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Pool and Spa News

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Motion Injuries**

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COVER: BEECHWOOD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION/COURTESY NESPA
ABOVE LEFT: BURKETT'S POOL PLASTERING
ABOVE RIGHT: COURTESY FSPA

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Pool and Spa News

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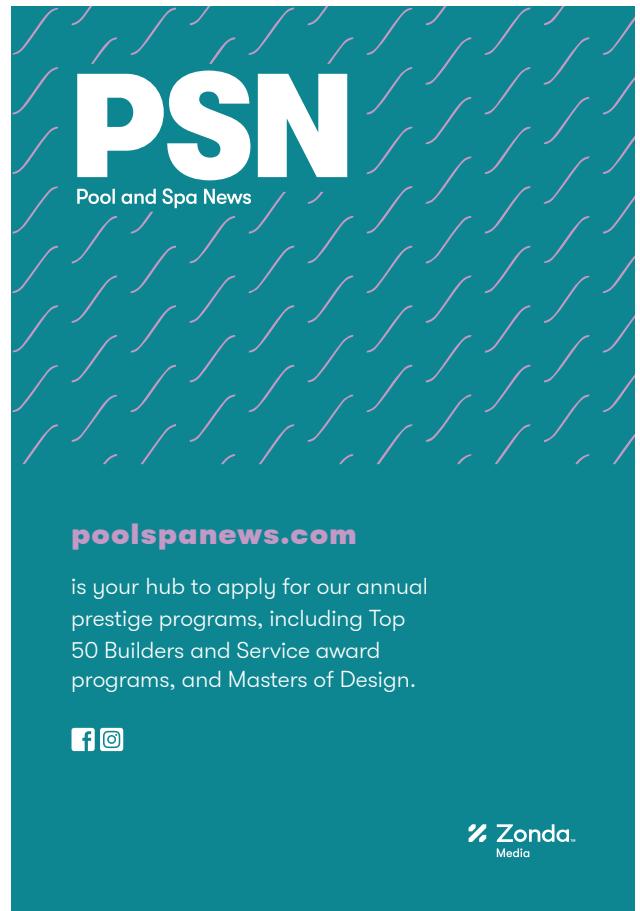
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Growing Wiser on Growing Older



Joanne McClain
Editor-in-Chief, PSN

“I learned the true meaning of the phrase ‘grown up’ recently. I’ve reached the age when I groan every time I get up.”

If you laughed at that joke, then hooray, we can be friends! Because some days, the only way to get through the indignities of growing older is with a little humor to lubricate our increasingly creaky joints and stiff muscles.

As a person firmly ensconced in middle age, I have been forced to acknowledge the hard truth: My body ain’t what it used to be. I used to be quite strong — perhaps not coordinated enough to be considered athletic, but I was stubborn, competitive and strong enough to hold my own. In my youth, I was known for winning a few arm wrestling matches, even against some men.

Nowadays, I’m chagrined to find myself needing help opening a simple jar in the kitchen. And a recent freak accident with a palm frond last fall showed me just how important — and fragile — our health can be.

I had inadvertently and very suddenly stepped hard on the heavy curved base of a palm frond while running last October. It tore apart my calf muscle and, unbeknownst to me, had also broken my ankle. The remedy was simple — stay off the injured leg! But obeying that directive, even limited as I was in a medical boot, proved difficult.

Getting out and about sometimes required a wheelchair with someone assisting me. As an extremely

independent person, I found it very hard and humbling to ask for help. I no doubt delayed my recovery by more than a few weeks by stubbornly walking about on my injured leg before I should have. And, as anyone growing older knows, our bodies not only take longer to heal the older we get but we become more vulnerable to sustaining long-term debilitating injuries, particularly from repetitive motions.

This point was driven home to me in a conversation I had with an inventor who stopped by our booth at the PSP Expo last November. His invention, the Skim360 Floater, is a skimmer pole designed with a float to support its weight in the water. Its purpose is to reduce repetitive motion strain on the user’s arms and shoulders which, as any pool service technician will confirm, is a real pain in the ... well, shoulders.

Obviously, specialty tools such as these can help alleviate some of the problem, but a more holistic and mindful approach can be beneficial. So I invite you to read “The Risk is Real,” by Deputy Editor Rebecca Robledo. Be cognizant of these types of injuries and employ ways to mitigate these risks. The people who put their backbones into carrying our industry deserve no less.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanne McClain". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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Plaster Standard Revision Nearly Complete

With additions about responsibilities on the worksite, the language awaits final approval.

BY REBECCA ROBLEDO

Language has been finalized for the latest plaster standard update, with the industry awaiting approval by ANSL.

“I think the standard is twofold,” said Shaun Goldberg, chairman of the National Plasterers Council, which collaborates with PHTA on the standard. “It gives plasterers a document that they can follow, with the minimums of how they need to perform or what needs to be done. It also gives architects and builders enough information so they have the knowledge to hire a plasterer.”

PHTA-12 Standard for the Plastering of Swimming Pools and Spas, which applies to residential and commercial pools and spas, was last updated in 2019.

As part of the revision, language formerly found in the appendix regarding cold-weather plastering has been added to the main body of the standard.

The new language addressed the question of who bears responsibility for processes that can straddle multiple contractors, such as pool start-up, which can be arranged or performed by the plasterer or a service firm and, therefore, can get lost in the shuffle. According to the standard, the company contacted by the client must ensure that a start-up is performed, either doing it themselves, contracting

with somebody else, or informing the client of the need for it.

“It’s one thing to have a start-up procedure, but then you have to emphasize that somebody has to be responsible to do it,” Goldberg said.

The language takes a similar stance on substrate preparation and arrangement for access. However, if another party is responsible for the prep, the plasterer needs to make clear what needs to be done for them to confidently apply their material, based on the condition of the shell.

The term “colorfast” has been removed from the standard, in recognition of the fact that pigmented cementitious materials will change tone over time. “We came to the agreement that the terms was really used for dyes, fabrics, paints or epoxies — not pigments used in cementitious materials,” Goldberg said. “Cementitious materials submerged in water continue to react.”



PHOTO: NEW IMAGE POOL INTERIORS

2025 Top 50 Builder Competition Underway

They say you are the company you keep, and now’s the time to find your place among the most prestigious group of pool/spa builders in the country.

We now are accepting applications for the 2025 PSN & Hayward Top 50 Builders program. All types of company profiles and business models are represented.

To qualify, companies must generate residential construction/renovation revenue of at least \$2.5 million per year.

Applicants are judged based on total residential construction revenue, commitment to staff and training, industry involvement, web presence and community involvement.

Applications are due March 13, 2025. To learn more and apply, go to poolspanews.com.

Many thanks to Hayward for sponsoring this year’s program!

Fund Created to Help Peers Hurt by Fires

The Pool & Hot Tub Alliance has coordinated a financial assistance fund to help companies impacted by Southern California’s wildfires in January.

Its California Fire Relief Fund is accepting contributions from industry companies and organizations through its 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation.

Industry professionals who apply to receive a grant must demonstrate direct impact, such as property damage or business interruption, and meet other eligibility criteria.

To apply for a grant or donate to the fund, go to phta.org or contact Laurie Lankford at llankford@phta.org.

NESPA Show Benefits from Partnerships

BY REBECCA ROBLEDO

Bolstered by mild weather, an expanded show floor and a cautiously optimistic local industry, the Pool & Spa Show — Powered by the Northeast Spa & Pool Association saw brisk crowds across expanded square footage.

Two aisles were added to the gradually expanding event, with some on-floor sessions forced to take place behind the all that normally borders the show.

“It was a combination of more exhibitors and exhibitors taking up more space,” said Dominick Mondì, executive director of NESPA, which organizes the trade show.

More than 400 exhibitors occupied approximately 125,000 square feet of space.

The show also saw an increase in partnerships and special programs before the main event. The World Aquatic Health Conference took place at the venue for the first time, while Pool Horizons held its company event at the same time, and Hayward celebrated its 100th anniversary there.

“That’s meaningful to our organization,” Mondì said. “I think the industry that we serve is changing. It’s evolving into the next, best version of itself. It’s more than just growing — it’s evolving. The show is a reflection of that.”

The NESPA team projected a hike in attendance of about 7%. Part of this was attributed to the extra classes and programs taking place before the start of the show.

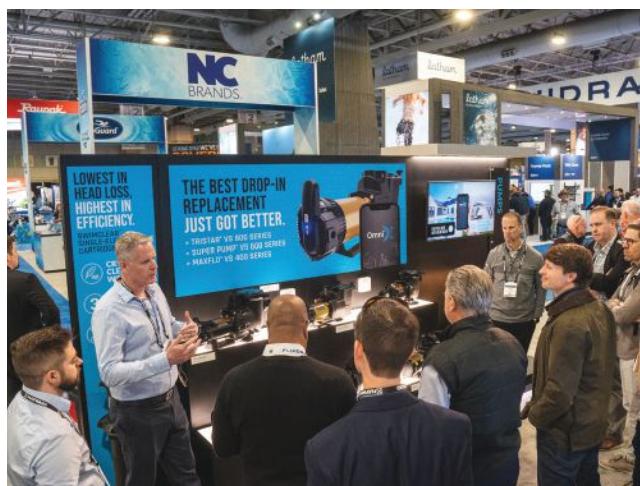
“For the first time we had more than 400 people signed up for the Sunday classes,” Mondì said.

To accommodate the more than 120 classes, the team had to move some sessions to the hotel across the street and build two classrooms on the show floor.

Heritage Pool Supplies held a fundraising concert that generated \$200,000 to be donated to PHTA’s Step Into Swim program.

In the future, Mondì expects the commercial side of the industry to have a bigger presence at the show.

The 2026 Pool & Spa Show: Powered by NESPA will take place Jan. 27 to 29, with pre-conference programs beginning two days before.



PHOTOS COURTESY NESPA



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Trump Urged to Exempt Building Materials From Tariffs

The National Association of Home Builders is urging the Trump Administration to consider exempting building materials from proposed

tariffs on Canada and Mexico because of their potential harmful effect on housing affordability.

In a letter to President Trump,

the NAHB expressed concerns the proposed tariffs on Canada and Mexico will slow down the domestic residential construction industry and counteract efforts to solve the affordability crisis and housing shortage.

“On President Trump’s first day in office, he issued an executive order directing departments and agencies to deliver emergency price relief by pursuing actions to lower the cost of housing and increase housing supply,” NAHB chairman Carl Harris said in a statement on the across-the-board tariffs. “This move to raise tariffs ... on Canadian and Mexican goods will have the opposite effect. More than 70% of imports of two essential materials that home builders rely on — softwood lumber and gypsum (used for drywall) — come from Canada and Mexico, respectively.”

In the letter to the President, the NAHB said inputs to residential construction have seen price increases of just over 30% since January 2021. At the same time, Canada and Mexico represent nearly 25% of building material imports.

“Imposing additional tariffs on these imports will lead to higher costs, which will ultimately be passed on to home buyers in the form of increased housing prices,” Harris wrote in the letter. “Further supply chain disruptions from increased demand for materials could also hinder rebuilding efforts in areas affected by natural disasters, which you have pledged to help rebuild as quickly as possible.”

Harris said the NAHB will “continue to work with policymakers to eliminate barriers that make housing more costly and prevent builders from boosting housing production.”

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POOL AND SPA PRODUCTS

Azureon Makes New Acquisition

Azureon, the consolidator recently formed by the joining of five high-profile Northeast builders and service firms, has added a sixth to the team.

The company, backed by O2 Investment Partners, invested in Pelican Pools of Southampton, N.Y. Pelican will retain its brand and operate under its existing leadership, including President Jim O'Brien, who continues to maintain significant ownership.

Founded in 1988, Pelican Pools is a full-service pool maintenance and construction company that provides residential pool installation, renovation, maintenance and other services to customers in the Hamptons, N.Y. area.

Azureon formed last year with the joining of Aqua Doctor of East Hanover, N.J.; Chaikin Ultimate Pools in Deer Park, N.Y.; Cool Pool & Spa in Nanuet, N.Y.; Gorlin Pools and Spas in Lakehurst, N.J.; and Rainbow Pools in Fishkill, N.Y.

Lyon Financial Hires New President

Gina Jernigan has returned to Lyon Financial to serve as president. In her new role, Jernigan will assist Dick Lyon, the pool financier's founder and CEO, in its future growth.

She served as senior vice president of operations for Lyon from 1997 to 2010. For the past 14 years, she held the position of vice president and regional manager/division manager for a lending partner of Lyon's, called Regions Home Improvement Financing, formerly EnerBank USA. There, she was a key liaison between the two companies.

Jernigan began her career in finance in 1994 as the underwriting manager for Contractor Support at The Associates.

Dick Lyon has been associated with Jernigan for more than 30 years. "I am confident that Gina's return to the Lyon team will enhance both Lyon's success in 2025 and the success of our lender partners," Dick Lyon said. "She will be a tremendous asset to Lyon once again, as she has a deep understanding of our company — thanks to her previous experience at Lyon and her work with Regions/EnerBank over the past decade."

The company said Jernigan will work to further strengthen the partnership between Lyon Financial and other lenders such as Regions, while overseeing a team of more than 100 employees. She is based at the company's headquarters in Mooresville, N.C.



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UPCOMING 'EVERYTHING UNDER THE SUN EXPO' LOOKS BRIGHT

FSPA's annual trade show gears up for a possible record-breaker.

BY NATE TRAYLOR

The Everything Under the Sun Expo, hosted by the Florida Swimming Pool Association (FSPA), is poised for another record-breaking year in 2025.

The trade show kicks off with a welcome party on Friday, March 14 and continues Saturday, March 15 with a full day of educational sessions and product showcases at the Orange County Convention Center, West Hall E, in Orlando.

Heading into its 52nd edition, the Southeast's largest pool and spa trade show continues to grow, drawing attendees and exhibitors from across the nation to explore

the latest innovations in the industry.

"We've evolved tremendously over the decades," says FSPA CEO Elizabeth McMurray. "What started as a tabletop event is now a colossal trade show — one of the top three in the nation."

The 2024 expo set a high bar with 5,450 attendees and over 240 exhibitors. McMurray anticipates surpassing those numbers this year, attributing growth to refreshed branding, strategic marketing initiatives, and an organic boom in the pool and spa industry, particularly in Florida. "There's a hunger for these events, especially as people reconnect after the pandemic," she notes.

PHOTOS COURTESY FSPA

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A FRESH TAKE ON EDUCATION

This year's expo promises to offer an even more robust lineup of educational sessions, addressing not only technical aspects of the industry but also the business side of operations. McMurray emphasized the importance of including topics such as marketing, HR, and accounting. "We've received overwhelming demand for these kinds of courses, even if they don't always qualify for continuing education credits," she explains.

Attendees can also expect workshops on new regulations, such as recent updates to spa sanitizer levels mandated by Florida's Department of Health, as well as hands-on learning labs for equipment and materials.

ENHANCED FEATURES AND TECHNOLOGY

The 2025 expo will introduce several technological upgrades, including a new registration system and an accompanying app. "We've overhauled our registration process, partnering with top-tier companies to ensure a seamless experience," McMurray says. The app will feature schedules, maps, and networking tools, making it easier than ever for attendees to navigate the event and connect with peers.

Learning labs will once again take center stage, offering interactive sessions led by manufacturers. "We've already sold out our learning lab slots, which is unprecedented," McMurray reveals.

SPOTLIGHT ON CELEBRATIONS

Beyond the exhibits and education, the expo aims to foster community among industry professionals

with a welcome party and an awards ceremony. The FSPA's awards ceremony honoring best pool designs and industry professionals will receive an upgrade this year, moving to a larger venue, Ole Red — that's country singer Blake Shelton's restaurant in Orlando's Icon Park — to accommodate growing demand.

"Our awards ceremony has been reimagined to really celebrate the people and designs shaping our industry," McMurray says. "It's a chance to shine a spotlight on exceptional work and then enjoy a raucous party afterward!"

Additionally, the Friday night party will take place at Cuba Libre, aligning with the expo's "pirates" theme, complete with live music, dancers, and tropical flair.

For a complete show schedule, visit fspa.com/pool-pros/everything-under-the-sun-expo/.

SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Specialty Education Courses \$

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Specialty Education Courses \$

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Pre-Approved Early Exhibitor Move-In

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Exhibitor Registration Open/Exhibitor Badge Pick-up

7:15 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Exhibitor Move-In (can stay later if in hall by 5:00)/Exhibitor Badge Pick-up

7:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. Attendee Registration Open/Badge Pick-up

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Specialty Education Courses \$

11:00 a.m. - 4:40 p.m. Education Courses

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Awards Presentation (doors open at 6:00 p.m.)

8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Awards After-Party

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

6:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Exhibitor Registration Open

6:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Attendee Registration Open

8:00 a.m. - 1:50 p.m. Education Courses

9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Opening Ceremony

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. FSPA Annual Membership Meeting

12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Learning Labs

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Friday Night Party

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

7:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Exhibitor Registration Open

7:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Attendee Registration Open

9:00 a.m. - 12:40 p.m. Education Courses

10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Exhibit Hall

11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Learning Labs

2:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Exhibitor Move-Out

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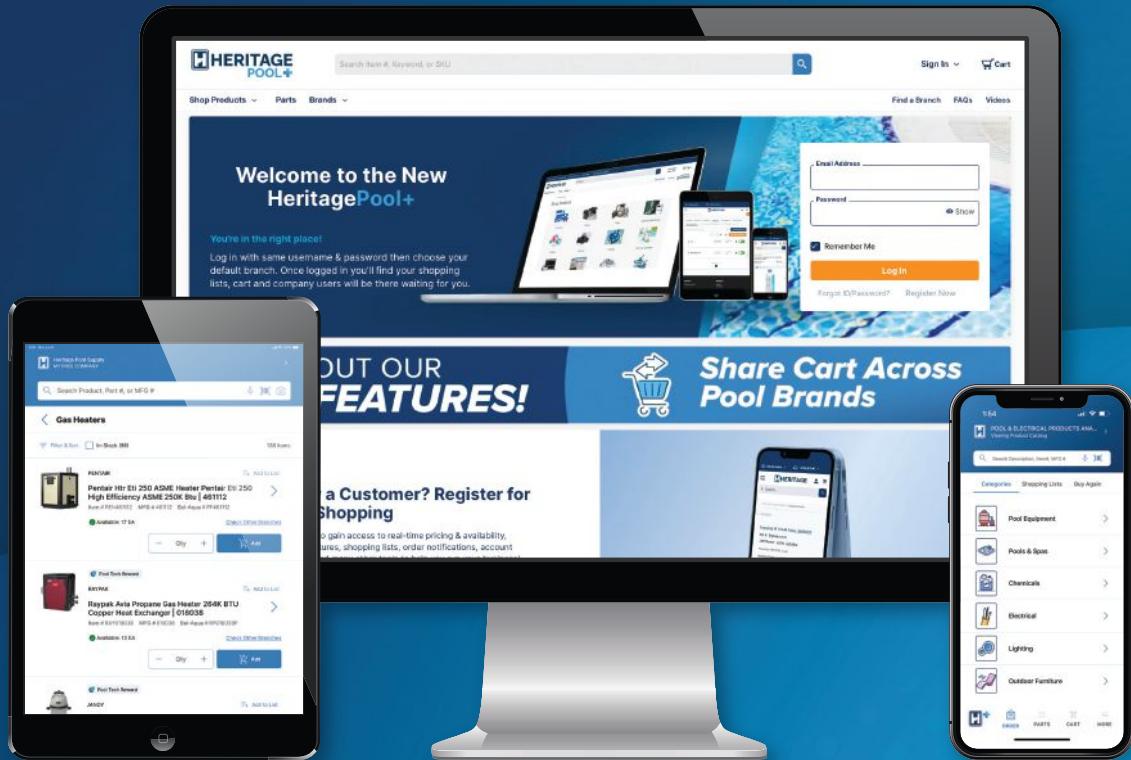
Exhibitor List: Everything Under the Sun Expo

Company	Booth	Company	Booth	Company	Booth
A&B Brush	626	Blue Square Manufacturing	518	GulfStream Heat Pumps (FG)	408
Adjust-A-Brush	1229	Blue-White Industries	833	H2flow	1029
Aguagevity	541	Brenntag Mid-South, Inc.	932	Hach/AquaChek	525
Aiper Intelligent LLC	1305	Brown & Brown Insurance	640	Hammer-Head Patented Performance	1241
Aladdin Equipment Co., Inc.	1042	Buckman's Inc.	628	HammerTech Solutions	416
All Phase Pool Plastering	334	BuildBlock Building Systems	927	Harmony Stone	439
Allied Universal Corp.	720	Built Right Pool Heaters LLC	1226	Haviland Consumer Products	1133
Alps Manufacturing	642	Bullseye Leisure Industry Products	322	Hayward Holdings, Inc. (HQ-MN)	1001
Altoglass USA	942	BWT Pool Products	321	HFS Financial	715
Amaral Outdoors	1145	Byrd Moreton & Associates	629	HIDE Covers	1426
AME Salt, LLC	1129	CantSink	429	Hurricane Ventures LLC	1025
American Business Brokers	1041	CCEI USA	623	Hut Distributors dba Hose Hut	337
American Leak Detection	920	Century, A Regal Company	531	Hydramix	301
Anderson Manufacturing Company, Inc.	1235	CL Industries	543	Independent Pool and Spa Service Association	742
Angels in the Sun	1231	Classic Pool Tile & Stone	1430	Industrial Test Systems, Inc.	921
Aqua Comfort Water Group	530	Coastal Surface and Design	427	INOVASIA	1030
Aqua Creek Products	528	Commercial Energy Specialists	1215	Intermatic, Inc.	1121
AQUA Magazine	438	Com-Pac Filtration	1417	Intrigue Media	726
Aquabella Tile	939	Crossville Studios	842	IPS Controllers	1132
AquaBond, LLC	305	Crystal Water Monitor	316	iQ4Mobility, LLC	1400
AquaCal AutoPilot	901	Custom Mosaics Inc.	1404	Jack's Magic Products	743
Aquamatic Cover Systems	310	Cutco	1239	Jobe Valves	741
AQUASALT, LLC	839	DiversiTech	1126	Keystone Tile	605
AquaStar Pool Products Inc.	1122	Dunn Rite Products	1414	Kimes Engineering	1304
Aquatherm Industries, Inc.	1201	Dynasty Spas	727	King Technology, Inc.	722
Aquatica	1244	EasyCare Products USA	925	Kokido Development Limited	1128
AquaWorx, Inc.	1315	ecoFinish High Performance Coatings	1309	LaMotte Company	1127
Artistic Paver Manufacturing	415	E-Z Products	539	Latham Pool Products, Inc.	420
Artistry In Mosaics	325	FIBCO POOL	1401	LeakTronics / Torque Lock	938
Ashland Pump	828	Fiberlite Umbrellas	739	Ledge Lounger	1020
Atlantic Stone Source	1339	Fire by Design	631	Leslie's Pool Supply	320
Aymar Stone	328	Floating Luxuries	1300	Lo-Chlor	915
Backwash Recycling USA	1043	Florida Leak Locators	1330	Luv Tile Enterprises Inc.	1205
Barrier Reef Fiberglass Pools	443	Florida Stucco Corp.	1322	Lyon Financial	1113
Basecrete Technologies	822	Florida Swimming Pool Association	344	Madimack Global LLC	424
Benchmark Payment Networks	1326	Florida Swims Foundation	1247	Magen eco-Energy US	1038
Bio Dex Laboratories	1033	Fluidra	701	Magic Pavers	1328
Bio-Active Products Ins. / Solar Sun Rings	1135	FWP	813	Maxx Supply	1320
Blaz Bowlz	1234	Fyre Commander	1142	Maytronics	1334
BLU3 Portable Dive Systems	643	Gallagher	338	Microglass LLC	544
Blue Skies Services LLC	944	Global Pool Products	830	Midwest Canvas Corporation	1131
		Gorman Company	601		



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Company	Booth	Company	Booth	Company	Booth
Mikeys Quick Coupler	948	Pebble Technology, Inc.	1221	Prism Hardscapes	1130
Mini Bucket Test	1327	Pentair Water Pool & Spa - SC	401	Propane Ninja	540
Miracote	1028	Periodic Products Inc	1238	Protect-A-Child Pool Fence Co.	841
MobiWork LLC	1233	PHTA	730	Protected Pools Automatic Covers	843
Moov Pool Products	1015	Pool Brain	926	ProtoTech	1333
Naked Pools	425	Pool Builder Agency	431	ProValet.io	1039
National Plasterers Council	930	Pool Corp.	513	PUL Products	331
National Pool Route Sales, Inc.	723	Pool Lift Specialists	1024	Purity Pool, Inc.	645
Natural Chemistry / Biolab	627	Pool Magazine	303	PVF Industrial	740
Nature Works Glass Filter Media	849	Pool Pro Office	1342	Raypak Inc.	821
Nirvana Heat Pump USA LLC	840	Pool Service Products	1248	RED RHINO	1209
Oasis Intl. Design	1416	Pool Tiger	1406	RevUp Apparel	1227
OC Outdoorscapes	1345	PoolPal USA	838	RicoRock, Inc.	1329
Ocean Blue Water Products	831	PoolRx Worldwide	1027	Ring Power	1429
Odyssey Manufacturing Co.	917	Poolside Tech	827	Riptide Pool Vacuum Systems	549
OnCore Filtration	1045	Pouralid	1040	Rola-Chem Corp.	535
Only Alpha Pool Products	725	Praher Plastics Canada Ltd	524	Safety Grip	419
Orenda Technologies	521	Premix Marblite MFG	749	SAFRON Pool Rails	1138
PAL Lighting LLC	620	Primate Pool Tools	638	Sakko Pool LLC	1338
Paythepoolman LLC	418	Princess Fiberglass Pools	309	Salco Salt	440

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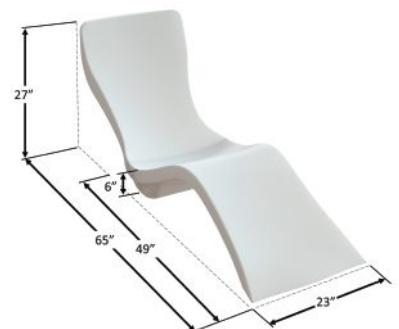
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Sallee Promotions, Inc.	449	Swimables	630	US Motors	624
San Juan Fiberglass Pools	949	Swimbrella	414	US Paverscape	1139
SGM Inc	1301	Swimming Pool Windows	1023	US SEAL MFG.	826
Sheer Water Designs LLC	748	Tempool Inc	545	vacbagz.com	315
Shield Bearer LLC	304	Tenjam	526	VacDaddy	1044
Skim Guard	1242	Terra Engineering Consulting LLC	1232	Vak Pak, Inc	649
Skimlite Manufacturing	523	The Bottom Feeder	312	Valcon Industries LLC	423
Skimmer, Inc.	732	The Dip App	433	Viking Capital, Inc.	400
Slipstream	1408	The LeverEdge	1402	Water Feature Pros	1428
Spa Electrics Inc.	1014	The Little Pool	1230	Water Tech Corporation	738
Speck Pumps-Pool Products, Inc.	1321	The Outdoor Plus	1032	Waterco USA Inc.	639
Stegmeier Corporation	633	The Seal	336	Waters Choice, Inc.	943
Stenner Pump Company	931	Thermeau Industries Inc.	621	Watershape University	542
StoneHardscapes / BackyardXpo	909	Tiger Payments Solutions	341	Waterway Plastics	1411
Stoneline West Palm Beach LLC	1423	Tile Specialties, Inc.	538	Weld-On Adhesives, Inc.	632
Stone-Mart	731	Tristate Gunit Florida, LP	317	Westlake Pipe & Fittings	835
Sunset Lighting Design	410	Ultimate Pool Tools	306	Wet Edge Technologies	300
SunSmart Engineering	929	Unicel Filter Cartridges	634	Wise Software	436
Superior Pump	625	Universal White Cement Company	1143	Worksite	744

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NORTHEAST *ELITE*

A look at the builders,
retailers and service
operations recognized in the
NESPA 2024 Awards

BY REBECCA ROBLEDO

The latest class of companies honored by the Northeast Spa and Pool Association shows off the range of the industry.

Each year, NESPA — made up of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania — recognizes its best builders, retailers and service firms.

Judges choose which builders and retailers to award, while the service contest is based on customer feedback.

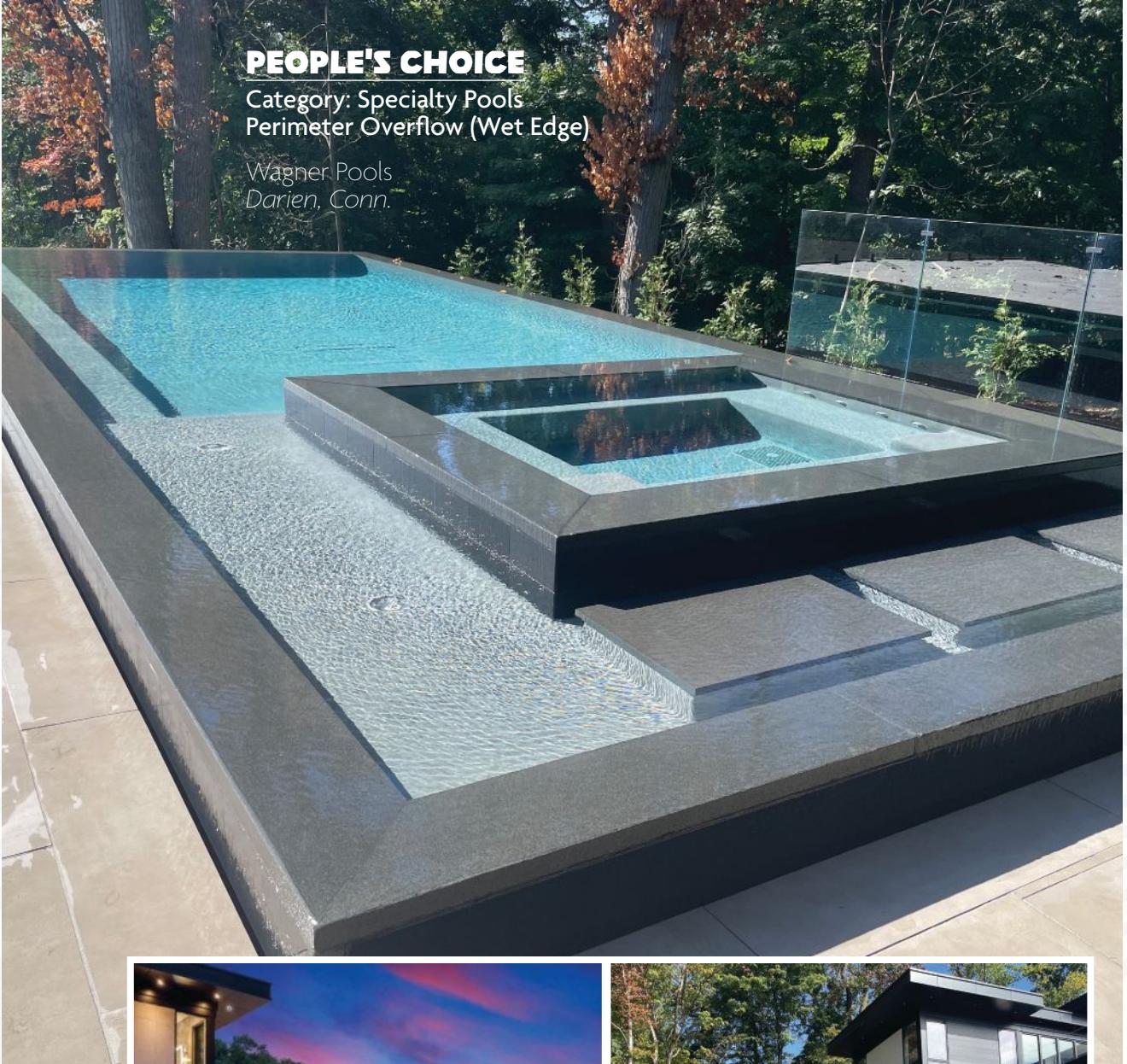
The winners were announced last month at The Pool & Spa Show powered by NESPA in Atlantic City. There, the contest became interactive, when attendees voted for their favorite, which was deemed the People's Choice award, shown opposite.

Turn the page to see highlights of the builder awards and to find out which service and retail companies were honored.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Category: Specialty Pools
Perimeter Overflow (Wet Edge)

Wagner Pools
Darien, Conn.



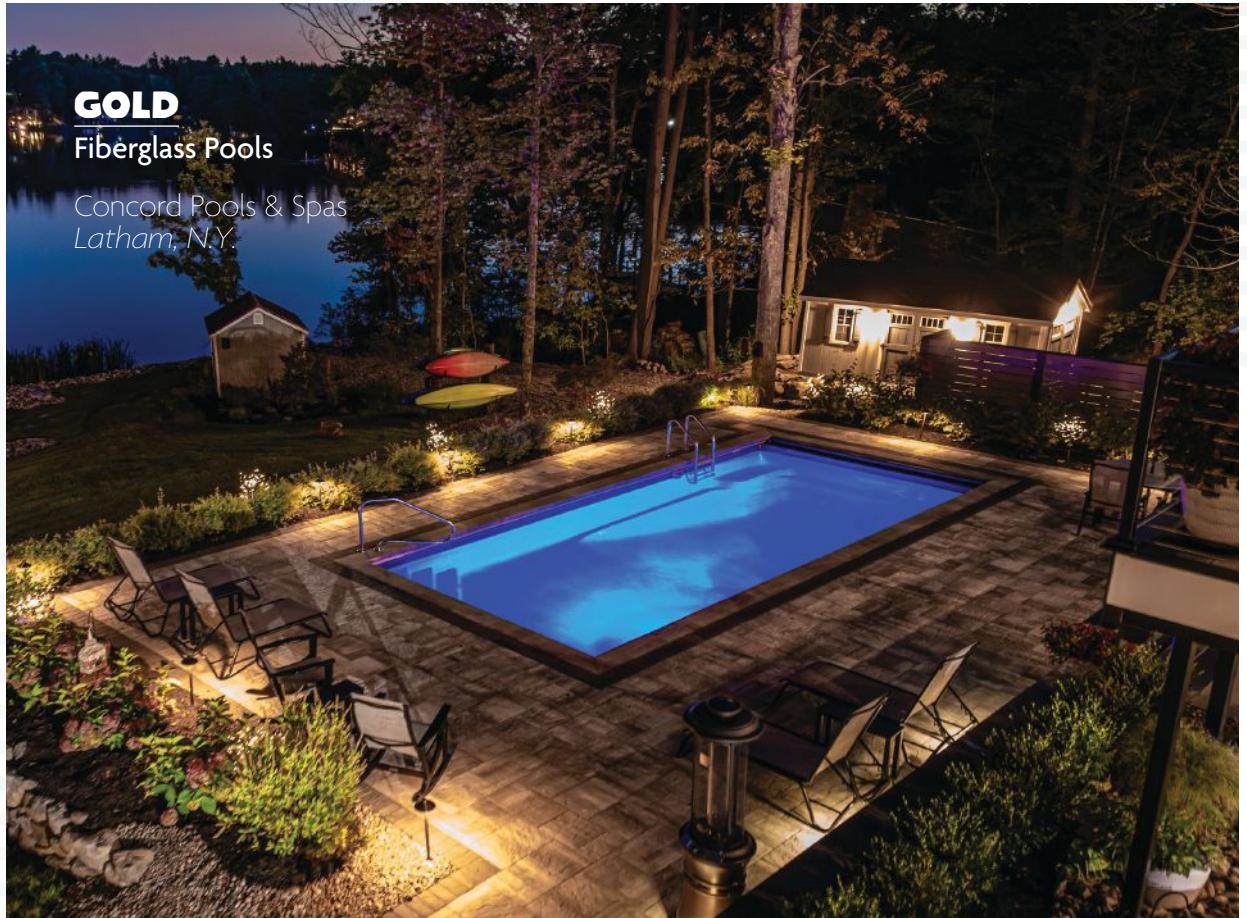
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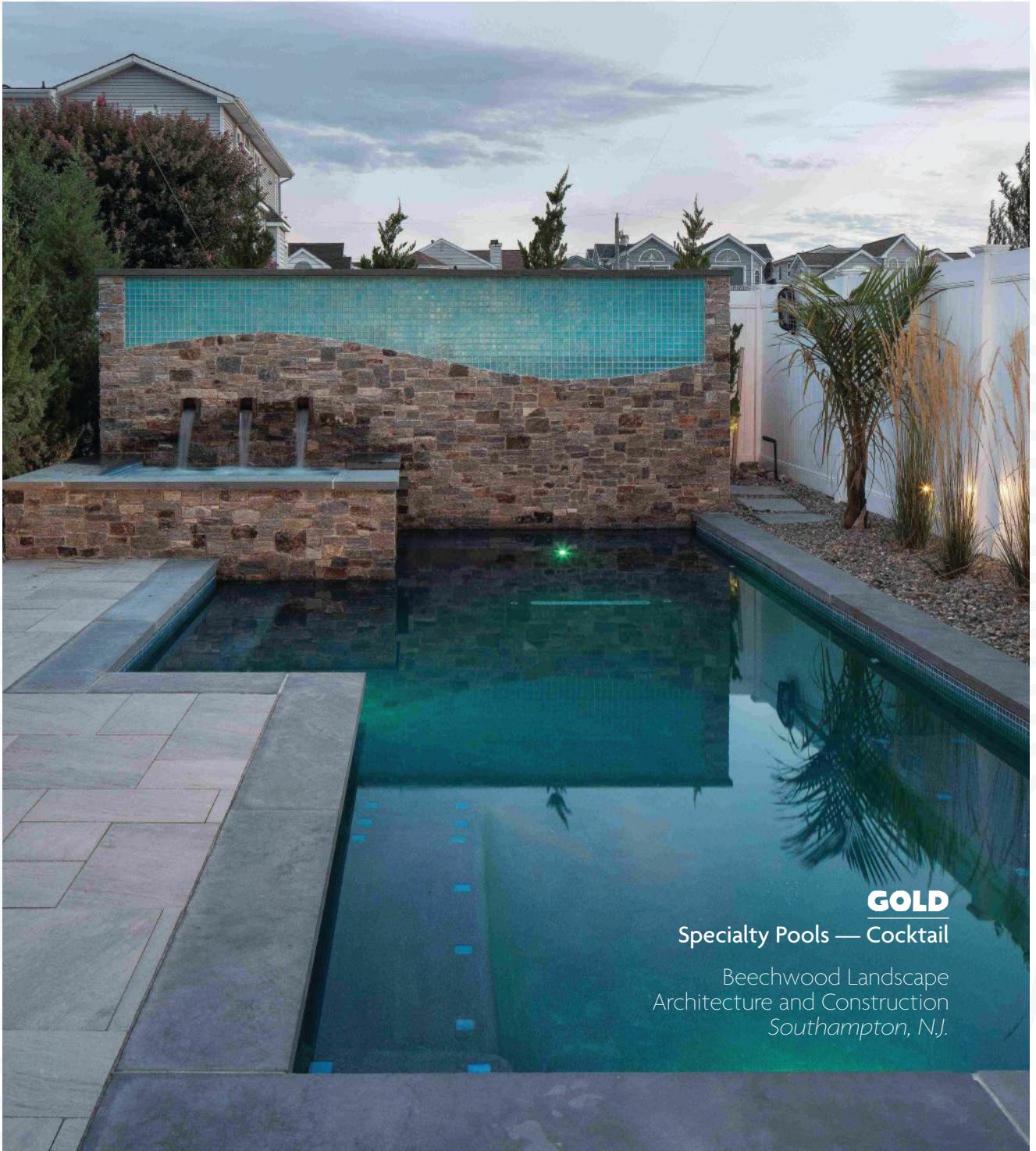
Steele's Signature Pools
Vincentown, N.J.



GOLD

Fiberglass Pools

Concord Pools & Spas
Latham, N.Y.



GOLD

Specialty Pools — Cocktail

Beechwood Landscape
Architecture and Construction
Southampton, N.J.

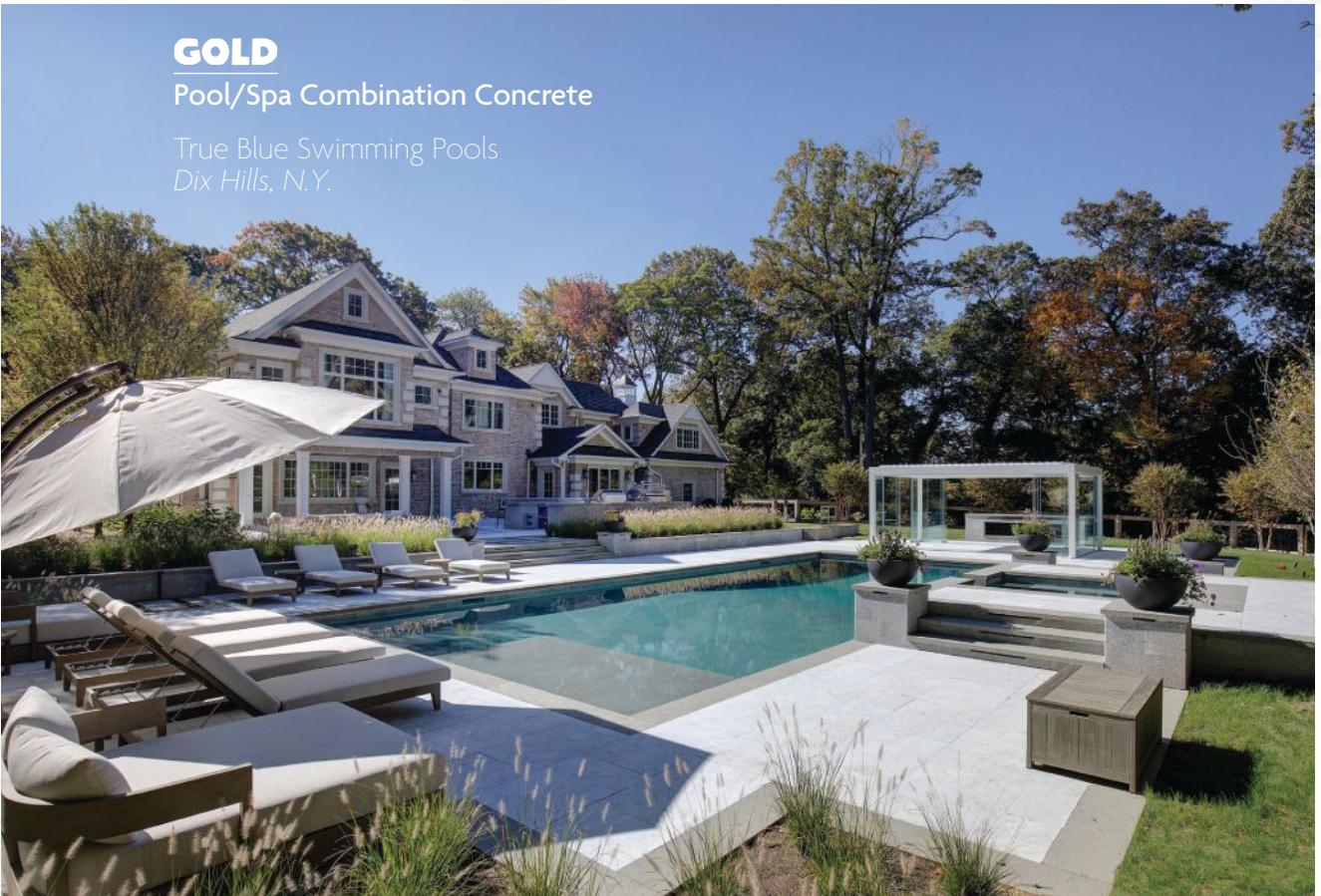


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Concrete

Steele's Signature Pools
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To choose its gold-medal pool/spa service companies, NESPA seeks direct customer feedback. Each company that enters the contest provides information on its customers, including full-time clients as well as those who only receive seasonal services such as openings and closings. The judging team then randomly selects some of the customers and surveys them. In addition to rating the company's quality in performing the technical aspects of the job, customers score response times when problems arise; the company's overall service department; their service technician's professionalism, customer service and communication; whether the client would recommend the company to someone they know; and overall performance.

This year's NESPA gold awards in service went to:



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▶ Great Valley Pool Service
Frazer, Pa.

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▶ Wholesome Pool and Spa
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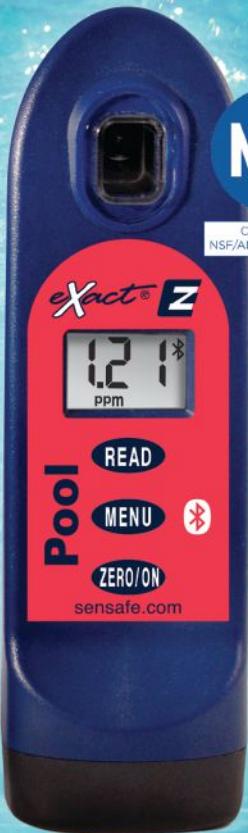
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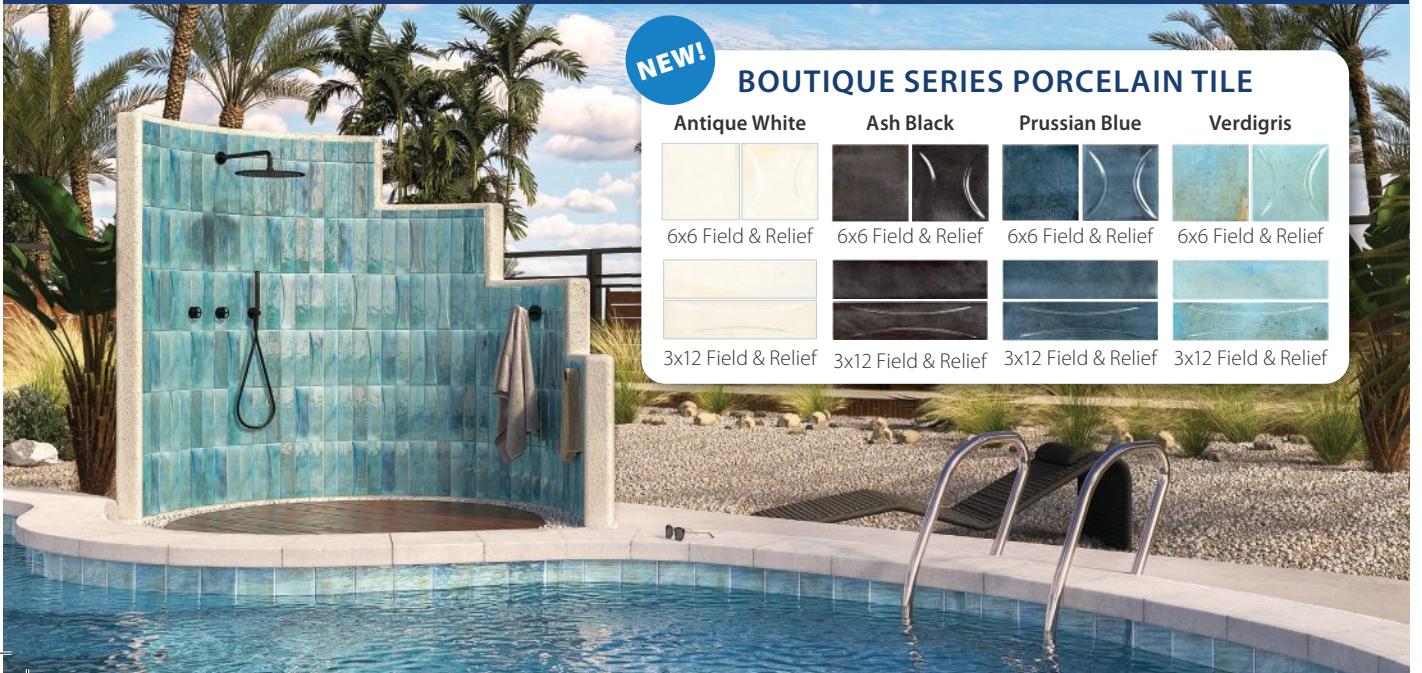
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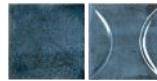


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The image shows the CCEI logo at the top, which consists of three hexagons and the letters 'CCEI'. Below the logo is a hand holding a smartphone displaying the 'vigipool by CCEI' app. The app interface shows a temperature of 89°F, a pH level of 7.4, and an ORP level of 650. It also displays 'pH-Regulation Injection in progress' and 'ORP-Regulation Injection in progress', both with 'Volume injected in 24H' and 'Stopped' indicators. At the bottom of the app screen, there are buttons for 'DOWNLOAD ON THE App Store' and 'GET IT ON Google Play'. The website 'ccei-pool.com' is visible in the bottom right corner.



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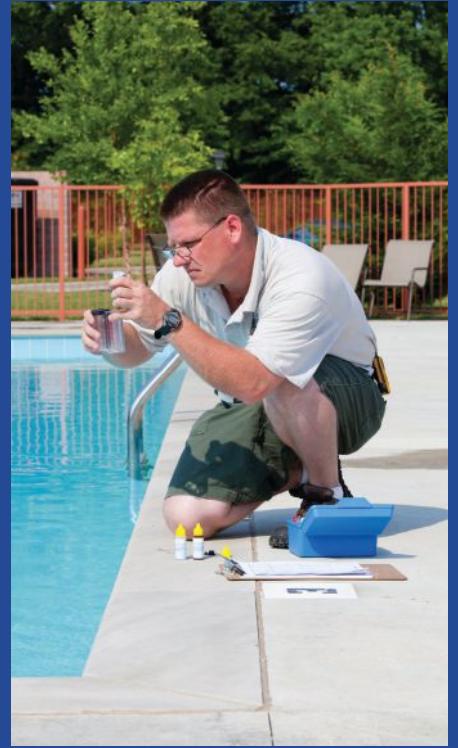
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THE RISK IS REAL

Employing these practices, contractors and service companies can reduce the odds of on-site injury.

BY REBECCA ROBLEDO



There's plenty of information out there about ergonomics at the workplace. Unfortunately, much of the information and many of the suggestions revolve around controlled environments, such as enclosed factories. But at a pool, no matter what stage of completion, things are constantly changing.

That challenge presented itself to Dain Murray when he took his expertise from a factory to the pool industry.

"In a factory ... the standard was to position all your materials below the shoulders, above the knees and inside the frame of your body," says the safety director for Burkett's Pool Plastering, a plaster and renovation firm in Ripon, Calif. "So you put [materials] at waist level, and the nail gun is in a cradle so you don't have to go to the ground."

But those measures have limited benefit to contractors and service techs working on a pool/spa site. "... It's not something where you can set things up or set somebody up so they only make movements that are ergonomically easy and pleasant," Murray explains.

The physical position changes to suit the pool's contours. His company's crews will trowel perched up on cleats and bending down for extended periods when finishing the floor. Over time, the awkward positions and repetitive motion of troweling and other tasks can have an impact on elbows, ankles, knees and shoulders.

Service technicians face the same risks when repetitively squatting to test water, work on skimmers, brush pools and other activities that require reaching and squatting.

"Just leaning over and taking out skimmer baskets," says Lauren Broom, an educational consultant and owner of

Space Coast Pool School, in Palm Bay, Fla. "It's the number of times you do a task that will make it an ergonomic issue."

To help prevent injuries caused by repetition and strain, practice the following:

MAKE STRETCHING AND WARMING UP A ROUTINE PART OF THE JOB.

You can't necessarily control the exact environment in which you'll work, but you can prepare for on-the-job contortions and repetitions.

"That leaves us with measures such as warm-up and stretching, and being in the best physical condition that we can," Murray says.

This becomes especially important if you've been sitting in a vehicle for long periods getting to the job.

Look for stretches designed to help combat repetitive motion injuries, and stretches focused on the back, neck, shoulders, elbows, wrists, hands, and other areas that endure strain or repetitive movement.

Burkett's trains and encourages its staff to perform stretches provided by a workplace safety app it subscribes to.

STRIVE FOR THE IDEAL.

When possible, it's ideal to position your work below your shoulders, above your knees and inside your body frame. You want to work as close to your center as possible for stability, minimizing the length of your reach.

Wrists should be held in a neutral position, not bent for long periods. Grasp with the whole hand, if possible, rather than holding an item with your fingers or in a pinching position.

With this knowledge, set yourself up for success in your controlled environments.

In the warehouse, yard, store, or truck, set materials and tools in places that allow you to work in the safe zone — between your shoulders and knees, and inside the frame of your body.

Plasterers, for instance, can place heavy bags of plaster, pigment and pebbles so they fall in the safe zone when it comes time to move them or empty them into the mixer.

In the field, try to work within this safe zone — don't reach too far or dip too low if it can be avoided.

TAKE BREAKS.

Of course, there's only one sure bet for avoiding repetitive motion injuries — remove repetition from the equation.

That often isn't possible. However, you can take measures to reduce vulnerability. Motions involving hands, wrists, elbows, shoulders and neck become risky when repeated for more than two hours per day, Broom says. Intense keying can lead to injury if regularly performed more than four hours per day.

Reduce the number of times you repeat a motion in a certain period. Try changing tasks for a moment — maybe switching off with somebody else to give both your bodies a break from the specific motion, Broom suggests. Alternate which hand does the job, if possible. Take stretch breaks. Do what you can to stagger the repetitive work over the course of the day rather than performing it all at once.

HIT THE RIGHT WAY.

Your body is a tool, but only to a certain extent. Sometimes you may need your



MANAGING SAFETY

When it comes to safety, training constitutes a major responsibility for managers. Some approaches will help the messages stick.

Train in short, digestible bites — say, 15-minutes at a safety meeting — addressing one or two practices at a time, Broom says.

Always document the training, she adds. An ergonomic injury could result in a complaint being filed, at which point the applicable government agency will investigate. Record the kind of training that took place, date and time, a short description, along with all employees who attended. "You can't just say, 'I did the training,'" Broom says.

But one of the biggest challenges comes not from properly teaching the adaptations that need to be made, but working against a mindset seen in many construction-related fields. As a trainer, Broom hears it all the time: "Oh, it's never happened to me. I don't need to worry about it," she says, paraphrasing what she's heard more often than she'd like to admit. "Or they do get hurt but keep plowing through, doing their job. It's going to get worse if it's not addressed. That's the culture that even I battle as an OSHA trainer."

To help get through, personalize the training so they'll take it seriously. Provide examples of injuries that can and do occur on pool and spa sites, rather than relying on examples from other industries, like you'll find in generic safety training materials. That brings the issue closer to home and removes that, "It can't happen to me" mentality.

Broom does this in her OSHA training geared to the pool/spa industry. "They're not going to care if something happened to an apartment guy down the road," she says.

Besides proper training, Murray likes to get to the sites from time to time to watch the crews at work. If he sees somebody working in a way that could lead to injury, he'll comment on it, especially if he knows they've had pains in that area. But he has to walk a fine line.

"It's counter productive to be the safety police person," he says. "People will hide from you. I think the best approach is the helpful, 'Let's get this done together; I don't want you to get hurt.'"

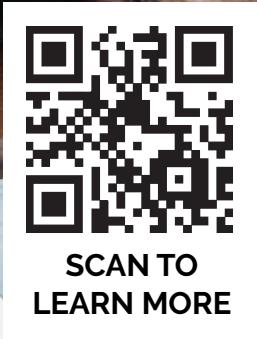
hand to act like a hammer. If possible, use an actual hammer. But if that's not available, create that impact in a way that minimizes hazard.

"When something won't move or budge, [sometimes we] punch it with our palm," Murray explains. "But that's horrible for your carpal tunnel. Do it with a fist or get a hammer. It's not

going to catch up with you when you're 25, but someday that will inflame the tissues in your wrist, and you'll have carpal tunnel."

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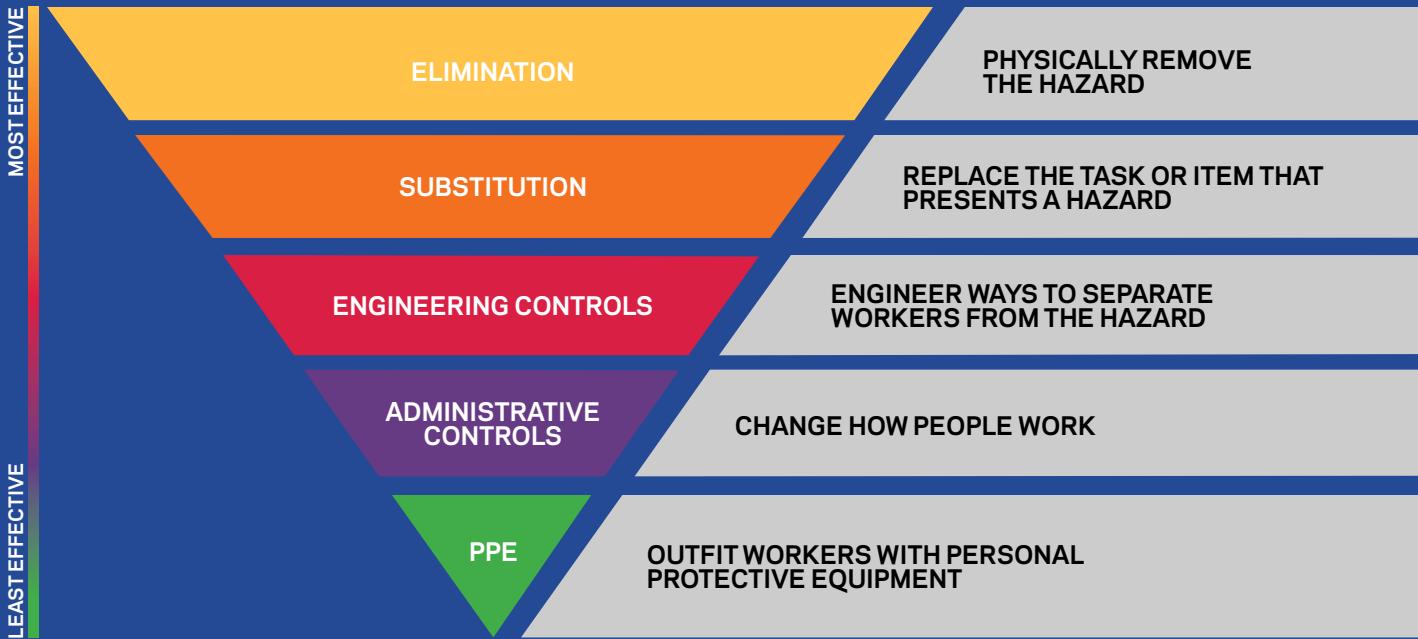
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HIERARCHY OF HAZARD CONTROLS



FOLLOW THE HIERARCHY

When figuring out ways to protect workers from a hazard, companies can refer to the Hierarchy of Hazard Controls. This ranks the approaches to reducing hazards in order of effectiveness.

Many of the measures for protecting against repetitive motion and strain injuries fall under the administrative controls, because the work can't be replaced or separated from the workers. While personal protective gear is encouraged when applicable, it still isn't as effective as proper work practices.

If you can, reposition yourself so that you can work as close to your body as possible and avoid awkward positions that put strain on your joints.

If this means moving a ladder or scaffolding, so be it. Murray offers a plastering example: "Don't lean way off the ladder to trowel something that could be better troweled by relocating the ladder."

USE EQUIPMENT WHEN YOU CAN.

To help prevent injury from strain, use hauling equipment when available.

On the plastering side, this becomes especially important for demolition crews, who must remove the chipped plaster and concrete from yards, transferring it from the pool to the truck

before driving it away.

In the past, Burkett's would use wheelbarrows for this task, creating a ramp from the ground to the truck bed. But crews would have to push it up onto the bed. Now, the trucks come with lift gates so the chipped concrete can be mechanically elevated to the bed from the ground.

Or crews can unload wheelbarrows of debris into the bucket of a skid steer, which transfers it into the truck.

For service techs, manufacturers are beginning to design and offer various carts and dollies to help move equipment, hoses, and the like to the site. This can especially prove helpful with large bags of chemical and material that get particularly awkward to lift and carry. Taking advantage of those can help reduce bending, lifting

and other risky movements on the site.

Tools also are available to help with other tasks that require a lot of bending over, such as removing skimmer baskets and collecting water test samples.

"It helps ergonomically keep your back straight as much as possible, without twists and turns," Broom says of the skimmer basket tool. "I've had some pool techs who are cleaning 23 residential pools per day. That's a lot of times they're bending over to pick up skimmer baskets. Add onto that the commercial pools that have multiple skimmer baskets."

Also, choose the right tools and equipment. Service techs, for instance, should equip themselves with poles long enough to reach the deepest depth found on their route, Broom says.

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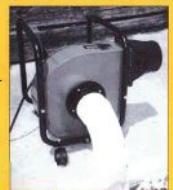
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Product Profiles: Chemicals



All Clear Professional Pool and Spa Chemicals

If there's a problem or a watercare need for a pool or spa, the All Clear line has an application for it.

Manufactured for more than 50 years, this complete line has eight selling categories.

The list includes large and small stabilized chlorinating tablets, granulated stabilized chlorinating products, algaecide products, non-chlorine sanitizer and acid/PH decreaseers.

The 3-inch tablets and sticks are extremely hard and slow-dissolving.

Dealers and consumers love the All Clear Professional Pool and Spa Chemicals, from the quality of the child-resistant packaging to the attractive color-coding system, according to the company.

Technical support is provided on the website, where SDS's are posted for all products.

Contact: Aqua Tri | aquatri.com



CCEI Phileo VP Compact pH Controller

Phileo VP pH controller automatically tests and monitors pH levels in pool water and adjusts chemicals in the water as needed. This peristaltic dosing system offers a color changing, LED light that changes from green, to yellow and red — providing quick visual indication if the water chemistry is balanced or falls out of the accepted levels for sanitized pool water.

"This patented process provides the water chemistry feedback you need immediately—with a quick glance, you can see your pool's water chemistry without having to test," says Arthur Schutzberg, head of CCEI USA.

The system is designed with an ultra-simplified installation. It comes complete with a 120V plug for connection to the mains. The device is connected to a flow sensor, providing more reliable information than a simple filter control.

Contact: CCEI USA | ccei-pool.com/us/



Pool Rescue

Haviland's POOL RESCUE is designed specifically to help remedy pools that have been affected by weather or neglected.

This high-powered additive makes it easy to remove leaves and other organic settled debris from the bottom of the pool.

It will also lift white mold and pink slime from plumbing surfaces and equipment.

With the pump and filter turned off, simply broadcast over entire pool surface, then remove any debris floating to the surface of the water. The product provides an immediate reaction with lasting effects for hours. After application, leaves and debris will rise from the bottom of the pool to minimize manual labor in cleaning.

The product's non-staining formulation is compatible for all surfaces and all forms of sanitizers and salt chlorine generators.

Technical support is available by calling 800-333-0400.

Contact: Haviland Pool & Spa | havilandpool.com/pool-rescue



Pool & Spa Water Testing Systems

Home Port Computer's BufferZone water testing software works with the Wave Test Strip Scanner and/or LaMotte Spin Lab.

Its features include the new built-in Sales Order System, which allows for fast credit card processing. It enables businesses to create sale slips directly in Bufferzone from the dosage recommendations page.

The Sales Order System links to QuickBooks, LightSpeed and Xero accounting systems, and is free to use when used in conjunction with payments partner Paystri.

The BufferZone software also has a Service Scheduling module and water testing can be performed in the field on smart devices.

Technical support is available by calling 866-275-0547.

Contact: Home Port Computer | homeportcomputer.com



Swim Check Fix Phosphate Tablets

Swim Check Fix Phosphate Tablets are formulated to remove phosphates in swimming pool water. They are simple and easy to use.

"Add the tablet directly to the pool skimmer for efficient phosphate removal," says Mike McBride, marketing manager for Industrial Test Systems. "It's more affordable and longer lasting than liquid removers. One tablet lowers phosphates by over 500 ppb for 10,000 gallons."

The patent-pending, time-release tablets are individually wrapped.

Technical support is available by calling 803-329-9712, and marketing materials are available on request.

The product comes with a 1-year warranty.

Contact: Industrial Test Systems | sensafe.com



The Filter Fiber Stuff

The Filter Fiber Stuff is a safe filter media that can be used as an aid to cartridge and sand filters, and as a replacement to DE for DE filters.

When used as a safe alternative/replacement to DE in DE filters, The Filter Fiber Stuff requires less than half the amount of product (by weight) than needed when using DE.

The Filter Fiber Stuff is non-toxic, biodegradable and can be backwashed safely. It can help extend filter runs and reduces clogging.

"It combines high performance, outstanding value and environmentally friendly features into one great product," says Jim Sturick, the company's regional sales manager.

"Customers love that the Filter Fiber Stuff is a safer alternative to DE that is non-toxic, safe to handle and can be backwashed safely."

Technical support is available by calling 800-348-1656, or visit JacksMagic.com.

Contact: Jack's Magic Products | jacksmagic.com



Mobile WaterLink SpinTouch Lab

LaMotte Co.'s Mobile WaterLink SpinTouch Lab gives pool professionals the ability to test water in the field.

It uses a patented WaterLink Spin reagent disk with the photometer to measure 10 different tests in 60 seconds, and designed to deliver precise results in an easy-to-use unit.

Contact: LaMotteCo. | lamotte.com



PoolPro

PoolPro is a comprehensive high-performance tool designed to simplify pool and spa water quality control for the pool professional.

"PoolPro provides fast, on-the-spot, lab-accurate water quality analysis for precision chemical control," says Heather Petrig, Myron L's technical writer. "It's very easy to use and very accurate."

Both PS6 and PS9 PoolPro models feature innovative user-friendly features and functions that make it easy to manage parameters critical to disinfection, water balance, system maintenance and compliance: conductivity, mineral/salt concentration, TDS, ORP/free chlorine equivalent, pH, and temperature.

The PS9TKB adds the ability to perform in-cell conductometric titrations that provides a convenient way to determine alkalinity, hardness and LSI in the field. All required reagents and equipment are included in the PS9 titration kit.

Contact: Myron L Co. | myronl.com



Poollife NST System

The Poollife NST System includes everything needed to oxidize, sanitize and remove algae from the pool.

The NST Prime Sanitizer uses a proprietary slow-dissolving cal hypo technology, which clarifies without adding any cyanuric acid (CYA) to the pool water. It's formulated to eliminate bacteria, contaminants and algae without overstabilizing for clear water that's ready for use, all summer long.

The system includes:

- Poollife NST Prime Tablets
- Poollife NST Purify
- Poollife NST Patrol

For technical support, call 866-476-6538.

Contact: Solenis | poolife.com

Product Profiles: Pool Cleaners



Sustain Pool Chemicals

Sustain is a three-part pool chlorination system that has been in the market for almost 40 years.

Sustain is a non-stabilized product line that includes a backup chlorine enhancer. It's formulated to provide more consistent delivery of chlorine and easier water balance than trichlor systems, according to Frank Schiffman, Westlake Water Solutions' director of marketing.

"It helps preserve the life of pool liners and is less corrosive than salt," says Schiffman.

The line is sold only through professional dealers and a protected sales territory. It is compatible with in-store WaterLink Spin Lab program, and takes only 10 minutes per week to administer.

"Customers love Sustain because it is easy to use and delivers effective results," says Schiffman. "Nearly 90% of Sustain customers would recommend it to others."

Contact: Westlake Water Solutions | sustainchemicals.com



Beatbot AquaSense 2 Ultra

The AquaSense 2 Ultra features the revolutionary HybridSense AI Pool Mapping, an industry-first combination of a front-facing camera, infrared sensors, and ultrasonic sensors, says York Guo, Beatbot's CMO.

"This multi-sensor system, integrated with advanced AI algorithms, provides superior environmental perception, enabling the robot to intelligently and accurately scan and map the pool," Guo says. "By adapting to various pool environments, the AquaSense 2 Ultra optimizes its cleaning paths for precise navigation, full coverage, and improved cleaning efficiency."

The AquaSense 2 Ultra features surface skimming, waterline scrubbing, floor cleaning, wall scrubbing, and even water clarification.

Additionally, through continuous learning, the AquaSense 2 Ultra recognizes different types of leaves and continually improves its detection capabilities over time.

Contact: Beatbot | beatbot.com



2025 F1 Pool Robots

Xxxx.

The F1R range of electric robots have been designed for smart and eco-friendly cleaning of your pool, says Scott Hunt, BWT's vice president of sales.

With BWT Best Water Home connectivity, users can take complete control of the robot directly from a smartphone.

All models in the F1R range offer advanced features, and the F1RX and F1RXT versions integrate options such as Turbo cleaning and Spot cleaning.

Contact: BWT Pool Products | bwt.com



REMORA PRO Kit

The REMORA PRO Kit is designed for the pool pro. The kit includes a portable 21-inch vacuum head with a carry handle, Smart Switch to monitor power going to/from the motor, dual-speed motor, 25-foot premium floating power cord, wearable battery pack, a 10 amp battery charger, two easily interchangeable 18Ah LiFePO4 lithium-ion batteries, and one standard and superfine vacuum bag.

Contact: Hammerhead Patented Performance | hammerheadvac.com

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New Products

BY PSN STAFF



CCEI

CCEI's new ZELIA POD is an easy to install, compact measuring and injection chamber that brings together essential water treatment elements in a single point on the pipe, reducing the number of holes needed in the pipe during installation. It allows pool pros to install two probes, two injectors and a flow sensor.

Contact: ccei-pool.com/us



Magic Plastics

Rolly Greens was created to meet the demand for a more robust potted plant caddy. The new skateboard-like design is made of reinforced, engineering-grade resins and urethane wheels holding up to 250 pounds. It's available in two color combinations and comes with a limited one-year warranty.

Contact: magicplastics.com



Poolside by CGT and Merlin Industries

The new Shelter Cove pool liner pattern, created in collaboration between Poolside by CGT and Merlin Industries, uses undulating, wave-like curves in deep-blue hues to mimic an ocean floor or coral reef. The pattern is printed on a black base with Aquashimmer Ink to give the pool a textured look reminiscent of sand.

Contact: poolsidebycgt.com



RENOLIT

The new KOLOS collection is a high-performance line of PVC-reinforced membranes specifically crafted for pools with heavy use and demanding conditions. It's engineered to handle extreme exposure to chlorine, abrasive substances, and other challenging chemicals.

Contact: renolit-alkorplan.com



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