A CLEANING PROCEDURE HANDOUT FOR TREATING THE PRESENCE OF
PSEUDOMONAS AERUGINOSA IN HOT POOLS

Pseudomonas aeruginosa can survive in a hot pool and associated filtration equipment. This microorganism enters the pool water through infected persons and is largely responsible for eye and ear infections and skin rashes. High water temperature, along with turbulence, enhances the growth of this pathogen. Typically, hot pool water has high concentrations of hair, skin, body oils, pieces of clothing, organic matter and ammonia, and along with the turbulence, create a high chlorine demand which can make it difficult to maintain a free chlorine residual in the pool water to combat microorganisms.

Once *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* has established its presence in a pool, the pool basin and recirculation system need to be cleaned and disinfected. The filter sand also becomes a growth area for these microorganisms.

The following is a cleaning procedure that should be used:

1. Turn off the pool water heater.
2. Clean the hair and lint screens.
3. Backwash the filter and drain the pool.
4. Fill the pool with fresh water and lower the pH to below 7.0.
5. Add enough sodium hypochlorite to the pool water to obtain free chlorine residual of about 50 mg/1.
6. Operate the recirculation system passing all the pool water through the filter three or four times.
7. Operate the hydro pump for a short time.
8. Backwash the filter and drain the pool.
9. Clean the whirl pool basin with a chlorine solution.
10. Fill the pool with fresh water and chemically balance the water for pH, alkalinity, hardness and free chlorine residual.
11. Operate the recirculation system and adjust the pool water balance.
12. Contact your local PHI to discuss sampling.

Should the above method fail to eliminate *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* from the recirculation system, remove all the sand from the filter, clean the filter container and either physically clean or replace the sand.

For further information contact your local Public Health Inspector

HP-WQ-9025 March 2007