

Pool Liners and Sunscreen

With the growing awareness of the damaging effects of solar ultraviolet (UV) rays over the past 10 years, sunscreen products are becoming a part of everyday life. Sunscreen products contain various ingredients that are chosen to provide a barrier between the skin and harmful UV rays.

Ingredients like UV absorbers, formulation stabilizers, sensory enhancers, and perfumes, are effective at blocking UV radiation, but have some unfortunate interactions with vinyl pool liners. Multiple studies have shown that sunscreen may damage the print on vinyl pool liners. Some findings from these studies are given below:

Observations:

- Spray vs lotion did not indicate the likelihood of disturbing ink.
- SPF level did not indicate the likelihood of disturbing ink.
- Time duration of sunscreen on vinyl can increase likelihood of ink disturbance.
- Temperature of vinyl with sunscreen contact can increase likelihood of ink disturbance.
- Oils and oily sunscreens tend to be less likely to create ink disturbances.
- Sunscreen formulation is the key driving factor to cause ink disturbances.

Recommendation:

- Apply sunscreen and wait some time for it to be absorbed before heading into the pool.
- Avoid touching the liner immediately after applying sunscreen.

