



Chloramines, asthma and triathlons

With a reoccurring theme of chlorine linked to the on set of asthma in children*, Total Pool Chemicals would like to share some of their experiences of pools which have faced issues with oppressive pool hall atmospheres translating into breathing difficulties for their bathers.

Christleton Swimming Pool, part of Christleton High School in Chester, a busy community pool, which opened in September 2005, received bather complaints about acute breathing problems when triathletes used the pool. The triathletes weekly session of over 90 minutes involved considerable physical activity and their resultant perspiration overloaded Christleton's calcium hypochlorite dosing system, causing chloramines and the breathing issues. As air extraction couldn't remove the chloramines, other problems such as corrosion to the pool ladders and the framework for the pool cover also started to occur.



Phil Hill, Christleton's Facilities Manager reviewed a number of options to resolve the chloramine problem, eventually deciding on Poolcure. "We went for Poolcure because the installation of the system was easy and inexpensive, and Total Pool came highly recommended, due to their expertise with chloramines. Once the Poolcure system started dosing, the chloramine problem stopped immediately."

Phil comments further, "I've calculated that Poolcure saves Christleton a net £3.5k on chlorine and pH control chemicals per annum. It was therefore also a great financial decision for the school."

Two sites that have been on Poolcure since the early 1990's are Cocks Moor Woods and Stetchford Cascades in Birmingham, each with leisure facilities and both experienced severe issues with chloramines. Prior to Poolcure both sites had problems with the poor quality of their pool hall atmosphere, resulting in breathing problems for bathers and staff. Once installed the Poolcure system simply stops chloramines forming. Steve Carder at Total Pool comments, "I'm proud that our Poolcure systems have been serving pools around the country like Christleton, Stetchford and Cocks Moor Woods for over 15 years. We have assisted many pools with chloramines issues, which manifest into breathing and corrosion problems for the sites; and made many friends over this time."

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*Source: European Respiratory Journal September 2008. Study on 847 secondary school pupils by Alfred Bernard a toxicologist at Catholic University of Louvain in Brussels. Mr Bernard comments, "The more you swim (in chlorinated water), the greater the risk (you will develop asthma). What is new in this study is that we looked at outdoor pools for the first time"