



Happy Birthday Mr. President

The Month of August is perhaps the heaviest swimming month of the year and it appears it's a very busy month for

Presidential birthdays too:

Aug. 4th – Barack Obama 1961

Aug. 10th – Herbert Hoover 1874

Aug. 19th – Bill Clinton 1946

Aug. 20th – Benjamin Harrison 1833

Aug. 27th – Lyndon Johnson 1908

Salt Water Pools – the Good and the Bad!

Giving any thought to switching your pool over to a “saltwater” pool? If you live in the Santa Clarita Valley you'd better check with the Los Angeles County Sanitation District before you invest in the necessary equipment and take on the service responsibilities and costs of maintaining that specialized equipment.

On November 9, 2005, an ordinance was enacted in the Santa Clarita Valley making it illegal for swimming pools connected to the sewer system to be converted to saltwater pools. The ordinance also made it illegal for both new and existing saltwater pools to be connected to the sewer system. A copy of the ordinance can be obtained by following the link below:

[Saltwater Pool Ordinance](http://www.lacsd.org/civica/filebank/blobload.asp?BlobID=2329)

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- New and existing saltwater pool connections to the sewer system are prohibited. It is also illegal to convert swimming pools connected to the sewer system to saltwater pools.
- A violation of the ordinance banning saltwater pools is a misdemeanor punishable by fines up to \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 30 days.
- The ordinance applies to residences served by the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (formerly Sanitation Districts Nos. 26 and 32), which includes all areas with sewer service in the Santa Clarita Valley. Communities affected include, but are not limited to: Santa Clarita, Saugus, Valencia, Newhall, Castaic, Canyon Country, Stevenson Ranch, Fair Oaks Ranch, Bouquet Canyon, Mint Canyon, and Forrest Park.

What do Adrian, Alex, Armando, Jose, Maritza, Pablo, Patti, and Ricardo have in common? We're proud to say they are full time employees of Duane's Pool Service, Inc. and are the folks that do the weekly cleaning and maintenance of your pools and spas. Every one of them has your best interests at heart and does their best to keep your water recreation assets in the best shape possible. They are supervised by Ramon Tovar who is in communications with them on a daily basis. Our pool technicians are the best and do appreciate a friendly greeting when you see them at your pool.

So you have a pool filter that runs several hours a day. What's inside it and how does it work? Inside most standard filters are a series of eight filter grids made of hard plastic covered with a porous cloth. Added to the filter is diatomaceous earth, aka: DE. What is DE you ask, well here's one definition: Diatomaceous earth consists of fossilized remains of diatoms, a type of hard-shelled algae. It is used as a filtration aid, as a mild abrasive, as a mechanical insecticide, as an absorbent for liquids, as cat litter, as an activator in blood clotting studies, and as a component of dynamite. As it is also heat-resistant, it can be used as a thermal insulator. Bet you didn't know how versatile DE actually is. For more information Google diatomaceous earth and see how some people actually drink it in their morning orange juice.

A little swimming pool HUMOR: You know your swimming pool needs cleaning when:

- 1. The Grim Reaper shows up in his Speedo.*
- 2. You can walk on the water, even though you're only the son of Gus.*
- 3. Kids still pee in your pool, but they refuse to get in it first.*
- 4. New algae species attract a Discovery Channel film crew to your backyard.*
- 5. Neighborhood kids ask if they can jump on your trampoline.*
- 6. pH is so high, in vitro fertilization is possible.*

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- Residences served by septic tanks instead of sewers are not affected by the ordinance.
- The ordinance aims to reduce the amount of chloride going into the Santa Clara River.

“Swimming in a mild saline solution is much like taking a shower in soft water. Generally, when people swim in a non-chlorine generator pool (a pool with no salt water in it) they feel like their skin dries quicker upon exiting the pool. They may feel and/or see a whitish residual, chlorine flaking, on the skin. In a salt-water pool (one with a chlorine generator) the water feels smooth, your skin feels smooth and many people feel more refreshed.

Let's start with the initial cost of the system. They can run well over a thousand dollars installed. The Chlorine Generator cell may only last five to seven years depending on how well the system is maintained. By this we mean that the salt levels must be kept at the correct parts per million or damage may occur to the cell, which can be expensive to replace. So you still need to purchase the salt, this may be only a few times a year depending on how much is purchased at one time.

Another drawback is the pool still needs to be tested for chlorine and acid demand. Yes you still need to test for chlorine. The salt cell generates the chlorine but adjustments must be made to prevent the levels from becoming too high or low. Then you need to test for the ph level. If the ph level becomes too high or low the salt cell can be damaged leading to replacement and extra cost.

Then there is the question of how much time is needed to run the pool pump. Many people want to run their pump a few hours a day. They become accustomed to the low electric bills. Then when they purchase the salt system they find that more hours are needed for the system to work correctly. This leads to higher bills so people tend to turn the pump time back down. Guess what happens then? Well if the pool experiences heavy use the chlorine level drops or disappears. So one has two choices, they can either run the system longer or add liquid chlorine. The later kind of defeats the whole idea of a salt water pool.” (Credits: Thanks to **About.com** for the information contained above.)

Another drawback is that a salt system cannot be installed in pools that have copper pipes. Many pools in the sixties and seventies had copper plumbing. Salt will eat away at the copper over a period of time. So plastic pipes need to be installed which can become very costly.

Another factor one must consider when looking at a saltwater pool is the corrosive effects of the salt water. It will literally eat away the grout around your waterline tiles, etch the surface of the pool plaster and eventually require the re-grouting of the pool coping. The pool water can be damaging to landscaping around the pool perimeter.

These are the major pros and cons of owning a salt water pool. You decide, is it worth it to have soft skin nice hair and the absence of red eyes? Many think it is the only way to go and wouldn't ever go back to fresh water pools.

For the record Duane's Pool Service does not recommend saltwater pool systems and does not take responsibility for the maintenance of the chlorine generators.