



Aquatic Consulting Services

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Pool Tip #42: Fecal Accidents, Vomit, Dead Animals Clean-Up Procedures

Feces - Formed Stool, or Vomitus Clean-Up

- Have everyone exit the pool
- Remove the fecal matter from the pool and dispose of matter in an approved manner -- do not use an in-line vacuum system
- Disinfect the skimmer net or vacuum used to remove the fecal matter
- Raise the free available chlorine level to 2.0 ppm and maintain for at least 25 minutes to inactivate the pathogen -- longer if the water is stabilized
- Maintain pH between 7.2 and 7.5
- Continue filtration and uniform circulation
- Log the incident and clean-up procedures

Diarrhea or Dead Animal Clean-Up

- Have everyone exit the pool
- Remove the fecal matter from the pool and dispose of matter in an approved manner -- do not use an in-line vacuum system
- Disinfect the skimmer net or vacuum used to remove the fecal matter
- Raise the free available chlorine level to 20 ppm FAC, and maintain for at least 12 hours and 45 minutes (765 minutes x 20 ppm = 15,300 CT) to inactivate the pathogen -- longer if water is stabilized
- Maintain pH between 7.2 and 7.5
- Continue filtration and uniform circulation
- Backwash the filters and/or replace filter media or elements prior to reopening the pool
- Reduce the FAC level to less than 5 ppm
- Log the incident and clean-up procedures

Note:

Laboratory studies conducted at CDC indicate that an acceptable level of inactivation of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts (99.9%) will not be achieved if 50 ppm or more of cyanuric acid is present in the water, even with a low pH of 6.5 and 40 ppm of FAC for 24 hours.