

PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

No. 100.3

POWER OUTAGES: SWIMMING POOLS AND SPAS

Swimming pools and spas affected by a **long power outage** period are often unable to be properly filtered. They must therefore be treated and monitored frequently as they could become an ideal haven for breeding of mosquitos and other biting insects.

- 1. Nuisance Conditions:** If mosquito breeding is detected in any power outage affected swimming pools or spas, then 1 cup of household kerosene should be added to the pool water weekly.
- 2. Initial Check:** After power is restored, swimming pools and spas need to be checked to ensure that there are no snakes, spiders or other pests to pose a threat to users.
- 3. Water Quality:** After the power is restored, the water is likely to be dirty and green. Algal blooms cause pools and spas to turn green. Green pools, apart from being an eyesore can also create a health risk to users. Any attempts to clean dirty pools and spas will rapidly clog the filter. Soil and other solid matter should be sieved and vacuumed to waste and not filtered.

Once the pool has been sufficiently cleaned, the pool filter should be turned back on to circulate and filter the water. Sufficient (check the label) liquid chlorine (sodium hypochlorite) should be gradually added to the pool to raise the free chlorine concentration to 5mg/L and the pH to 7.2 at least overnight with the filter running. Once an adequate level of chlorine is reached, the pool can be used again.

The local swimming pool shop should be consulted to assist with any queries.

- 4. Salt-water pools:** Salt concentration should be readjusted accordingly. The local swimming pool shop should be consulted to assist in this situation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Business hours: Contact the Environmental Health hotline on 1800 095 646

After hours: Contact the Power and Water Corporation hotline on 1800 245 090