

Pool and Spa filters – Strategy for long life and great function

By: David R. Knighton MD, Co-Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer

Being the first of the month, I changed The Moss™ in my pool, removed the four paper filters that were loaded with cottonwood seeds – removed the four filters that were soaking in Breakaway® and a little bleach for the past month – rinsed off the Breakaway® and inserted them in the filter body. The dirty filters went in the plastic garbage can filled with water, half a bottle of Breakaway® and a cup of bleach.

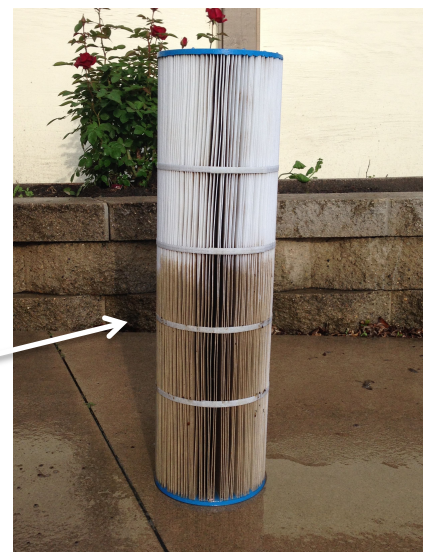
As I rinsed the filters I remembered that these are now three years old and in great shape. Before I discovered Breakaway®, my spa filters lasted a year at best. I had two, would remove the dirty one and rinse it off, replace it with the “cleaner” dry one, set the one I just removed next to the spa. These filters aren’t cheap.

As I learned more about the biology of organic contamination and had practical experience flushing spas with Breakaway®, I learned that as soon as the removed organic contamination dries it is almost impossible to remove. If I kept it wet it was easier to remove. Then, in a moment of inspiration, I looked at the dried spa filter and understood why they only lasted a year. I was promoting the build up of organic contamination every time I let it dry out. The dried organic contamination plugged the pores in the paper decreasing its effectiveness as a filter. That’s when I decided to never let the filter dry out and use Breakaway® to soak the dirty filter so the organic contamination would loosen and be removed when I rinsed it before its next use.

My spa filters in my two-person spa at the farm are over five years old and still going strong. At a pool and spa show we had a booth across from a filter company. During a lull in the afternoon, I talked to their sales rep and told him about my experience. I asked him if keeping the filters wet did any damage. He smiled and said “no” but don’t tell anyone. We want them to dry out so they have to be replaced. In the winter, I store all my pool filters in the pool with Winter Moss™. They are ready in the spring to go to work along with my PoolMoss® to provide another summer of perfect water.



Filters from David Knighton’s home that were soaking in Breakaway® and then rinsed up.



The Moss™ - What it IS and ISN'T

By: Charity Whitman, Commercial Salesperson

Sphagnum moss does a LOT of great things in ANY body of water, and we constantly get questions from dealers on how to accurately describe its capabilities and benefits -- and also whether it's a filter, biocidal and other technical questions.

As a result, we've created this one-page overview on what moss does, and doesn't provide for both commercial and residential pool/spa applications. It's a good review for even experienced dealers, and a concise training aid for new sales and service staff.

Capabilities & Benefits

- **Stabilizes pH** – Moss releases weak organic buffers into the water which helps prevent pH swings.
- **Reduces organic contamination** - The Moss™ will both “clean up” **and** inhibit the accumulation of new organic contamination.
- **Reduces maintenance time** – Because The Moss™ is cleaning up the organic contamination, significantly less time is required to maintain water chemistry.
- **Reduces chemical use** – No need to shock or use clarifiers -- **and** you'll also use less chlorine and pH adjusters.
- **Removes key heavy metals such as iron, magnesium, calcium** – Some metals have a +2 or +3 ionic charge to them. The leaves of The Moss™ actually collect and capture those ions, so they're no longer circulating in the water.
- **Removes scale buildup** – The Moss™ pulls the calcium that creates scale back into solution.
- **Reduces corrosion** – Because The Moss™ constantly prevents scaling and organic contamination, corrosion is also minimized.
- **Reduces foul odors** – The Moss™ significantly reduces disinfection by-products (in the water and in the air) in the pool or spa area, which minimizes or eliminates foul odors. The difference is often dramatic.

Common Moss Misconceptions

- **It's NOT a filter** – The Moss™ simply uses its natural balancing and clarifying properties to improve water quality (see above).
- **It will NOT fix broken equipment** – While it is not a replacement for poor filtration, poor circulation or poor sanitization, The Moss™ has a proven track record of significantly inhibiting scale and corrosion which in turn reduces both short- and long-term maintenance and equipment costs.
- **It's NOT an algacide** – The Moss™ will reduce the amount of organic contamination however, it will not remove it or kill algae that is already present.
- **It's NOT a biocide** – The Moss™ is not biocidal and therefore will not “kill” bacteria present in the body of water.

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Where will we be next?

- Greater & Greener is the leading international conference to explore the issues, challenges, and opportunities facing today's urban parks. CWS will be exhibiting from July 29th to August 2nd of 2017.
- Creative Water Solutions will be exhibiting at the AWT Annual Convention and exposition in Grand Rapid, MI, from September 13th to the 16th of 2017.