

Pool Pal, Inc.

Swimming Pool Cleaning and Operation
19570 US 331 South, Freeport, FL 32439
Ph. (850) 835-4177 Fax (850) 835-2734
e-mail poolpal@bsc.net www.poolpal.biz

Joan C. Vienot, President
NSPF Instructor
Certified Pool Operator® Course

DATE: 6/2/2010
TO: POOL OWNERS AND PROPERTY MANAGERS
FROM: JOAN VIENOT
RE: THE BP OIL SPILL AND YOUR SWIMMING POOL

With the NOAA Trajectory Maps showing the BP oil sheen approaching our area and perhaps heavy oil as well, we should plan for the likelihood of heavier use of our swimming pools.

It takes very little chlorine to sanitize a swimming pool, but chlorine is quickly used up by combining with organic contaminants in the water. The less contaminants there are, the more chlorine will be available to control pathogens and keep the water clear.

Oil, dirt, and sweat are organic contaminants in a pool. Encourage your family and guests to strictly follow the rule to **shower with soap before swimming**. A soap shower will help remove oil contaminants from the skin or swimsuit after swimming in the Gulf. A soap shower also will rinse off dirt and sweat which consume large quantities of chlorine as well.

However, soap itself is a contaminant in a pool, so do not allow bathing in the pool. Liquid soap secured to the shower would be preferable to loose bar soap which might make its way to the pool. Many soaps contain phosphates which promote algae.

If the swimmer's feet have picked up tar from the beach, remove the tar before walking on the pool deck or entering the pool. Most household solvents will remove tar. If tar is tracked onto the pool deck or into the pool, it will be difficult to remove, so prevention is the key.

For more information about oil solvents and cleaners around swimming pools, visit
<http://www.floridapoolpro.com/industry/news/info.html>.

Established in 1983