you want to discuss further about any of these articles or any other matter concerning your pool or spa, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Cheers and happy pooling

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