



Pool Operations During the Covid-19 Crisis

What to do with the pool(s) to save money during this time?

- Use less chlorine in the pool. Turn down the setpoint on your controller(s) or if no controller (adding chlorine manually) then only add enough chlorine to maintain 0.5-1.0ppm. There are no bathers using the pool soon, so guidelines do not have to be followed for now. Just enough chlorine to keep the water from going “skunky”.
- Turn down the circulation. Depending on the type of filter, you may be able to turn down the speed (using VFD) or shut down the pump at night. Again, no bathers, so circulation guidelines are not quite as important for now. Sand and cartridge filters will work fine, but DE/Perlite filters will not.
- Turn down the temperature but turn down the air temperature by the same amount. Turning down the temperature about 10deg will save a significant amount of energy. Turning it down more may affect the expansion joints in the pool shell – which would cause leaking. Turning down the water temperature but not adjusting the air temperature appropriately could cause heavy evaporation or condensation.

If the decision is made to completely drain the pool(s), here are some things to consider:

- GROUNDWATER! Have you drained the pool before? What time of year was that? The groundwater is quite high right now, so if the water gets lower inside the pool than the groundwater outside the pool then the pressure could lift or crack the pool shell.
- Draining the pool will cause paint to dry out and could cause damage to tile surfaces. Be cautious.
- Chlorine and pH sensors must stay wet, so close valves in/out of their flow cell. Turn off controller
- -Pump some water through the chlorine and acid pumps, to flush the lines
- Turn off the boiler supplying heat to the pool
- Backwash filter, but only for normal amount of time. Do not drain the pool through the filter. Bypass the filter to drain
- Shut off the line from the skimmers, so that pump suction is only from the drains
- As soon as you can get to the drains, remove the covers and check for hydrostatic relief valves. If there isn't one, then remove drain plug from the bottom of at least one of the drains. Groundwater pressure will need to be relieved in order to prevent damage to the pool shell
- Open the filter drain and air vent. You could even remove the access cover to dry out the sand to prevent anything from growing in the sand or remove cartridges from cartridge filters.
- Open the skimmer line(s) to drain what's left in the skimmers
- Open the drain on the pump and remove strainer lid (to minimize corrosion)