

CHOICE OF POOL COVERS

Before choosing the type of pool cover its worth considering implications of the following Code of Practise compiled by Allen Wilson of Studies in Work, a well respected authority on swimming pool health & safety issues.

Studies In Work - Health & Safety Consultants

Code of practise for safe disinfection of woggles, floats, armbands, **pool covers**, etc

Recent research has indicated that woggles, **pool covers**, etc. can become ideal breeding ground for bacteria such as Pseudomonas and be the cause of other diverse problems such as Molluscum contagiosum. Covers are at special risk as they are in contact, when the pool is covered with the surface water where the dangerous pollution is predominant.

The following procedure is advocated on a regular basis

With the pool out of use

- Raise the level of chlorine to an approximate value of 10 mg/l (ppm)
- When using Calcium Hypochlorite 300 grammes will give approx 10 mg/l in every 20m³ of water
- If using Sodium Hypochlorite 1.5 litres will give approx 10 mg/l in every 20m³ of water
- This should be added as a solution whilst wearing the appropriate items of personal protective equipment, e.g. face mask with respirator, rubber gloves and pvc apron
- The easiest and safest method is too use a pre-rinsed plastic watering can and dissolve the calcium hypochlorite granules into this and broadcast it evenly over pool. Rinse out watering can after use..
- Sweep bottom of pool exercising special care around steps, grating and inlets. This will break up biofilms (coatings that nurture bacteria) and allow the chlorine to aggressively disinfect.
- Brush pool copings with chlorinated water from pools
- Whilst wearing above PPEs *dunk* all woggles, floats etc into water and leave in pool. Plus other items that may be used in pools such as canoes, etc.
- **Pull cover over pool and using broom or similar ensure all underside of cover is wetted by solution.**
- Remove and store PPES correctly, Report any faults to line manager
- Leave overnight.
- **Following day remove cover, woggles etc. Hose off with fresh water.**
- Record actions Note: In pools being monitored by Studies In Work we will now use a bio luminescent tester. This allows immediate indication of hygiene levels on pool covers, woggles, pool water etc. At the risk of repeating myself this is why it is recommended in this book that chlorine levels are kept at a bare minimum of 1.0 mg/l where there is no supplementary plant room treatment such as Ozone or Ultra Violet

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THE ALTERNATIVE IS A LIQUID POOL COVER

Allen Wilson supports the use of pool covers but is concerned that with conventional covers the simple regular disinfection which can prevent them from becoming breeding grounds for bacteria is rarely carried out and this he feels is the major drawback with conventional covers. This is worse in hard water areas where deposits of calcium provides nutritious areas for bacteria to not only breed but thrive.

OTHER MAIN BENEFITS OF A LIQUID POOL COVER

(apart from the above Health & Safety issue)

1. Simple and inexpensive to implement
2. Fully automatic trouble free solution
3. Available to provide benefit 24 hours per day – not just when the pool is closed