

White Water Mold & Pink Slime Removal & Follow up Prevention:

Since these two water quality problems typically go hand in hand, let's treat them together.

1. Mechanical - using vacuums, wall brushes, scrub brushes, filter cleaners, a sponge, etc., physically remove the bio-film from ALL visible places.

Visible places would be the filter cartridge itself, filter tank, vinyl liner, water line, ladder treads, pool surfaces, skimmer baskets, etc. You can physically handle the object that needs to be cleaned. If possible, don't allow it into the pool!

Brushing breaks up and lifts the WWM & PS off from its cozy environs enabling chlorine to kill it and the filter to remove it. Be careful however to regularly physically & chemically clean the filter to remove the accumulations of "filtered" WWM & PS from the filter media - whether it be sand, DE or cartridge.

2. Chemical removal. In hard to reach places like pool plumbing lines & inside heaters, WWM & PS need to be removed Chemically. This is where so much of these organisms (and about 99% of the bacteria) accumulate and thrive.

Large quantities of shock, whether Burn Out Extreme, Smart Shock (liquid chlorine is very ineffective) for chlorine, bromine, ionizer or ozone treated pools. In biguanide treated pools (Baqacil or Soft Swim), their respective shock treatments must be used. A quantity of 5 to 6 times normal may be necessary. Part of the shock treatment should be properly added (talk to your local dealer) through the skimmer to treat those hidden areas.

In follow up, the pool **MUST** be shocked weekly to help prevent recurrences.

3. Natural prevention is accomplished using certain enzymes, natural acids & even sphagnum moss.

Natural enzymes (Natural Chemistry® Pool Perfect, Pool First Aid, etc.) "eat up" much of the nutrients and other waste that contribute to WWM & PS growth thereby stunting it. As these organisms become more resistant and proliferate, a new arsenal of products must be considered & used.

Newer products such as **AquaFinesse™** Pool Pucks are added to the pool skimmer and quite rapidly aid in the removal of the WWM & PS from hidden surfaces. AquaFinesse™ products have been successfully used in the European market and in industrial applications for several years.

As with the physical removal products, loosened & removed bio-film particles are filtered out of the water then removed from the system entirely. After initial application, the filter becomes rapidly clogged as it traps all of that removed stuff. All filters must be chemically cleaned to restore them to a good working condition (every 6 weeks for optimal performance).

These products are completely compatible with all pool care chemical systems (chlorine, bromine, biguanides, ionizers. salt).

PoolNaturally™ utilizes a species of sphagnum moss that actively neutralizes the "stuff" that contributes to bio-film as well as algal growth. The result is clear, "clean" & well balanced water as found in many ponds & lakes where sphagnum moss grows. (Chlorine, Bromine, Ionizer Pools)

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White Water Mold & Pink Slime. What they are. How to treat them.

Important information for all swimming pool owners to better understand these two difficult pool water issues.



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What is White Water Mold & Pink Slime?

Par Pool & Spa has observed White Water Mold (WWM) & Pink Slime (PS) for the better part of 20 years. Our first case happened to be in a biguanide pool, BUT the source of the WWM & PS was the homeowner's garden hose!

What are these organisms? They ARE NOT algae of any form! They are both "animal." WWM is a fungus. PS is a form of bacterium. Both of these seem to come from or are rooted in pre-existing Bio-Films. Let's take a closer look.

White Water Mold

White Water Mold (WWM) is a naturally occurring fungus that resembles white mucous or tissue paper found all over pool surfaces.

It forms a heavy, protective coating providing the organism with an unusually high level of protection that is very resilient against halogen-based (chlorine, bromine) and non-halogen sanitizers or germicides.

WWM can remain a contaminant even after treatment & it exists on the surface of PVC plastics.

WWM can re-contaminate a pool long after it appears to have been destroyed (includes pool toys, floats, ladders, steps, fountains, automatic pool cleaner parts, skimmer baskets, weirs, directional fittings, garden hoses, etc.).

Even small quantities of WWM can lead to a re-establishment of the problem.

Since White Water Mold is an environmental problem it can occur in any pool using any sanitizing system. You have most likely seen it come out your home garden hose or in damp or moist areas around your home. Care has to be taken to run the garden hose for a minute or two before putting that hose into the pool when filling or topping off the pool's water level.

Once WWM is in the swimming pool water and all of its system, the growth and proliferation of it is caused by improper water & pool maintenance, environment, poor circulation. Maintenance includes weekly brushing & vacuuming, wiping down of the pool waterline.

Keep in mind that WWM seems to prefer areas that are "dark" (not exposed to direct sunlight) & with "slow moving" or stagnant water (inside underwater light housings & niches - as shown below), the backsides of skimmer weirs, under



ladder treads, and even in un-used pool vacuum hoses.

White Water Mold IS NOT CAUSED BY USING BIGUANIDES (Soft Swim, Baquacil, Polyclear, etc.)! It is an environmental issue.

Pink Slime

Pink Slime (PS) is a naturally occurring bacterium (of the newly formed genus *Methylobacterium*).

It is Pink-pigmented (therefore its name), forms a heavy, protective slime coating providing the organism with an unusually high level of

self-protection. It consumes methanol (a waste product) and is oftentimes found WITH White Water Mold.

PS is very resilient against halogen-based (chlorine, bromine) as well as non-halogen sanitizers or germicides and can remain a contaminant even after treatment - similar in resistance to WWM.

Furthermore, the PS bacterium has an affinity (really likes) for the matrix that exists on the surface of PVC plastics; it will attach itself to & inside of that matrix. That affinity allows it to re-contaminate the pool long after it appears that it has been destroyed (includes pool toys, floats, ladders, steps, fountains, automatic pool cleaner parts, skimmer baskets, weirs, directional fittings, garden hoses, etc.). If you notice "brown" stains on plastics, that could be dormant PS.

Like WWM, PS prefers "dark" areas of the pool. It does not do well in direct sunlight (sunlight is a natural oxidizer).

Lastly, Pink Slime IS NOT CAUSED BY USING BIGUANIDES (Soft Swim, Baquacil, Polyclear, etc.)!

