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Pool and Spa News

**2026  
NEW  
PRODUCTS**

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## FEATURES

### 21 **2026 New Products**

Behold PSN's annual parade of innovations hitting the pool and spa industry this year.

### 43 **The ABCs of Corrosion**

A look at how this phenomenon occurs, and the different types.

## DEPARTMENTS

### 11 **Reflections**

The editor's take on issues and events

### 13 **News**

### 18 **Looking Like A Million Bucks**

Appreciating the sublime harmony of the 2025 Million Dollar Pool Design Challenge grand prize winner.

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COVER: LOOP-LOC

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ABOVE RIGHT: ADOBESTOCK

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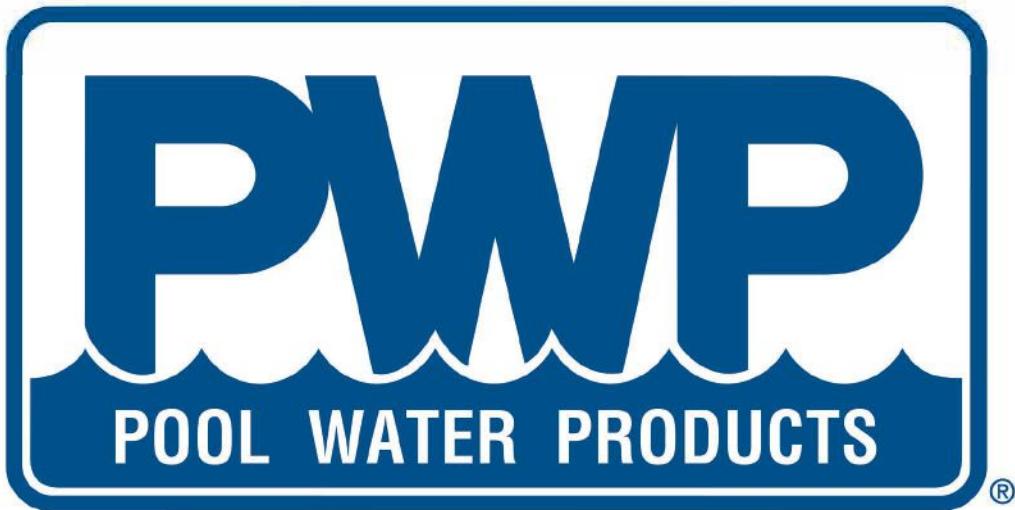
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# The Beginning of What's Next



**Joanne McClain**  
Editor-in-Chief, PSN

**O**UR LAST ISSUE OF THE YEAR IS always dedicated to new products. It's our way of looking ahead to the possibilities and opportunities the next year will bring and, because we define a new product as one that was released in this current year, also a look back.

As I reflect on the innovations the world has seen in the past year, I can't help but think of generative AI. 2025 really was the year of mass adoption for this astounding tool — wherever I turned, there were instances of its use, from the frivolous conversion of selfies into cartoon portraits to more serious business uses such as managing customer service or developing software/writing code, to name just two. I can't remember a new technology that has been more quickly embraced, used and has had — and will continue to have — a deeper impact on the workforce than AI.

In fact, the Computer and Communications Industry Association recently published a report saying three out of five U.S. adults have used AI in the three years since its debut. ChatGPT reported 100 million users just two months after its launch in 2022. To put that into perspective, it took almost 50 years for half of all U.S. homeowners to have a telephone; about nine years for TVs, and about seven years for social media. Generative AI is here, and it's here to stay.

... And yet, for all its promise, adopting any new technology — AI included — can feel daunting. It's human nature to resist change, and even more so when we're asked to invest and trust in a technology that has the potential to

not only disrupt how we do our jobs but even threaten livelihoods. But if there's one thing this past year has shown us, it's that embracing innovation keeps us current and competitive.

That same spirit of possibility runs through our industry as well. Every year, manufacturers, designers, builders, and service pros push the boundaries of what pools and spas can be: safer, smarter, more efficient, more beautiful, easier to maintain, and more in tune with how people want to live. And just like the broader world of technology, some of these advancements may initially feel unfamiliar. But they also promise to make our work smoother, our businesses more competitive, and our customers' experiences better than ever.

So as we present the industry's newest products, think of them not just as gadgets or upgrades, but as the beginning of what's next — tools that will shape how our industry evolves in the years ahead. If generative AI has shown us anything, it's that those willing to explore new technology early often find themselves leading the way.

Here's to stepping forward, embracing what's new, and discovering the opportunities these innovations bring to the pool and spa world in 2026!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanne McClain".

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# Q3 Results Show Moderate Growth

A PHTA survey and quarterly results from public vendors show an industry holding steady despite various challenges.

by **REBECCA ROBLEDO**

**T**HE POOL/SPA INDUSTRY EXPERIENCED STEADY BUT LARGELY flat performance in the third quarter, as indicated by a PHTA survey and the quarterly performance results reports by major publically held vendors.

The results of the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance's Quarterly Pulse Survey showed tepid growth and a cautious outlook, with the maintenance/repair sector continuing to thrive the most.

"The data confirms a resilient market, driven by stability in the service sector, but highlights ongoing challenges related to profitability and economic headwinds," the organization said.

In the survey of PHTA members, conducted by Industry Insights, 55% of participating service companies said they've increased their volume of service calls. This was also the only industry segment to report an increase in bottom-line profits, with boosts of typically 5% or lower.

New pool/spa construction did not fare as well, though the number of companies experiencing a decrease still fell in the minority. While 44% of participating builders saw modest increases in new-construction revenue, "...a significant 37% reported a decrease, signaling a clear cooling trend in new construction compared to the post-pandemic surge years," PHTA said.

Renovation remains a bit stronger, with 42% of companies seeing an increase in remodel revenues and only 21% reporting decreases.

Bottom-line profits for builders and retailers typically remained unchanged from Q2 to Q3, the organization said.

Across all sectors, the outlook holds at cautiously optimistic: 69% of companies participating in the survey expected revenue growth over the next 12 months.

"The Q3 results clearly demonstrate the industry's ability to pivot," said Jeff Henriksen, PHTA vice president of industry affairs and research. "While interest rates and economic

uncertainty continue to pressure new construction, our members are successfully leaning into the stability and higher margins of the service and remodel markets. The challenge now is to translate top-line revenue growth into bottom-line profit growth by managing persistent input costs."

In their quarterly results reports, major industry vendors echoed the same performance and outlook:

- **Fluidra:** In the North American market, the Barcelona-based manufacturer saw 6.6% growth in Q3 of 2025 versus 2024, at 203 million Euro compared with 190 million Euro. Year to date, Fluidra's North American sector experienced a 5.7% increase in net sales, from 690 million Euro to 729 million Euro.

- **Hayward:** In North America, net sales increased by 7% to \$208.2 million for the third quarter of 2025, compared with the same period last year. The manufacturer attributed the growth to a modest increase in volume, as well as positive net prices meant to offset inflation and tariffs. For the whole year and across the globe, the company expects an increase in net sales of approximately 4% to 5.5% over fiscal year 2024.

- **Pentair:** Pool sales for the company rose 7% in the third quarter compared with Q3 2024. Excluding currency translation, acquisitions and divestitures, core sales grew 6% for the quarter. Year-to-date sales rose slightly, from \$1,082 billion in 2024 to \$1,165 billion in the first nine months of 2025.

- **PoolCorp:** Year-to-date net sales for 2025 dropped slightly from the first three quarters of last year: In the first nine months of 2025, the company saw \$4.307 billion in net sales compared with \$4.323 billion in the same period of 2024. However, the third quarter itself generated slightly more net sales than Q3 2024, at \$1.45 billion compared with \$1.43 billion for the same period last year.

# Poolwerx Appoints Global CEO

IN PREPARATION FOR FURTHER INTERNATIONAL GROWTH, THE retail/service franchiser Poolwerx has created a new position. Nic Brill has become its first global CEO.

“This newly created role marks a pivotal moment in the brand’s evolution, as Poolwerx unites its Australian, New Zealand, and U.S. markets under one global vision, one business, and one strategy to position the brand for the next phase of international growth,” the company said.

Brill first joined Poolwerx in 2019 as its chief operating officer. He progressed to CEO of the Australia-New Zealand operation in 2022. In that role, the company said, he led the operation through record sales, profitability and growth in market share.

“Under his stewardship, Poolwerx has consistently de-



livered above-market results and demonstrated resilience, with growth every year since inception — through multiple recessions and even during the global pandemic,” the company said.

In creating this new position, the company moves to align the business as one unified network with a clear global structure, said Poolwerx Chair, Sue Collyns.

Said Brill: “Operating as one business, with one vision and one strategy, will enable us to compete at scale and grow our brand into new territories.”

Founded in Brisbane in 1992, and entering the U.S. market in 2015, Poolwerx has more than 185 retail stores globally, with more than 700 service vehicles, and operates across more than 350 territories.

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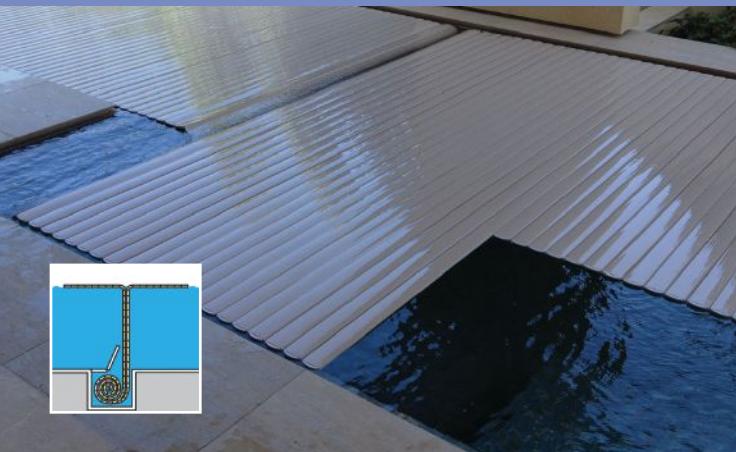


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## NPC OPENS CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

The National Plasterers Council's 2026 conference takes place Feb. 18-20 in Anaheim, Calif. This year's educational line-up includes a track of six courses in Spanish, including NPC's Start-Up Certification. Women of the NPC will offer a space for connection and mentorship. The table-top and popular lunchtime auctions are also highlights.

## PHTA AWARDS GRANT, SCHOLARSHIPS

The Pool & Hot Tub Alliance has named the recipients of its Greg Garrett Scholarships and Dr. R. Neil Lowry Grant.

Chad Bland, owner of Pool Certs, and McKenna Paschell, aquatic facilities designer at Absolute Pool Care, received the \$5,000 Garrett Scholarships. The funds may be used towards PHTA educational or certification fees.

Southern Nevada Health District earned the \$5,000 Lowry Grant, honoring public health officials and departments for their work advancing the public's health and safe use of recreational water in pools, spas, and waterparks through educational, safety, operational, and technical programs.

## AMENITY COLLECTIVE GROWS LEADERSHIP

As part of its strategic growth initiative, the Amenity Collective, based in Owings Mills, Md., created and filled two new positions. Phil Carter and Kevin Mac were named executive vice presidents of new business development, responsible for leading integrated commercial strategy across The Amenity Collective's 12 brands. Carter has been with the Amenity Collective for 25 years, most recently serving as CEO for one of its brand platforms, Amenity Pool Services. Mac joined The Amenity Collective in February 2024 as executive vice president of sales at LIVunLtd, the company's fitness and recreation brand.

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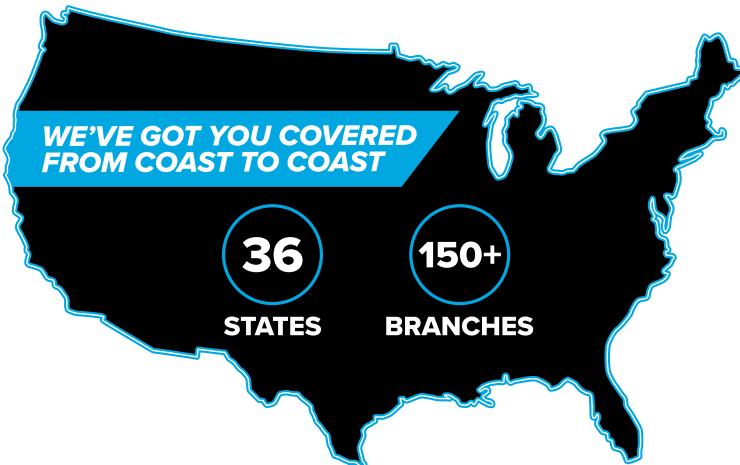
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# Looking Like A Million Bucks

Appreciating the sublime harmony of the 2025 Million Dollar Pool Design Challenge grand prize winner.

by **REBECCA ROBLEDO**

**E**VERY YEAR, THE MILLION DOLLAR POOL DESIGN Challenge offers a chance for designers to dream big — and for attendees of the International Pool | Spa | Patio/Deck Expo to choose a favorite.

Designers Mike Farley and Reid Schindler organize and host the competition, where professional and student designers alike render a project envisioned to meet very specific architectural requirements and include a lengthy list of features that merge the interests and tastes of the client couple.

Judges narrow down the entries to five finalists, all of whom attended a special session at the PSP/Deck Expo. There, attendees view video presentations by each contestant, then vote for a winner, who receives the grand prize of \$10,000.

This time around, entrants had to tailor their masterpieces to reconcile the wife's preference for Palm Springs Mid Century Modern architecture with the husband's bent toward Rocky Mountain rustic. Among required features were a recreational pool for the home; private spool, cold plunge and sauna off the master suite; spa for 10 to 12; swim-up bar; current for exercise; fire pit and specialty fire feature.

This year's grand-prize-winning entry, by pool and spa design veteran Kirk Bianchi, accomplished the feat of packing that considerable list of features into an outdoor design that blends harmoniously into its architecture.

## LEARNING THE LANGUAGE

The owner of Phoenix-based Bianchi Design drew off the vocabulary he saw displayed in the home architecture.

The clean, long lines and use of glass and steel reflected influences from architects Mies van der Rohe and Frank Lloyd Wright. A post-and-beam

RENDERINGS BY KIRK BIANCHI, COURTESY INFORMIA



glass house seeming to levitate off the ground recalled residential Japanese architecture.

“This house had a clear mathematical language to it,” Bianchi says. “Why reinvent the wheel? I would extrapolate and draw lines from the house.”

To integrate a Rocky Mountain rustic aesthetic, Bianchi carefully chose stone materials that fell within the genre and concentrated them on perimeter walls to provide the right proportion and relationship with the extensive glass used on the buildings.

“[Rock Mountain rustic] is heavy and grounded — it’s of the earth,” he explains. “Stone is heavy, glass is light and airy. The stone belongs on the ground as the more rugged foundation, then the glass house kind of floats above it.”

That care and discipline made it possible to merge a seeming laundry list of elements into a space where everything feels of a piece. “The temptation is to bring in too many divergent features that don’t harmonize with the theme,” Bianchi says. “That’s something I have to guard against with every project and every client.”

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# 2026 NEW PRODUCTS



This year's exciting parade of pool and spa innovations brings new opportunities for growth, efficiency and customer satisfaction. Explore the full range of products shaping the future of outdoor living in our annual handy guide.

*All product information is provided by manufacturers.*

Debuted at PSP/Deck Expo

## Ahh-some

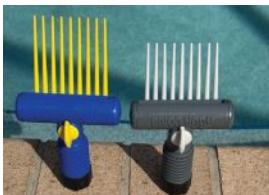


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The APG Fire Suppression System is designed to transform an existing swimming pool into an emergency water source with a homeowner-friendly wildfire suppression system. Users can be fire-ready in under one hour with this simple solution.

**Contact:** [APGFire.com](http://APGFire.com)

## Aqua Creek Products



TruPro Rails and Ladders are engineered for ADA compliance and built with corrosion-resistant stainless steel. Available in standard and custom configurations for any commercial or residential pool, they provide secure, ergonomic access with easy installation. TruPro is backed by Aqua Creek's service, support, and ISO 9001:2015 certification.

**Contact:** [aquacreekproducts.com](http://aquacreekproducts.com)

## AquaDoc



Eagle Ray Digital Water Testing Kit by AquaDoc measures seven key water parameters: total chlorine, free chlorine, bromine, pH, total hardness, total alkalinity, and cyanuric acid. Just dip a strip, insert it into the device, and get clear digital results in seconds. The kit includes 30 test strips.

**Contact:** [mavaquadoc.com](http://mavaquadoc.com)

## Artesian Spas



As the largest hot tub in the fully re-engineered Island Series, the Artesian Spas' Bimini offers spacious seating for up to nine adults. Bimini will be available in both Premium Luxury and Elite trims.

**Contact:** [artesianspas.com](http://artesianspas.com)

Debuted at PSP/Deck Expo

## Artistry In Mosaics



New for 2026 — Sunshine and Good Vibes. All porcelain mosaic products are hand made from a box of clay, frost proof and suitable for any application indoor or out.

**Contact:** [artistryinmosaics.com](http://artistryinmosaics.com)

Debuted at PSP/Deck Expo

## Astel Lighting

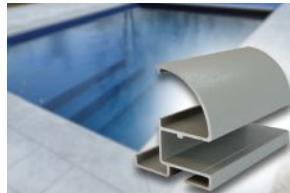


The Quasar is a compact, surface-mount, low-profile underwater pool LED light with built-in driver. It's designed to use the latest LED lighting technology with consideration of the maximum extent from sustainable materials. The casing is entirely made of thermally treated glass but at the same time is ensured to be easily installed without using of external metal parts.

**Contact:** [astel-lighting.com](http://astel-lighting.com)

Debuted at PSP/Deck Expo

## Automatic Pools Covers



Automatic Pool Covers now offers a new pool coping option for specifically for fiberglass pools. These new coping kits have a flat bottom edge, giving installers more flexibility when installing on fiberglass pool walls. Coping comes in two options, standard 22-foot lengths, allowing for fewer seams and coping clips.

**Contact:** [automaticpoolcovers.com](http://automaticpoolcovers.com)

## Be Well Canada



The O765 model is the high-capacity, most powerful option in Be Well Canada's O700 series, featuring a seven-seat design and versatile technical layout. It delivers strong, consistent massage performance, equipped with two 4 HP pumps and an air pump (blower). With 65 jets, the unit ensures varied and effective hydrotherapy; each seat features a distinct jet configuration.

**Contact:** [canada-spa.com/en](http://canada-spa.com/en)

## Blue Mar Products



The Blue Mar Nova is a new submersible pool light series with a bright white light that delivers incredibly high equivalent visible light output. The RBGAW SuperNova produces the widest chromaticity range on the market with built-in DMX/RDM functionality. Made in the U.S. these lights feature corrosion-resistant 316 stainless steel housing.

**Contact:** [bluemarnova.com](http://bluemarnova.com)

## Blue Square Mfg.



With an industry-leading 210 GPM flow rating, the new HydroFusion drain ensures optimal circulation and efficiency for residential pools. Its unblockable design enhances safety and reliability, while the seamless finish blends cleanly into any pool surface for a modern, unobtrusive look. Designed with builders and service professionals in mind, HydroFusion is effortless to install.

**Contact:** [bluesquaremfg.com](http://bluesquaremfg.com)

**Debuted at PSP/Deck Expo**

## CCEI Pool



CCEI Pool has improved its Vigipool app to provide pool professionals with an easy-to-sell and easy-to-install automation and pool management system for pool owners and service professionals. It uses a simple interface allowing users to automate the temperature, lighting, filtration, pumps and pool water chemistry from a smartphone. Available in Spanish & English.

**Contact:** [ccei-pool.com/us](http://ccei-pool.com/us)

**Debuted at PSP/Deck Expo**

## Covana



The Covana Oasis Midnight is distinguished by its calm and elegant black ceiling and roof. It easily complements the spa and at nightfall, blends into the decor for a cozy and relaxing ambiance. The Oasis Midnight is compatible with the majority of square or rectangular relaxation spas.

**Contact:** [covana.com](http://covana.com)

**Debuted at PSP/Deck Expo**

## BSquared Pools



The new Backyard Oasis is a patent-pending, freestanding sunledge that gives consumers the benefits of a sunledge without the need for having a pool. Manufactured from pool-strength polypropylene panels, this plug-n-play solution can be used independent-of or in-combination-with a pool. Interior measures 72-by-82 inches with 235 gallons of water. Made in USA.

**Contact:** [BSquaredPools.com](http://BSquaredPools.com)

## Cleveland Controls



The new ANS2 Series Air Pressure Switch is a universal, field-adjustable switch designed for residential and commercial HVAC systems, commercial kitchen equipment (such as hoods and fryers), outdoor radiant heating products, pool and spa heating, and a variety of other applications.

**Contact:** [clevelandcontrols.com](http://clevelandcontrols.com)

**Debuted at PSP/Deck Expo**

## Cover Valet



The Cold Plunge RX Cover Lifter offers a solution for cover storage in the rapidly growing cold-plunge market. Its rear-mounted, no-drill design provides stable lift assistance across diverse tub shapes and materials while improving safety and leverage. The Cold Plunge RX can be an integral part of every cold-plunge sale, giving users a complete, elevated experience.

**Contact:** [covervalet.com](http://covervalet.com)

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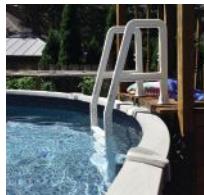
## Coverstar



The A1935 Heavy Duty Lid Bracket introduces a redesigned, 4-inch-wide arm that delivers twice the strength and three times the corrosion resistance of previous models. Its patent-pending, tool-free design installs in half the time with improved stability and easier leveling through an oversized pitch adjustment bolt. It's compatible with sloped walls and multiple extensions.

**Contact:** [Coverstar.com](http://Coverstar.com)

## CPI Pool Products



This heavy duty aboveground pool deck ladder, ACM42, is 24 inches wide and fits aboveground pool with walls between 48- to 54-inches. Its features include a reinforced ladder frame, anti-slip steps and a swivel base. The ladder is available in grey and white colors. Easy assembly.

**Contact:** [cpipoolproducts.com](http://cpipoolproducts.com)

## Essentials Spa Supplies



The Spa Escort Undermount Entry Rail has a dual sided hand grip to provide non-slip entry and exit. It assembles in minutes without tools. An extra large under-spa base secures the rail in place and attaches to a clean triangular upright with no exposed hardware. The powder-coat construction will last for years and coordinates with cover lifts and black based steps.

**Contact:** [essentials-spasupplies.com](http://essentials-spasupplies.com)

## Evolutionary Pool Products



The new Halo360 Cartridge Filter Cleaner features stainless steel construction with six powerful nozzles. Designed with ergonomics and efficiency in mind, it hooks up directly to a standard garden hose for all pool service professionals to use with ease.

**Contact:** [evolutionarypoolproducts.com](http://evolutionarypoolproducts.com)

Debuted at PSP/Deck Expo

## Explore Industries



Explore Industries' new Low Offset Mechanism from its Integra Pool Covers line offers a shorter motor-side offset housing that takes up less room around the deck. The side offset is as little as 16 inches and features 2-inch diameter rope pulleys.

**Contact:** [integrapoolcovers.com](http://integrapoolcovers.com)

## Fluidra



Jandy's new X-Series AOP Systems are a line of supplemental treatment systems that combine UV-C and ozone to eliminate 99.9% of harmful waterborne bacteria. Available in both in-line and off-line models, the Jandy X-Series offers scalable solutions for pools up to 50,000 gallons.

**Contact:** [Jandy.com/AOP](http://Jandy.com/AOP)



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## Fountain People



Fountain People's FXPRO Series RGBW12 Spot LED color-changing energy efficient light fixture illuminates underwater, wet or dry locations. This low-voltage, programmable light fixture has on-board DMX driver for more control and includes an angle adjustable yoke to positioning the fixture as desired. The freestanding unit may be anchored to a finished floor or wall.

**Contact:** [fountainpeople.com](http://fountainpeople.com)

## Frank Wall Enterprises



Frank Wall's Blue Gator Mats are the answer to job site access when you need to protect valuable turf from damage. Place mats over mud, marsh, sand, uneven or soft surfaces for access and traction. Created with superior HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene) which is infused with a proprietary rubber to increase traction for your machines. Built to last 15-20 years. Made in USA.

**Contact:** [frankwall.com](http://frankwall.com)

Debuted at PSP/Deck Expo

## Harmonic Hot Tubs



Introducing the Vintage Collection featuring the H28RB Hot Tub has a circular layout that encourages conversation and connection, creating a more social and inviting atmosphere for families and groups to unwind together. The H28RB now is offered in four finishes, allowing homeowners to match the spa seamlessly with any backyard or patio setting.

**Contact:** [harmonichottubs.com](http://harmonichottubs.com)

## Haviland Pool & Spa



Haviland Pool and Spa's Pool Closing & Pool Opening Kit includes the chemicals needed to both close and open pools. Designed to decrease the amount of time and effort it takes to either close and open pools, the kit contains a powerful cold-water enzyme cleaner plus a sequestrant for metal and calcium control. Pool operators simply need add chlorine.

**Contact:** [havilandpool.com](http://havilandpool.com)

## Hayward



The new True 4.0HP TriStar XL variable-speed pump with built-in Universal Display and OmniX compatibility delivers superior flow rates for feature-rich pools, and seamlessly integrates with both Omni and OmniX automation. The new Universal Display and Comms provides advanced features and diagnostics, and makes it an easy drop-in replacement for non-Hayward automated pool systems.

**Contact:** [hayward.com](http://hayward.com)

## Imperial Pools



Imperial Pools is introducing its full line of Neptune Robotic Pool Cleaners and Trident Cordless Pool Vacuums. It is offered four robotic cleaner models — the i10, i20, i30 and i40. The Trident Cordless Pool Vacuums come in two models, the EV60 and EV105.

**Contact:** [imperialpools.com](http://imperialpools.com)

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Discover **Monte Sano**, a new vinyl pattern inspired by natural elegance.

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REFRESH**

SCAN QR CODE  
FOR DETAILS

And explore it all on our sleek, redesigned [TaraPools.com](https://www.tarapools.com), launching soon.

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## Industrial Test Systems



Swim Check Fix Phosphate - Retail Box is new retail packaging designed for store shelves. It's a single serve, preportioned tablet that removes over 500 ppb of phosphates with no liquids, floc, or cloudy pools.

**Contact:** [sensafe.com](http://sensafe.com)

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## InnovaSpa



The Monsoon is the newest plug-and-play rotomolded spa and comes with 24 stainless steel jets, six seats — including the captain's chair and an ergonomic bed with two reclining positions. A unique multimedia tray for drinks, phone and tablet has a specially designed slot to hold everything securely in place and drip holes to prevent water from damaging devices.

**Contact:** [monsoonspas.com](http://monsoonspas.com)

## International Swimming Pools



International Swimming Pools' new Adjustable Drop In Step is an aftermarket product designed to add a step, bench, or ledge without needing precise measurements to any pool.

**Contact:** [steelpools.com](http://steelpools.com)

## JED Pool Tools



JED Pool Tools offers a Deluxe 8-inch Floating Chlorinator with adjustable rings that control the amount of chlorine dispenses into the pool. Users select custom chlorine distribution by rotating the bottom. It offers a child-protective lid with a squeeze button that also rotates and lifts for loading both 1- and 3-inch tablets.

**Contact:** [JEDPoolTools.com](http://JEDPoolTools.com)

Debuted at PSP/Deck Expo

## King Technology



FROG Balancing Basics Kit has five essential startup chemicals, each with a FROG TruDose Cap for precise measurements that make it easy to achieve water balance for hot tubs or swim spas. The kit also includes membership to FROG VIP, an exclusive customer service for Balancing Basics Kit users.

**Contact:** [frogproducts.com](http://frogproducts.com)

## Latham, The Pool Company



Latham's updated Axiom 12 Deluxe introduces smart updates that enhance usability and installation appeal. The relocated spa entry offers greater flexibility for backyard layouts, simplifying placement for builders and homeowners alike. Redesigned bench seating creates an improved balance between the swim area and seating, maximizing comfort without sacrificing space.

**Contact:** [lathampool.com](http://lathampool.com)

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### Len Gordon, LLC



The SMART PVC Fitting by Len Gordon delivers a cleaner, more organized equipment pad with built-in, easy-to-read labeling for intake and return lines. Designed to help professionals reduce errors and streamline service, each fitting offers crisp identification and a polished, professional appearance.

Contact: [lengordon.net](http://lengordon.net)

### Life Floor



Destination Tiles debut with Mediterranean-inspired motifs that mirror luxury tile designs typically found in ceramics from the region. They are engineered for use using Life Floor's slip-resistant and cushioned surfacing technology. Tiles are easy to install and offer precise, complex patterning possibilities using 12 combinable tile designs.

Contact: [lifefloor.com](http://lifefloor.com)

### Lo-Chlor



Season Ready is designed to simplify the process of pool closing and opening. It combines multiple treatments into one time-saving and cost-effective solution, removing phosphates that can fuel algae growth while a pool is shut down. The formula also contains enzymes that destroy organic debris contamination and break down impurities before they become a problem.

Contact: [lo-chlor.com](http://lo-chlor.com)

### LOOP-LOC



TidalMyst is part of the New Siren's Whisper Collection by Loop-Loc. This unique liner captures the beauty of the open ocean, with deep blue tones accented by soft whitecaps and delicate swirls of bubbles. This exclusive liner will be available Spring 2026.

Contact: [looploc.com](http://looploc.com)

### Lyon Financial



Lyon Financial offers a new option for homeowners: 6.99% fixed APR, 20-year terms, and \$50K-\$100K loan amounts for pool or other outdoor-living projects. This rate is available on approved credit; not all will qualify. Lowest rate reserved for those with excellent and substantial credit. Conditions and limitations apply. Advertised terms are subject to change without notice.

Contact: [lyonfinancial.net](http://lyonfinancial.net)

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### Magic Plastics



New 2-inch Flow Meter delivers real-time flow accuracy in a rugged, durable, field-tested design that is simple, compact, and easy-to-install in residential applications. This new variable mechanical flow meter provides calibrated flow measurement in gallons per minute within a high-strength clear plastic body using a precision-machined, corrosion-resistant, 316 stainless steel float.

Contact: [magicplastics.com](http://magicplastics.com)



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## MOVA



The MOVA Rover X10 pool cleaner can rise, hover, descend and move laterally while suspended in water — much like an underwater drone. The Rover X10 uses 3D pool mapping technology, enabling real-time spatial awareness and precise recognition of every contour. It can navigate complex pools with irregular shapes, varying depths, and multiple corners.

**Contact:** [mova.tech](http://mova.tech)

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## Neo Water Tech



Neo Water has upgraded its sensor with Bluetooth installation and introduces a real-time water-quality monitoring system for pools and spas that continuously measures pH, chlorine/ORP, and temperature. The inline sensor connects to a cloud platform and mobile app, providing instant visibility and data logging. Designed for an easy retrofit or a new installation.

**Contact:** [iquepool.com](http://iquepool.com)

## PAL Lighting



PAL Lighting extends its lit waterfeatures with these first-of-their-kind 4-inch scuppers that include a serviceable LED light. An illuminated flow of water spills onto the pool surface, highlighting the design with a bespoke feature. Available in a round or square form, four standard finishes with custom finish options available, and serviceable full-color LED light with quick-connect power cable.

**Contact:** [pallighting.com](http://pallighting.com)

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## Natural Chemistry



NC Pool Chemistry Algaecide + PHOSfree is a multi-function algae fighting formula that combines an algaecide with a phosphate remover suitable for all pool types. When used as directed, this product is an effective non-foaming algaecide that kills and controls green, mustard, and black pool algae. It also prevents future algae problems while removing problem-causing phosphate.

**Contact:** [naturalchemistry.com](http://naturalchemistry.com)

## NewAge Products



NewAge Products' Modular Outdoor Kitchen is easy to install and set up. A typical installation can be completed in less than 3 hours from package delivery to ready to use. The line is available in easily customizable configurations and finishes.

**Contact:** [newageproducts.com](http://newageproducts.com)

## Pentair Pool



The IntelliChlor Plus & LT Salt Chlorine Generators have new and improved modular designs that provide more serviceability, accuracy, and value. The intuitive interface provides more than 20 built-in warnings and diagnostics. With a redesigned conductivity sensor, the generators also provide more accurate salt level readings — 98%, as accurate as a laboratory-grade salinity meter.

**Contact:** [pentair.com](http://pentair.com)



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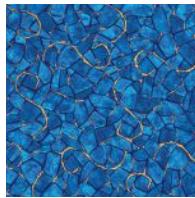
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### Poolsafe



Poolsafe offers new mesh, removable safety fencing designed to be installed around any pool shape or size. Uses patented, transparent, large-hole ClearGuard Mesh for better visibility into the pool area, while also blending the fence into backyard. Lockable, self-closing Triton gate features a curved top bar to help prevent climbing. Unique Tri-Pod Truss system keeps gate aligned with daily usage. **Contact:** [poolsafe.com](http://poolsafe.com)

### Poolside by CGT



Caspian is a new liner pattern printed on HD Caribbean Blue base film. It features a swirling stone mosaic enriched with shimmering gold accents on a radiant medium blue that evokes mystical, once-in-a-lifetime destinations. **Contact:** [poolsidebycgt.com](http://poolsidebycgt.com)

### RainHarvest Systems



The new Pro Series and M Series ozone generator product lines offer six models for water purification. The Pro series deliver ozone by venturi side stream injection to achieve precise dosing and maximum output. The M Series are compact and ideal for smaller-scale needs. **Contact:** [rainharvest.com](http://rainharvest.com)

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### RB Retail & Service Solutions Software



Online Bill Pay helps streamline billing, reduce overdue balances, and allows customers to pay how they want without adding work to retailers. Email invoices with Pay Link, accept credit card payments or ACH transfers, and auto-match payments to eliminate manual entry or errors. The mobile-friendly portal provides seamless payment experience. **Contact:** [rbretailandservicesolutions.com](http://rbretailandservicesolutions.com)

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### Reliant Pool Products



The VSC variable speed pump is engineered to deliver energy efficiency and quiet operation. It features a safety lock-out, an oversized debris basket for easy maintenance, and a programmable timer for smart flow management. **Contact:** [reliantpoolproducts.com](http://reliantpoolproducts.com)

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### RENOLIT



RENOLIT TOUCH Collection offers seven reinforced PVC membrane designs that imitate the natural textures found in marble, slate or sand and are printed with 3D relief. The TOUCH reinforced membrane is 80-mil thick, have Class C slip resistant properties and offer colors and textures that makes them ideal for both new pool construction or to completely waterproof, encapsulate and renovate pools. **Contact:** [renolit-alkorplan.com](http://renolit-alkorplan.com)



**January 2026**



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## Rethink Pool Care



Developed from over 35 years of research and development, MICRON 1 is crafted from pure, selected recycled glass and activated through a proprietary three-step process. The resulting self-sterilizing media delivers certified 1-micron filtration. MICRON 1 prevents bacterial growth and channeling, while reducing chemical use, water use and energy use through more efficient backwashing.

**Contact:** [rethinkpoolcare.com](http://rethinkpoolcare.com)

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## River Pools



River Pools' new A36 pool is the first in a new series of flat bottom pools, designed for games, gatherings, and lounging. With space to play and room to relax, this pool is sized at 16-feet wide by 36-feet long and 4-feet-6-inches deep, this pool has two sets of stairs connected by a long side bench. It's auto-cover ready, available in six color options, and made in the USA.

**Contact:** [riverpoolsandspas.com](http://riverpoolsandspas.com)

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## Silk Water Solutions



SilkBalance Plus is formulated for salt water systems and compatible with all spas. It helps soften the water, balance pH and alkalinity, and provide odor-free water. This once-per-week solution is safe and environmentally friendly, and minimizes the time and effort required compared to other systems or chemicals. One 76-ounce bottle of SilkBalance Plus lasts up to four months.

**Contact:** [silkbalance.com](http://silkbalance.com)

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## RicoRock



The newest addition to the Temple Stone series, this firepit is made of safe pre-cast lightweight concrete that matches the latest in outdoor living décor. Roughly 18-inches high, 76-inches long and 23-inches wide, the Temple Stone firepit hooks up to standard propane tanks. It's shown above in limestone color. The firepit is made in USA and available for immediate shipment.

**Contact:** [ricorock.com](http://ricorock.com)

## Shop Botanik



The OGO Starfish is a bold, playful design that serves as a seat for two, a backrest, or a statement piece for any outdoor space. Available in multiple sizes and vibrant colors, the Starfish is a must-have for creating an inviting, lounge-friendly atmosphere.

**Contact:** [shopbotanik.com](http://shopbotanik.com)

## SKiM360 Products



The New 18-inch SKiM360 Floater/RAKE Combo combines the ability to skim the surface and rake the bottom of a pool with the same tool. With its patented float assembly attached, anyone from kids to seniors can skim with zero weight of the pole and skimmer. Simply remove the float and head to the bottom to effortlessly get the job done.

**Contact:** [SKiM360products.com](http://SKiM360products.com)



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### Skimmer Saver



Skimmer Saver is a veteran-owned, USA-made, and patented pool protection that prevents leaves, toys, critters, and debris from clogging the skimmer basket and burning out the pump. Just place it over the pool's intake to maintain chemical balance without worry. Ideal to protect clients' pools during storms without emergency trips, helping users manage their time more efficiently.

**Contact:** [skimmersaver.com](http://skimmersaver.com)

### Slipstream Swim Machines



Slipstream 2026 models features improvements based on pool professional and customer feedback. Improvements include new plug/connect system, new Bluetooth enabled battery, an improved design that allows the unit to be compatible without customization for benches and ledges as well a better protect pool walls.

**Contact:** [SwimSlipstream.com](http://SwimSlipstream.com)

### Spazazz



Spazazz Hemp Crystals come in 19-ounce jars and packs 1,000 mg of premium hemp with natural salts containing 21 minerals for a spa-quality soak that soothes, restores, and relaxes.

**Contact:** [spazazz.com](http://spazazz.com)

Debuted at PSP/Deck Expo

### Spillway Spas



The new SL812 Shelf Lounger is crafted to deliver both relaxation and versatility. Its removable loungers feature upright seating with contoured armrests, lumbar and neck support, and an adjustable pillow for truly personalized comfort. A seamless cascading spillover enhances the design, while the flexible layout easily converts into a toddler-friendly pool or an inviting space.

**Contact:** [spillwayspas.com](http://spillwayspas.com)

### SunLab



The all-new SunLab Pool is designed for modern living, and crafted with a 100% resin structure, ensuring long-lasting durability, corrosion resistance, and full compatibility with salt-water systems. It's certified by ICC-ES to meet the highest industry standards.

**Contact:** [sunlabpool.com](http://sunlabpool.com)

### SwamCam



SwamCam's new Door and Window Sensors are discreet, wireless, and UL2017 certified. They fully integrate into the SwamCam ecosystem or work as standalone devices.

**Contact:** [theswamcam.com](http://theswamcam.com)

(Continued on page 50)

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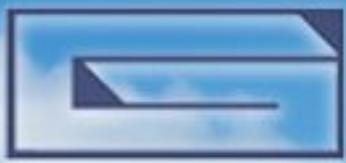
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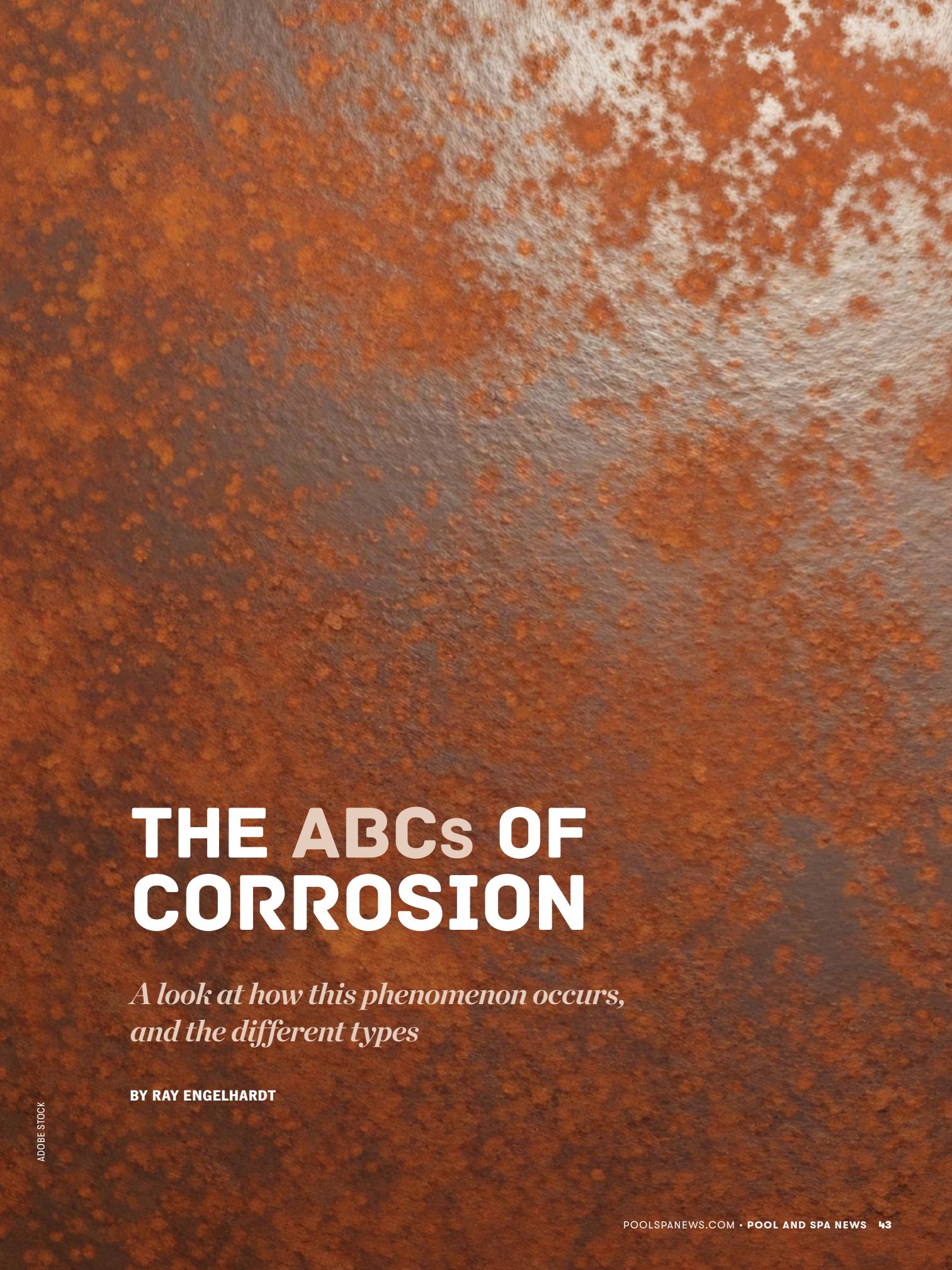
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# THE ABCs OF CORROSION

*A look at how this phenomenon occurs,  
and the different types*

BY RAY ENGELHARDT

**C**orrosion is a serious and expensive problem for mankind. Per the National Association of Corrosion Engineers (now The Association for Materials Protection and Performance), the estimated cost for corrosion damage in the USA for 2016 was 1.1 trillion dollars.

In pools, corrosion destroys heat exchangers, lights, niches, ladders and even rebar in the shell. Anyone in the industry long enough will see the damage: The product life of nearly every metal pool component is limited by corrosion.

For this reason, let's take a close-up look at corrosion, the physics and chemistry involved in the process, and the different types affecting pools and spas. Understanding how this happens can help pool and spa professionals to limit, diagnose and fix the issues while on the site.

## BUILDING BLOCKS

Before discussing how corrosion occurs, we should look at a basic atomic model.

As you may remember from science classes, all material is made of atoms. Materials consisting of a single type of atom are called elements, and they combine to make everything in our world. Each element is defined by a unique atomic number, which indicates how many protons it has.

At the center of the atom is the nucleus. Here, the protons and neutrons live, with the protons carrying a positive charge. Surrounding that nucleus, in distinct shells, are electrons, which have a negative charge. The atomic structure can be envisioned as if the nucleus (containing the protons and neutrons) were a planet, with electron moons orbiting.

A neutral atom has an equal number of electrons and protons, which cancel each other out. Atoms with a charge imbalance, whether positive or negative, are called ions.

The number of electrons in the outer shell plays a significant role in corrosion, by dictating how atoms react with each other. Based on the number of electrons in the outer shell, some atoms like to lose electrons, while others prefer to gain them. Sodium, for instance, prefers to lose electrons, making it a proton, or positively charged ion. Chlorine and oxygen need to steal electrons. These elements tend to strip electrons

The tight-fitting steel parts create an anodic region. Electrons flow from the anodic to cathodic regions, oxidizing the iron (The symbol for iron is Fe.). The reduction of oxygen reaction consumes the electrons. The negative hydroxide ions combine with the positive iron items to produce iron hydroxide, the precursor to rust.

away from other atoms to become anions or negative ions.

Ions of opposite charges will combine into solids, which are insoluble. This explains the material left behind from corrosion, sometimes called "rust."

## INGREDIENTS FOR CORROSION

Corrosion results when these four components come together:

- **The anode** is a loser of electrons. This metal becomes "oxidized" when all four conditions are present.
  - **The cathode** is an electron thief or oxidizer. This material is gaining electrons and being "reduced." Examples include oxygen and hydrogen protons.
  - **An electrolyte** is any conductive liquid. Pool water, particularly salt-treated, makes an excellent conductor. The more dissolved solids in the water, the more conductive and corrosive an electrolyte becomes.
  - **An electrical contact**, or electrically conductive path, between anode and cathode completes the electrical circuit.
- To prevent corrosion, one or more of these four factors must be eliminated.

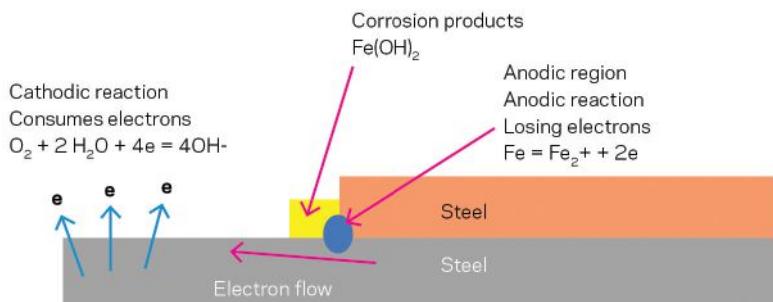
## HOW CORROSION OCCURS

Corrosion is an electrochemical reaction, meaning a flow of electrons takes place from the anode to the cathode.

This occurs when the metal is ionized positively and something in the electrolyte consumes electrons. This phenomenon results in a corrosion cell. The amount of material lost from corrosion is directly proportional to the corrosion current, and the corrosion current is directly proportional to cell voltage and inversely proportional to the cell's resistance.

Anything that increases the resistance of that circuit will decrease the corrosion rate. On the other hand, decreasing resistance or increasing the voltage difference between anode and cathode will increase the corrosion. The lower the resistance or the higher the voltage, the more current is present; the more current there is, the more material loss occurs. The more electrons that

Typical example of a crevice corrosion cell.



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flow, the faster the corrosion will occur.

A common example in the pool industry is the failure of a heat exchanger core due to calcium carbonate deposits. If pool chemistry is not maintained and becomes excessively scaling (Positive Langelier index), the heat exchanger is in danger of becoming coated along the inside diameter. When this coating is not complete, some points of the heat exchanger tube have more exposure than others to the pool water, which contains dissolved oxygen. Because of this difference in exposure, the portion just under the deposit will become anodic, while the portion just outside the deposit will become the cathode.

In this example, the cathode and anode are on the same piece of copper and are close together, so the electrical resistance is very small. Under these conditions, rapid localized corrosion can occur. A cell develops, which can develop into a through-thickness pit, or a hole in the exchanger.

While this is a gross oversimplification of corrosion reactions, hopefully it has given some insight into the process.

## FORMS OF CORROSION

Next, let's look at the various forms of corrosion we find in pool and spa environments, and the mechanism of each.

### • Uniform corrosion

This is just like it sounds — the material removal is nearly the same over the entire surface.

For this type of corrosion to occur, the electrolyte must have access to the entire surface, and the material must be uniform in composition. The most common example of uniform corrosion is atmospheric attack on steel or iron parts.

In the pool/ spa industry, we might see uniform corrosion on the black iron pipe used for gas or propane valves, or on the top of heater tubs, where rainwater or sprinkler water can collect. It also can be found on metal components with powder coating, such as the boxes or panels used to store control systems and electrical connections. The paint can become damaged or otherwise flake off, inviting a uniform attack.

### • Galvanic corrosion

When two dissimilar metals come in electrical contact and in contact with the same electrolyte, this can occur.

Each of the metals will have a fundamental electrical potential, or specific voltage. When they come in contact this way, the more positively charged metal will become the anode, surrender electrons and be consumed. An example could be a brass screw in a stainless steel light fixture.

Anytime you have two different metals in contact, you run this risk. But this dynamic also provides a mitigation technique — sacrificial anodes, which are frequently used in pool and spa heaters. Here, aluminum, magnesium or zinc is electrically connected to the parts you want to protect. It will corrode first, protecting the pool equipment.



This technique also can be found on chain-link fencing, where nearly every fastener and sign post is zinc plated. The coating provides a sacrificial barrier in that it corrodes and protects the substrate. So while galvanic corrosion can be a bad thing, you can use that physics to your advantage. It can be a weapon or a shield.

### • Crevice corrosion

This can occur when two closely fitting parts create a crevice and trap a small amount of electrolyte in such a manner that it cannot equalize with the rest of the electrolyte. This is called a “restrictive geometry,” which prevents dissolved oxygen from equalizing.

Oxygen is consumed cathodically in the crevice, creating a concentration difference. The metal in the restricted geometry then becomes anodic and loses electrons.

As the number of metal ions grows, the water becomes thermodynamically unstable and splits into hydrogen and hydroxide. The metal ions combine with the hydroxide and become solid corrosion products. Additionally, the excessive hydrogen protons drive down the local pH — making the water more acidic, further destabilizing remaining metal, and defeating any protective layer. Further, the strong positive polarization actively draws chloride ions into the restrictive geometry, further destabilizing the layer.

It should be noted that the source of the crevice or restrictive geometry can be both from the assembly of close-fitting parts, and overlap weld or chemical deposits in a heat exchanger.

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### • Pitting corrosion

This is the result of a localized non-uniform corrosion attack on a corrosion-resistant surface.

Many materials, such as stainless steel, titanium and, in some situations, copper, have a durable oxide layer, meant to protect the metal surface from corrosion attack. The protective film is not perfect, so weak spots can exist. Once the protective layer is defeated, the corrosion current is focused on very small areas on the surface, where the protective layer was broken. This results in small but relatively deep pits.

Once the pits develop, the same dynamic occurs as we see in a crevice corrosion event: The oxygen concentration in the area decays relative to the rest of the electrolyte, further anodically polarizing the bottom of the pit. The bottom of the pit becomes more and more acidic. Further, the strongly positive charge pulls local chloride ions into the pit, further destabilizing the protective film. This process continues to accelerate the local corrosion rate, often resulting in a pin hole through the entire thickness of the material.

For stainless steel, the main cause of pitting corrosion is chlorides in the water. It is important to not allow salt concentrations to become excessive. Overuse of sanitizer also can result in pitting corrosion.

### • Environmentally induced cracking

Two types of environmentally induced cracking are found in pool and spa environments: stress corrosion cracking (SCC) and hydrogen-induced cracking (HIC), often called hydrogen embrittlement.

In these corrosion mechanisms, environmental exposure causes normally pliable metal to fail in a brittle manner. In SCC, the combined effects of stress and pitting corrosion result in the material cracking. This is sometimes observed as a failure of formed stainless steel light shells and niches.

Hydrogen induced cracking or hydrogen embrittlement is more often the result of plating defects on a hardened part. The most likely example of hydrogen embrittlement in a pool application would be a fastener that was plated and not post-baked correctly. (Sometimes when you purchase bargain hardware you get what you pay for.)

### • Intergranular corrosion

This happens when something, usually heat, causes alloying elements to separate. The most likely place to find this in a pool environment would be welded austenitic stainless steel. If this material is heated to a temperature of 800 to 1,500 F, the chromium and carbon form an intermetallic compound, resulting in a chromium concentration gradient in the grains. At this point, microscopic galvanic corrosion cells are created. Do not attempt to weld cracked stainless parts.

### • Dealloying

In this selective corrosion attack, the more vulnerable ele-

ments are dissolved, leaving the remaining, more resistant elements in a porous structure. The dezincification of yellow brass is a common example. Brass is an alloy of copper and zinc. The latter is very active and is selectively attacked, leaving behind a porous copper structure. Dezincification is a risk whenever brass is exposed to chlorinated water.

### • Erosion corrosion/fretting

This is the combined effects of corrosion and either fluid motion or connected parts moving relative to each other. That relative motion grinds off the protective layer, while fluid motion can wash it away. This increases the corrosion rate. Examples could be excessive water velocity in a tube or pipe, abrasives in the water, or a loose bolted joint.

Another example of erosion corrosion is cavitation, a fancy term for localized boiling. We know water boils at 212 degrees F, but technically this is only true at atmospheric pressure. If the local pressure is reduced by the movement of the water through a flow restriction, the boiling temperature will drop. It is possible to boil water at lower temperatures in restricted flow channels. Once the pressure recovers, the vapor bubbles collapse and release significant energy that damages the local surface and increase the corrosion rate.

### • Stray corrosion

Here, stray voltage is usually caused by a failure to bond or outside sources. The part that is polarized more positive will corrode. This is common if professionals have not bonded an item as defined in the National Electrical Code. This is the case almost every time I see lights corroding in a pool.

*Ray Engelhardt is a mechanical engineer with Pentair. With 21 years of pool industry experience, he has a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Missouri Science and Technology and a Masters of Science in Materials Engineering from California State University-Northridge.*

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(Continued from page 40)

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## Treesse Hot Tubs



ICE is the new Treesse spa with glass edge and overflow effect. Designed by Marc Sadler, ICE enhances the visual continuity between indoor and outdoor spaces through the play of reflections on the glass surface.

**Contact:** [gruppotres.com](http://gruppotres.com)

## Water Tech Corp.



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**Contact:** [watertechcorp.com](http://watertechcorp.com)

## The VacDaddy



The BattDaddy is a portable lithium-ion power solution designed for pool pros who need full suction power anywhere, even when electrical access isn't an option. The BattDaddy keeps the VacDaddy system running with up to 2 hours of continuous runtime.

**Contact:** [thevacdaddy.com](http://thevacdaddy.com)

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## TSTCHECK



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**Contact:** [tstcheck.com](http://tstcheck.com)

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