

What to Know about Algae Elimination in Palm Desert, Springs & Bermuda Dunes Swimming Pools

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What's the green stuff in my swimming pool?

Algae are one-celled plants; they include microscopic plankton to giant Kelp and everything between. Sunlight and warm water speed up algae growth. The most common types of algae are green, brown, yellow or a black slime. They thrive in corners and steps where circulation might not be as active as elsewhere in the swimming pool.

Brushing algae from your pool surface can be challenging: easy on smooth surfaces such as fiberglass pools and very difficult on rough surfaces such as plaster pools where it can burrow in the cracks and crevices.

Hot climates like Palm Springs and Bermuda Dunes are perfect for algae growth.

Green, yellow and black algae grow where there is a lack of chlorine or other sanitizer; although it can actually grow where there is chlorine and well-balanced water. [Algae in the swimming pool](#) is unattractive as well as hazardous. Some forms become resistant to the amount of chlorine you maintain in the water; this is why you should "super-chlorinate" on a regular basis.

How do algae get into the pool or spa water in the first place? Despite treatment at your domestic water supply, algae is found in the water you fill your pool with and can blow into the pool water from the wind. [Algae elimination in Palm Desert](#), Palm Springs, Bermuda Dunes and the surrounding areas is a continual consideration for pool owners.

The first step for algae elimination is to remove what it eats.

- **Phosphate** is a natural component of most swimmers waste, including your animal if you let them swim in the pool. They carry waste on their feet, hair and the behind. It is also present in rain water. Think about those palm tree flowers how sweet and tasty they are to the spiders and bugs that drop into the pool. Have a Duck problem? Phosphate is persistent and does not break down naturally. Landscaper's fertilizer, which may be blown into the pool or carried in on the bottom of your feet have high phosphate content. Swimming pools and spas can quickly build up high levels of phosphates. This is an abundant and tasty food source for all strains of Algae and can make controlling their growth difficult.

Phosphate is plant food and Algae are plants! Remove the food and you remove the Algae. The maximum level of phosphates in pool water should be less than

1000 parts per billion. Once this level is exceeded the water quality begins to decrease. Fortunately, there is a chemical phosphate remover.

- **Nitrates** are similar to phosphates, but are different in origin. Their big similarity is that they are both a food source for Algae. Nitrate is a plant nutrient and is present in all green plants and fertilizer. There is no chemical remover for nitrates in your pool. The only way to remove high levels of nitrates is to drain your pool.

Algae elimination begins with checking the water chemistry.

The best algae elimination process is prevention, but if you do get **algae in the swimming pool**, then you need to start at the beginning and clean the pool. By leaving the dirt and leaves, you reduce the sanitizer level slowing the cleaning process.

We check the water chemistry:

1) Adjust the Alkalinity and PH levels to recommended ranges.

2) Remove the food, check Phosphate level and add Phosphate remover until the level is below 300 parts per billion.

3) Shock the pool, this means super chlorinating the water to kill off any bacteria and algae. If the pool is very dirty, additional gallons of liquid chlorine over a period of days may be needed before the water clears. Maintain a chlorine residual of at least 6.

4) Run the circulation pump for 72 hours or more, allowing the shock and chlorine to kill off the bacteria and Algae, brushing the pool at least once per day.

5) Clean the filter and keep an eye on the pressure gauge. Dead Algae and the phosphate remover will clog the filter, sometimes requiring cleaning several times.

6) Vacuum the pool frequently during this period to remove the dead Algae.

If you are having Algae problems, and have been trying to do pool maintenance on your own, it's much safer to call a service that can take care of it correctly the first time. A Kool Pool provides professional and reliable swimming pool service to the Coachella Valley, Palm Springs, cathedral City, Palm Desert, Bermuda Dunes, La Quinta and Indian Wells. They have a reputation of maintaining long lasting relationships with all our customers. A Kool Pool specializes in alternatives to help maintain safe pool water chemistry without dangerous chemicals. To get more information on pool services in Coachella Valley and surrounding areas, including what you need to know in this climate for algae elimination, visit www.akoolpool.biz, Email akoolpoolserv@aol.com, or call 760-773-0135.

