



Shasta County

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
1855 Placer Street, Redding, CA 96001

Richard W. Simon, AICP
Director

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To: Public Pool and/or Spa Operators

REDUCE ELEVATED LEVELS OF CYANURIC ACID IN PUBLIC POOLS AND SPAS

The Shasta County Environmental Health Division will be strictly enforcing the 100 parts per million (ppm) cyanuric acid limit. The California Health and Safety Code, section 65529, states "The cyanuric acid level in any pool shall not exceed 100ppm." This is because higher the cyanuric acid level, the less effective the chlorine becomes. **Any pool and/or spa with a cyanuric acid level exceeding 100ppm will be closed until a reinspection of the pool and/or spa by an Environmental Health Specialist confirms that the cyanuric acid level(s) have been reduced to below the 100ppm limit.** In preparation for the coming pool season, please act proactively to ensure that your pool and/or spa has cyanuric acid levels well under the maximum limit to avoid closure. Cyanuric acid test kits are widely available at pool supply shops and on-line.

Cyanuric acid, also known as conditioner or stabilizer, is a chemical that is added to chlorine tablets to protect the chlorine from the destructive effect of sunlight. The problem that arises from this is that cyanuric acid remains in the pool until splashed or drained out. Every time stabilized chlorine is added to the pool, more cyanuric acid is also added. Cyanuric acid in small quantities protects chlorine, in large quantities it interferes with the chlorine's ability to sanitize. **While California law allows up to 100ppm, 20-50ppm is ideal.** The most effective method of reducing cyanuric acid level in the pool is to partially drain the pool, one foot at a time, and adding fresh water. If you use cyanuric acid, the level must be tested monthly and recorded on the daily records sheet. Cyanuric acid **should not** be used in indoor pools and spas.

Maintain adequate levels of chlorine. Your chlorine should be in the 3ppm to 5ppm range. If kept higher, you are wasting your money on extra chlorine and adding excessive amounts of cyanuric acid to the pool.

Consider an alternative to the tablet feeder system. Most chlorine tablets contain cyanuric acid. Some alternatives to stabilized chlorine tablet feeder systems include liquid chlorine systems, calcium hypochlorite systems, and salt-generated systems. Please notify The Shasta County Environmental Health Division prior to any equipment changes to your pool equipment for plancheck approval. Do not switch to non-stabilized tablets in a system made for stabilized tablets. Using the wrong tablets in your system can cause damage to the system or fire.

More information on cyanuric acid can be found on our website,

http://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm_index/eh_index/ehd_programs/pools.aspx

Please call our office at 530/225-5787, Monday through Friday should you have any questions or need more information.

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