

## **Why your swimming pool heater life's span has shrunk and how to help extend its life.**

What ever happened to the pool heater that lasted more than 10 years? Let's see The AQMD, high flow pumps, salt systems, unregulated chemicals and of course the water.

Let's begin the discussion of your pool heater with a point that is obvious with the service technician but creates confusion with the homeowner. The pool and Spa heater does not work like your water heater at home. Customers ask me many times why the water coming out of the return line isn't hot, like the tap water in your house. The assumption is that your pool and spa heater holds pre heated water. They do not realize that the pool and spa heater heats the water as it passes thru copper coils, creating a mixture of heated water and cold water so that the returning water is not more than 10 degrees warmer than the water that originally went into it.

### **The Dilemma**

The Air Quality Management Department (AQMD) started by enforcing emission readings coming from the heater (exhaust fumes). Today nothing has a burning pilot light. Computer boards are now in control of your pool heater is left outside to fend off Mother Nature. We live in the Desert; temperatures exceed 115 degrees in the summer, and just think what your skin would look like in this environment. The combustion area of your pool heater is more isolated in order to concentrate the heat.

Then you have the water. Have you ever seen the side of a ship left in the water a long time with no maintenance, corrosion and calcium buildup? We also have all those chemicals in the water we put in to keep it crystal clear. Imagine taking a bath in the same water over and over again for a whole month. What do you think this water would look like? If the chemistry is off for a long period of time, damage will result.

We live in the Coachella Valley the water for our homes comes from the reservoir below us and has a high concentration of calcium. Calcium is like plaque in your arteries. If you have a white plaster pool with light colored tile you may not see it so easily.

### **How you can help**

Manufacturing is trying to catch up with technology and this comes at the long term price of try it and see if it works. Here are a few things that can be done to prolong the life of the heater; Raise the heater off the ground about an inch, this eliminates the landscaping water run-off from destroying your heater housing. It will also allow fresh air to circulate AFTER the heater is turned off. This eliminates condensation from building up and dripping on hot surfaces, example the burners, that will shorten the life. Make sure the heater has plenty of space all around for ventilation. Don't forget; make sure

the rodents cannot get in there. Keep the heater out of direct sunlight for extended periods, this might save that computer board. If at all possible slow the water flow down, the longer it takes to go thru the heater the faster the water heats up. Variable speed pumps aka are those energy efficient pumps that save you on electrical costs.

Salt systems are what has been the most challenging. Remember the ship? The salt level in your pool has nowhere near the oceans level of salt, but it is salt.

A Kool Pool Service provides professional and reliable swimming pool services and maintenance or for your heater installation and repairs within the Coachella Valley, Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Palm Desert, Bermuda Dunes, La Quinta and Indian Wells. A Kool Pool Service is known in the area for maintaining long lasting relationships with its customers and specializes in alternatives that help maintain safe pool water chemistry without dangerous chemicals. To get more information on a top pool cleaning company in CA or the Coachella Valley and surrounding areas, visit [www.akoolpool.biz](http://www.akoolpool.biz), email [akoolpoolserv@aol.com](mailto:akoolpoolserv@aol.com) or call (760) 773-0135.