

Chloramines

Chloramine is another name for combined chlorine. This occurs when free available chlorine residual combines with nitrogen-containing compounds such as urine, sweat or other ammonia by-products of swimmers and environmental contamination. Combined chlorine has a reduced rate of efficacy as a sanitizer, can cloud the water, and has a strong, unpleasant odor. It can also irritate the skin and eyes of swimmers.

Chloramines, or combined chlorine, can result from a number of sources. Improper maintenance is probably the most common. Pools that are not shocked regularly begin to build up undesirable compounds, such as perspiration, suntan lotions, and urine, as well as some air-borne contaminants. Eventually, these compounds form combined chlorine.

To obtain the combined chlorine residual, subtract the free chlorine residual from the total chlorine residual. If all of the chlorine residual from the test is free, (total and free are equal), then there are no chloramines.

To eliminate chloramines:

- Apply 1 lb. of Burn Out Extreme or Burn Out 35 per 6,000 gallons for every ppm of combined chlorine present.

OR

- Apply 2 lbs. of Oxysheen per 10,000 gallons for every ppm of combined chlorine present.

Odors

Odors can mean different things in different types of systems. Check below for your system type and odor description.

Brominated Systems

When brominated systems are not properly balanced, it can increase the odor. When pH is too low and total bromine residual too high, the gassing off process is more active and the odor may be very strong. The fact that many brominated systems are indoor may make this seem worse. To make sure you are getting accurate test readings for pH in the wet lab, use up to 5 drops of chlorine neutralizer in the pH sample. Bromine can discolor the pH indicator reagent and make the pH reading look higher than it actually is.

Chlorinated Systems

The most common odor for chlorinated systems is a strong "chlorine" odor. This is usually an indication that there is combined chlorine present, not that the chlorine residual is too high. Check the total and free chlorine residuals and shock with 1 lb. of Burn Out Extreme or 1 lb. of Burn Out 35 per 6,000 gallons for each ppm of combined chlorine.

SoftSwim Systems

Almond Odor

An Almond odor or taste in a SoftSwim pool is usually from too much SoftSwim B or C in the water. Test the residuals and do not add any more product. The residuals will come down naturally over time.

Fishy Odor

A "fishy" odor can occur if the pool has had multiple applications of SoftSwim C. The smell is from by-products of the peroxide. The smell should dissipate over time, but you can perform a partial drain to eliminate it more quickly.

Clogged Filter

A clogged filter can be a more common occurrence for SoftSwim pools than for other sanitizer types. Because of the ability of SoftSwim B to collect particles together, a heavier load is placed on the filter, and it can eventually get clogged. Chemically cleaning the filter every four to six weeks on SoftSwim systems is very important for trouble-free operation. To prevent filter clogging, use SoftSwim Filter Cleaner every 4 - 6 weeks according to label instructions for your filter type.

If it has been longer than 3 months since the filter was chemically cleaned, check the filter media. It is possible that it has hardened and needs to be replaced.

Cloudy Water

Cloudy water can be caused by a number of factors. Check the following items in the order they appear for sources of cloudy water.

Filtration

Filters must be run enough hours a day and must be clean in order to effectively remove dirt and debris from the pool water. The filter should be run a minimum of 8 continuous hours a day for halogen pools and 12 hours a day for SoftSwim pools, during daylight hours. When problems exist, the filter should be run continuously. The filter media (sand, DE or cartridge) must be chemically cleaned every 4 - 6 weeks for SoftSwim systems and every 3 months for chlorinated or brominated systems.

Check the filter for damage, dirty filter media and the length of time the pump is run daily. (Even if the pump is being run 8 hours a day, it may not be adequate during extremely hot weather, with heavy bather loads, or if the pump is run for short periods, then turned off, then turned back on again.)

Water Balance

High pH, total alkalinity, and/or total hardness can cause minerals to fall out of solution, which clouds the water. This is actually the beginning of scale buildup, and should be addressed as soon as possible. Perform a complete water analysis and follow the ALEX recommendations for proper water balance.

Sanitizing and Oxidizing

Proper sanitizer residuals and normal oxidation keep bacteria and algae from growing in the pool, and eliminate undesirable compounds that can promote their growth. If these residuals drop, even temporarily, bacteria and other organisms can take a foothold and begin growing, and can cloud the water. In chlorinated or brominated pools, shock using Burn Out Extreme, Burn Out 35 or Super Soluble. (Use these products if the water is already cloudy and you suspect a growth.) In SoftSwim pools, use SoftSwim C regularly to maintain a SoftSwim C level of 20 ppm or higher.

An inability to maintain proper sanitizer and oxidizer levels can indicate a problem and can cloud the water. In chlorinated, Mineral Springs or brominated pools, test for [demand](#). SoftSwim pools may have [Clarifier Demand](#).

Algae

The beginning stages of algae growth will often cloud the water before acquiring a green color. Apply shock products appropriate for your sanitizer and add an initial dose of algicide. (Often, algae growth indicates a lapse in regular application of a preventive algicide.)

Insoluble compounds

A buildup of insoluble compounds often cannot be removed by the filter. This is usually caused by inconsistent maintenance or by not shocking after heavy bather loads. Apply shock products appropriate for your sanitizer.

Solar covers or indoor pools

Sometimes, if a pool is indoors or is kept covered most of the time, gases that normally evaporate are reabsorbed into the pool water. This reabsorption causes a phenomenon referred to as bicarbonate scale. In this situation, the pH tends to drift down and the total alkalinity drifts up, and adjustments to either are not effective. To eliminate this problem, remove the solar cover and rebalance, or for indoor pools, ventilate well and rebalance. In the future, remove the solar cover or ventilate an indoor pool several hours daily to allow the pool to offgas properly.

Special note for SoftSwim Pools

SoftSwim pools that are cloudy sometimes require special care. If the water is properly balanced and there are no metals present, it is usually a good idea to have a pool professional (a representative from the store) physically check the filtration system for adequate circulation, growth or buildup inside the lines and/or filter, biofilm in the skimmer, returns and light niche or on ladders and automatic cleaners. Perform the [Closed Loop Procedure](#) to eliminate any growth in the lines.

Foaming

Foaming can be caused by a number of things:

Vandalism:

Often in cases of vandalism, detergent or some other foaming agent is added to pools, spas or fountains. If the foaming is very bad, it is often the best remedy to drain water, especially in the case of fountains, where there may not be much to drain. In pools, since swimmers are entering the pool, it is necessary to determine what caused the foaming. If it was laundry detergent, this

should break down over time. Anti-Foam may be used to eliminate existing foam. But, a partial to complete drain may be the best solution to quickly eliminate foam. In cases where the foreign contaminant cannot be determined, it may be best to drain completely to avoid potential health hazards.

Pool Surface Cleaners and Detergents:

These products can foam if they are accidentally spilled in the pool. This foam will dissipate in a few days as the product breaks down. Anti-Foam may be used to eliminate existing foam.

Algicides:

Pool owners may report foaming with algicide use. This is normal, especially during the few days immediately following an application, but can be more like soap suds if too much is applied. Some foaming is normal and is not at all harmful to the pool or to swimmers. The foam will usually dissipate within 10 days to two weeks as the product breaks down. Anti-Foam may be used to eliminate existing foam.

Air Leak:

If there is an air leak in any of the intake lines, air will become mixed with the water and can create foaming. Have a qualified professional inspect and repair the lines if necessary.

NOTE: In any of the above cases, if the foaming is severe enough, a partial drain will help to quickly dilute water and eliminate or reduce foaming.

Foaming in SoftSwim Pools:

SoftSwim B and A are both foaming products. If these products are being used, some foam should be expected when the pool is in use and getting a some agitation. Maintaining proper water balance will help keep foaming to a minimum. If there is an attached spa, this will create excessive foam. It is not recommended that SoftSwim be used in pools with attached spas or other jetted returns.

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