BLEACHING OF LINER COLOR BY CHLORINE

Blue vinyl swimming pool liners are susceptible to bleaching or loss of color if exposed to high concentrations of chlorine. If recommended concentrations are adhered to, slight bleaching and fading occurs gradually over a period of several years. This happens due to the limitations of pigments available to match the desired blue shades that apply regardless of vinyl manufacturer.

Direct contact of the liner with trichloroisocyanurate stabilized chlorine can result in an almost total bleaching of color in a time period as short as 6 to 24 hours. The reasons are a high available chlorine content of 90%, the low solubility or rate of dissipation of the granules or pucks, and extremely low pH produced in the contact areas.

The immediate effects of other types of chlorine such as dichlorisocyanurate, calcium hypochlorite, sodium hypochlorite (liquid chlorine) are not as rapid and severe, as long as they are not mixed with other chemicals during or shortly after addition to the pool. Solutions of the above chlorines can be applied directly to the liner for several hours to bleach stains without adversely affecting the liners.

If the concentrations of the above chlorines are allowed to remain higher than the recommended levels of 5.0 ppm for superchlorination or 10.0 ppm for shocking, or for long periods of time, gradual bleaching of most blue liners will occur.

Some liner colors, other than medium shade blue, have almost total resistance to chlorine bleaching, including: white, turquoise, light blue, grey and dark royal blue.

The print patters of CGT pool liners have excellent resistance to bleaching in most cases. The exceptions are medium blue prints which can only be obtained with the inclusion of a bleachable blue pigment.