



CLEARING A CLOUDY POOL

There are several causes and a few different cures! Truly clear water means you can see whether a coin on the deep end bottom is “heads or tails”. Persistence will get you back to sparkling water.

- 1 **DO NOT** try to clear the water if there is a lot of debris on the bottom, or live (green) algae in the pool. You first need to remove all solid waste from the bottom of the pool, and kill off the algae, following our “algae prescription”. If the pool is too cloudy to see the bottom, vacuum the pool thoroughly before you attempt to clear the cloudiness.
- 2 **ALLOW TIME:** The chemical and minerals you add can make the water cloudy. If you have recently added a lot of salt, stabilizer, buffer, calcium, or granular shock, it can take several days for these products to be fully absorbed by the water and to become invisible. Increased cloudiness early in spring when the pool water needs major re-balancing is not uncommon, and often clears up within a few days.
- 3 **BALANCE & pH:** If the pH is 7.6 or above, the pool will be hard to clear. If you are using a lot of chlorine shock, you may need to use pH reducer as shocking the pool tends to raise the pH. Other elements such as high levels of calcium or high total alkalinity can make it harder to clear a cloudy pool. At a high pH, minerals are pushed out of solution which can make the water cloudy. When trying to clear up a cloudy pool, maintain a pH on the low side of normal (about 7.2), and have your water professionally tested, free at our store, to ensure the balance is correct before adding extra chemicals or treatments.
- 4 **SANITATION:** Is there actually chlorine in the pool? Maintain a high than normal level of sanitizer if the water is cloudy, as chemical demand is likely to be high. If you keep testing zero chlorine even after you know you added plenty, you may need to shock again, use extra pucks, and turn up the chlorinator or salt system. High chlorine demand results from organic wastes, which eat chlorine and contribute to the cloudiness. You may need to double or even triple the normal dosage of chlorine to get back on track. It is also prudent to have us perform a test for phosphates in the water if there is an

inexplicably high demand for chlorine. When shocking a cloudy pool we suggest that you use HTH-Extra. Using weak calcium based shock on a cloudy pool can make the water even cloudier. Finally, keep your solar blanket off a cloudy pool as this will allow proper oxidation of cloud-causing organic wastes.

- 5 FINE particles of material are often the cause of cloudiness, particles that are too large to be removed by chemicals yet too small to be trapped by the filter. Sometimes the filter just needs a little help. We recommend that you run your pump 24 hours a day in season to keep the water constantly filtering, and to make sure your chlorine feeder or salt system are able to operate continuously. Be sure your return jets are pointed down to sweep the bottom of the pool. If hydro costs worry you, talk to us about energy efficient pump options, especially if you have an older pump, or one that is 1.5HP or more. If you have a sand filter, DO NOT backwash too frequently. Filter pressure should be 7 PSI higher than clean pressure before you backwash, as a sand filter performs better when it is a little dirty. If cloudy water is a recurring problem, clean the sand with Filter Cleaner or Filter Perfect. Eventually, replacing the sand may be necessary. If the equipment is more than 10 years old, a perpetually cloudy pool may indicate that you need to replace the sand or even the pump and / or filter. An old pump will often slow down and the water flow may be reduced so that you are just not getting enough water movement and turnover to clear it up. Newer filtration technologies including cartridge filters produce much clearer water because they are capable of filtering out much finer debris than sand, and also help to reduce operating costs by reducing chemical demand and eliminating wasted water and chemicals through backwashing.
- 6 CLARIFY. Use a clarifier if the above steps do not resolve the matter. Clarifying Tabs, Extra, or Clear are ideal if the pool is a little cloudy. If it is very cloudy (if you cannot see the bottom in the deep end) use Drop & Vac, or Pool First Aid. Follow the directions carefully. Drop & Vac, once applied, will only work if you turn the pump OFF to allow debris to settle, usually within 24 hours, but it may take an extra day. Sediment will drop to the bottom of the pool, and must be vacuumed out to waste. Over fill your pool and set your filter head to the waste or drain position when you vacuum out this debris. You may have to repeat this procedure if more debris settles on the bottom of the pool. Weekly treatment with Pool Perfect / Phos Free is an excellent follow up treatment to help prevent cloudy water.

IF YOU CONTINUE TO HAVE PROBLEMS CALL US AT (613) 726-0099
www.purewaterpool.com