

# **BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

## **City of Toronto Customers**

Bremner Pool and Spa has been at several meetings and been certified by the City of Toronto as a compliant company in respect to their Best Water Practices .If you have not already received a copy of this new policy you can download it from [www.toronto.ca/water/swimmingpools](http://www.toronto.ca/water/swimmingpools). In essence we can no longer treat wastewater from swimming pools the same as we always have. The city has outlined maximum chemical readings for water being dumped on city streets or in storm sewers and will fine pool companies and homeowners if they do not comply. We have two groups of pool owners

- 1) Regular Pool Covers Using Chlorine: For most customers with chlorine or bromine pools the opening and closing will proceed as usual. For Pool Opening the water on the winter cover can be pumped to the street as usual as there is no chemical in this. For Closing as in the fall 2008 Bremner Pool & Spa has installed de-chlorination equipment on our pumps to neutralize residual chlorine. However when it comes to weekly backwash you have to comply with the same guidelines. If you are running backwash water into the storm sewer you will need both a small cartridge filter and a de-chlorinator installed to clean the backwash water and neutralize the chlorine. If you can backwash into a sanitary sewer or onto your lawn without running onto a neighbour's property that is acceptable. I have been told that there is supposed to be a 4" cleanout for sanitary sewers on your front lawn with a threaded plug in it. Again this is acceptable for backwash.

Safety Covers: These are treated the same except at opening, if there is still a chlorine reading in the water we will need to use de-chlorinating tablets.

- 2) Salt Pools with Regular Pool Covers .For Pool Opening we can pump the water on the cover to the street. However, for closing and weekly backwash we do have one large problem: the city will not allow this water in their storm sewers. There are no exceptions and no way to de-salinate the water. There are only a couple of options. Hook up your backwash line to your sanitary sewer. This would be very expensive and you have to be sure the excess water flow will not backup into your basement .The second option is for our salt customers to lower their water level with a small submersible pump and garden hose running it into a laundry sink or any access to a sanitary line. This will be slow and need some planning. Several pool service companies used this method last fall with some success. Both openings and closings can be handled this way however regular backwash of sand filters cannot. Unfortunately if a larger volume sanitary drain line cannot be accessed the only solution would be to change your sand filter to a cartridge system.

Safety Covers: With these covers we cannot lower the water level in the spring with our pumps so after clean up we will have to leave your submersible running and you will have to shut it off when you reach normal level.

Cartridge Filters — Most of our customers will probably not be familiar with these. Sand filters have always been easier to use so we have tended to promote these over the years. However we will have to change our thinking due to changing environmental concerns.

Newer style cartridge filters have much larger element filters inside so that the customer should only need to remove the cartridges a couple times a year to clean. The benefit of these systems is that you do not need to backwash and have no waste water. They also filter much finer than sand so your water has fewer particles in it and looks clearer. The downside to this is that if you allow the pool to go green it is a lot of work and cleaning of cartridges to correct. I would recommend the Hayward Swimclear Cartridge Filter (<http://www.haywardnet.com/inground/products/filters/SwimClear.cfm>). This system uses four cartridges making it a little more affordable when you have to start replacing cartridges after a few years. Secondly because there are four they are smaller and easier to soak in a cleaning solution.

Bremner Pool & Spa understands that the timing of these changes is unfortunate, however we have no choice but to bring it to your attention. We will no doubt have to discuss your individual situations with you and price each solution tailored to your needs. There are other concerns and solutions which I have not mentioned and would be happy to deal with each of you personally. I would also invite you to check out the City of Toronto's Best Management Practices website and our suppliers energy saving savings solutions in their individual websites. Hayward has a good site, but there are others which can be accessed through our website at [www.bremnerpool.com](http://www.bremnerpool.com) and go to industry links at the bottom of the page.