

Causes and Remedies of Green Swimming Pool Water



Pool water is meant to be clean and clear.

Ideally, swimming pools are meant to be crystal clear and ready for a refreshing swim any time of the day or night, but bodies of non-moving water tend to collect bacteria and algae which grow over time and can change the color of your pool. A green pool is a dirty pool and the level of effort put into keeping it clean depends on how long the buildup has been allowed to progress.

Improper pH Balance

Chlorine is a chemical added to swimming pools to kill bacteria that can build up over time and lead to a discoloration of the water. Green water is most often a sign of algae, not necessarily bacteria, but different pools have different bacteria that can affect the water. If the pH balance of the water isn't in the right place, it will allow bacteria to flourish, leading to further discoloration. If the pH level is too low, the water is acidic and over time, it will erode plastic and metal components. A pH level that is too high will not kill bacteria and will allow scale buildup of calcium and other minerals. A healthy pool is between 7.2 and 7.8 on the pH scale.

Clogged Filter

Not all water-color issues are the fault of the water itself. For example, a filter system that isn't working properly won't strain out the surface algae and other debris. If left to stagnate, your pool will become a breeding ground for mold, algae and other fungi that will eventually change the color of the water. Pool filters are designed to be cleaned with buckets, baskets and filter systems that are easily disassembled. If your filter is clogged and causing a backup of color-changing water issues, clean the filter. Most pools have a system where you can simply remove the filter, clean it with water and a scrub brush, and then replace it. Different pools have different filters, so always follow the manufacturer's instructions for removal and replacement of parts.

Weather

Algae thrives in warm, humid temperatures. Normal chlorine may not be enough to counter the buildup of algae within a pool, but there are special algaecides sold which are specifically designed to work against those extra-tough algae in the warmer months, when it is more prone to spread. If the pH level of your pool is good but you still have green issues, it is the result of algae buildup and the pool needs an extra dose of algae remover. Different brands have different instructions for use, but you should always start with a minimal dose and increase it, as needed.

Shock Treatment

Shock treatment is a temporary solution used when there are excessive levels of algae and other buildup in a pool which are keeping the water green or discolored, even when you are trying to keep the pH balance in check. The only solution in this case is to "shock" the pool, which involves treating

the pool with a large dose of chlorine and algaecide. Allow the pool to sit for 24 hours to kill off the algae and bacteria. After 24 hours, you can clean the pool and restore the pH for continued use.

Ongoing Maintenance

The best remedy for a discolored pool is regular maintenance. This means vacuuming the bottom of the pool regularly, scrubbing the walls and vacuuming them, skimming the surface to remove debris, regularly cleaning the filter system, regularly checking the pH level and adding more chlorine. You should also add algaecides, as necessary. Pool maintenance is a full-time job that requires daily focus to keep the water crystalline and enjoyable. For best results, check the water on a daily basis to keep algae and other bacteria-related issues from becoming a problem.

Color In Drinking Water

"Clean" water should be clear with no noticeable color deposits. Common colors include:

Red or Brown Color - A red, brown or rusty color is generally indicative of iron or manganese in your water. Disadvantages to iron in your water include stains in sinks, or discolored laundry.

Yellow Color - This coloration occurs in regions where the water has passed through marshlands and then moved through peat soils. In the United States, these conditions occur in the Southeast, Northwest, New England, and Great Lakes regions. It is more commonly found in surface water supplies and shallow wells. Although the yellow color may be displeasing, it presents no health hazard, as it is only small particles suspended in the water.

Cloudy White or Foamy - Cloudy water is usually due to turbidity. Turbidity is caused by finely divided particles in the water. When light hits the water, it is scattered, giving a cloudy look to the water. The particles may be of either organic or inorganic nature. Neither one causes any harmful effects to the body, although they can cause abrasions to pipes, or possible staining of sinks.

Blue or Green Color - A green or blue color is generally a result of copper in your water supply, or copper pipes and corrosive water (1). The copper can cause staining of your fixtures and your laundry. **Copper is regulated in drinking water by the EPA at 1.3 PPM. This is at a low enough concentration that the copper cannot be tasted (the taste threshold is around 5 PPM). Copper can become a problem if it is higher than 30 PPM in your water (ours is less than 1 PPM).** Effects at this dose are vomiting, diarrhea, and general gastrointestinal distress. If you are using well water as your primary source of water and copper is a concern in your area, it would be to your advantage to have your water tested for copper.

LRGPWWA South Valley System	Copper Level	2017 Testing (Result: 0.13 ppm)
LRGPWWA East Mesa System	Copper Level	2016 Testing (Result: 0.10 ppm)
LRGPWWA Valle De Rio System	Copper Level	2015 Testing (Result: 0.28 ppm)
LRGPWWA High Valley System	Copper Level	2016 Testing (Result: 0.19 ppm)

If Level is within EPA Drinking Water Standards testing is only required every three (3) years.

You can look up lab results for public water systems at the New Mexico Drinking Water Watch website:
<https://dww.water.net.env.nm.gov/DWW/>

