



# SOLAR POOL HEATING GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Congratulations on your solar pool heating purchase. Your solar panels will provide you with years of reliable performance without the cost of electricity or gas pool heating. Solar pool heating is very popular in Florida for good reason – it allows you to enjoy your pool more often without the planning, hassle, and ongoing expense of traditional heaters.

There are several things you should know about your new solar pool heater:

- ◆ When your solar pool heater starts up you will notice large bubbles in the pool or spa. This is air purging from the panels and it is completely normal. Bubbles should stop after a couple of minutes.
- ◆ You may notice small “champagne” bubbles in the pool from time to time. This usually means your filter is getting dirty and the flow rate through your system is decreased. It is not a critical problem unless the bubbles become larger or frequent, but you should keep your flow rate up for maximum performance. This is a pool service issue, not a solar panel issue.
- ◆ Your solar panel plumbing is most likely installed to drain by gravity back to your pool when not in use. In some cases it is not possible to install plumbing to drain fully and you may have a manual drain valve to empty the panels when freezing conditions are expected. This is a manufacturer requirement, as freeze damage is not covered if water is left in the panels during freezing conditions. You must isolate your system and open this valve to prevent damage.
- ◆ Your solar pool heater is a weather dependent technology. We cannot guarantee any particular temperature. However, your pool will generally reach temperatures that are several degrees warmer than an unheated pool (even warmer if using a solar cover). Your pool may reach undesirably warm temperatures at certain times of year, at which time you should turn the solar off. Unheated pools can generally range from 66°F - 88°F in our area throughout the year.
- ◆ We recognize that most people don’t want the hassle of using a solar cover, but covers drastically reduce the heat loss from pools at night. While solar pool heaters work well without covers, using one will amplify your pool experience, especially during winter, providing earlier heat each day and greater overall heat. This applies to all heater type and technologies.
- ◆ Factors that negatively affect the performance of pool heaters (of any type) are: features such as waterfalls, spillovers, and deck jets; windy conditions on the pool surface; cool rain; circulating your pool at night; cold ambient temperature days and nights; and other cooling effects.
- ◆ Operating solar panels in less than ideal conditions can actually cool your pool. An automated solar controller and solar valve helps avoid this issue. Do not operate your solar panels at night unless you want to cool your pool.
- ◆ When you do not plan to use your solar pool heater for extended periods of time, we recommend you turn off, drain, and isolate your solar pool heating system, leaving them empty during times of absence from the home or during summer months when heating is not needed. Turn off your pool pump, allow panels to fully drain (up to 2 hours), and follow the valve manifold directions to isolate your system. If your system is automated, make sure the solar valve will not come on unexpectedly.
- ◆ We initially program your solar pool heater to work with new or existing automation and variable speed pumps that are present at the time of installation. We recommend that you do not change the schedules or programs for your equipment unless asked to do so. Programming issues are a common service call, and are not covered by warranty if you need service.
- ◆ If you have a manual system, you may need to adjust your pump timer to operate during the “solar window” – the times that sunshine is most likely to provide the most heating. The times will depend on the time of year and where your solar panels are mounted on your roof.
- ◆ Do not attempt to fix solar leaks yourself. Your solar professional is trained to properly fix leaks. Unapproved repair methods may destroy solar panels and void your warranty. Hire a professional.