

A CLEANING PROCEDURE HANDOUT FOR THE PRESENCE OF *PSEUDOMONAS AERUGINOSA* IN SWIMMING POOLS

Pseudomonas aeruginosa is a microorganism often found in hot tubs and on occasion is being isolated in swimming pool water. It enters the pool water through infected persons and is largely responsible for eye and ear infections as well as skin rashes.

If your pool is tested and found to contain *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, follow these cleaning procedures:

- 1) **Backwash the pool filter** in accordance with the manufacture and installer recommendations. Pool water should be backwashed before the difference between the inlet and outlet filters reaches 10 pounds per square inch and should be backwashed on a weekly basis. Most clean filters run with approximately 2 to 3 pounds difference between the inlet and outlet pressures.
- 2) **Shock or super chlorinate the pool.** This is accomplished simply by increasing the chlorine dosage over a short period of time so that the chlorine residual reaches 5 to 10 times the normal chlorine dosage or 15-20 ppm for 24 hours (original was: 6 to 10 parts per million (ppm)). When the residual has reached the desired level, the chlorinator can be shut off until the residual chlorine has dropped to normal levels. Operate the filtration system during this procedure to ensure that the filter is also receiving the super chlorinated water. Run the water through the filter for a minimum of eight hours prior to backwashing.
- 3) **Maintain chlorine residual** of 2.0 ppm and never let it drop below 1.0 ppm.
- 4) **Maintain the water pH** between 7.4 and 7.8.
- 5) **Maintain water clarity** by drawing about 75% of the water through the skimmers when the pool is in use (daytime) and 25% through the main drain. When the pool is not in use (night time) more water may be drawn through the main drain.
- 6) **Skimmers** should be complete with floating weirs and be functioning properly.
- 7) **If your pool is outdoors,** use of chlorinated cyanurates and/or cyanuric acid to stabilize the chlorine as chlorine is rapidly dissipated by sunlight. Attain an initial concentration of 25 to 30 ppm and never exceed a 100ppm concentration. There is a test kit available for determining the cyanuric acid level in pools.
- 8) **Test the water for pH and chlorine** 3 times per day and keep records of the levels and chemicals that have been added to the pool.

Should the above procedures fail to rectify the pseudomonas problem, the filter sand may need replacing. For further information contact your local Public Health Inspector.