



Office: (916) 638-8810
Fax: (916) 638-4655
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How to Fix a Cloudy Pool

There are MANY reasons for cloudy pool water:

Early algae growth, environmental issues such as frequent, heavy rains, lack of sunlight on the pool, poor circulation, lack of pool use, too little filtration time, poor maintenance practices such as improper vacuuming & pool surface brushing, poor chemical maintenance practices such as neglecting to shock the pool on a regular weekly or bi-weekly basis (shocking helps to eliminate build-ups of un-filterables such as body oils & lotions plus kills early outbreaks of algae. Eliminate these issues first before using water clarifying products.

Test the swimming pool water for Combined Chlorine, pH, Alkalinity and Calcium Hardness.

The two areas that are most likely to cause cloudy pool water (from a basic water chemistry standpoint) are the pH and the Calcium Hardness.

If all the pool chemical levels test in range, the cloudy pool water is caused by fine debris suspended in the pool water. You should backwash or clean your pool filter following the manufacturer's instructions, and run the pool filter system continuously for 24 to 48 hours.

Too frequent backwashing, especially with a sand filter, will cause the filter to not filter out fine particulate. As the sand bed of the filter accumulates debris, it actually helps to tighten the filter media resulting in the ability for better filtration. A good rule of thumb is to backwash only when the pressure of the water returning to the pool is noticeably diminished.



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How to Fix a Cloudy Pool ...cont

If the water conditions have not significantly improved you should add a clarifier pool chemical to the pool water to help your pool filter remove the fine debris from the water.

Continue filtering for without interruption until the water clears.

If the water conditions still do not significantly improved you should add a second dose of clarifier, or a stronger clarifier chemical and continue to run your filtration system.

Keep in mind that TOO MUCH clarifier will actually work against the clarifying process; particles will repel one another rather attract. Follow label instructions to the letter. Do not repeat more often than 2 additional times over the course of one week.

Sometimes a pool can be too cloudy for a clarifier.

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