

# Troubleshooting Copper

## **What causes copper in your swimming pool?**

Copper is most commonly introduced into pool water through corrosion of copper heater cores or piping caused by imbalanced pH, alkalinity and calcium hardness. Naturally occurring copper, is occasionally found, in well water and rarely in municipal water. It is copper from these sources that are capable of causing blue-green or even dark colored staining or discoloration and can cause blonde hair to turn green. Copper levels may increase with the application of algaecide containing chelated (stabilized) copper. Copper, in this form, usually does not cause a pool problem, if used properly and as directed. Copper problems can be controlled with proper chemical testing and treatment.

## **Treatment**

Removing copper from your swimming pool water is a process of different steps and can take multiple treatments to resolve.

1. Bypass the heater, as this may be the source of the copper and chemicals used to remove copper from the water can strip the copper from the heater core. (Our service department offers this service.) Turning off the heater does not stop the water from running through the heater and will not prevent the heater from being damaged during treatment.
2. Balance pH and alkalinity. Bring a water sample in for accurate testing and treatment recommendations.
3. Ensure that chlorine or bromine levels are 1 ppm or less.
4. Backwash for 3-5 min and rinse for 30-40 seconds
5. Add the recommended amount of **Pool Magnet Plus** into the water. Pool Magnet draws copper particles together increasing the particle size to allow the filter sand to trap the metal, removing it from the water and should be applied no more than once a month.
6. Wait 1 hour then apply recommended dose of **Sparkle-Up** down the skimmer. Sparkle up is a filter aid which effectively fills the spaces between the sand preventing the copper from passing through the sand and re-entering the pool that is removed from the filter by backwashing.
7. 24 hours after applying Sparkle-Up backwash filter for 3-5 min and then rinse for 30-60 seconds.
8. Repeat steps 6 & 7
9. 24 hours after the final backwash and rinse bring a sample of water in to be analyzed. Repeat treatments may be required.
10. Once the copper level reaches 1 ppm or less, change the filter sand to prevent recontamination as copper particles may still remain in filter following backwashing process.
11. Re-connect heater.



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