

Our Swimming Pools.

The swimming pools at both Villa La Quiete in Vilamoura and Casa do Vale in Almancil are maintained by our own management company; Villa Support. They are both chlorinated pools and are cleaned once a week, usually on the morning before guests' arrival. The chlorine levels are maintained at between 2-4 ppm (mg/l) to provide safe bathing, disinfect the water and reduce the potential for adverse skin reactions. The free chlorine is purely a disinfectant, not a detergent, and we recommend removing excess sun-tan oils before swimming. Oil and water do not mix and excess sun-tan lotions/creams will result in a greasy tide mark at the water level, cloudy and discoloured water and blocked filters. Remember these are private pools so poor water quality is only a result of use by members of your respective groups. Do not tamper with or empty skimmer baskets as these contain chemical tablets for pool cleaning. We recently found that guests had 'thrown out' these tablets with the leaves etc. collected in the baskets. This causes a very rapid reduction in free chlorine with consequent poor water quality. Our management company will deal with all aspects of pool cleaning/maintenance.

As our pools are outdoor facilities and at the mercy of the elements leaves, petals, pine needles etc. can be blown into them, particularly during the non-peak season rentals where the weather can be more changeable. The design of the water flow in both pools will result in most foreign objects being captured in the skimmer baskets where it will be removed by our staff. During the Spring pollen season (April/May), particularly at Villa La Quiete surrounded by pine forests, excessive pollen can leave a thin yellow film on the water surface. This is not harmful, is a completely natural product, and will gradually be removed by the filtration system.

As the pools are generally cleaned and hoovered during the short 4 hour changeover period between departures and arrivals, depending how dirty the pool was previously, the water may appear slightly cloudy for a short time after. This will soon disperse into the filters.

Periodically during the season we may enhance the cleaning properties and water clarity by using a 'Multi action' tablet which will contain additional chemicals to assist in maintaining aesthetic water quality. These contain copper sulphate and aluminium sulphate to prevent algae growth and provide flocculant properties respectively.

As a result copper concentrations can build up to levels where certain swimwear can show some signs of yellow/green staining (as can some ends of long blonde hair). This is not dependent on how cheap or expensive a garment is; it is purely determined by the clothing's chemical composition and construction. To remove the staining, do not bleach the items. Simply soak the item in a white wine vinegar solution (acetic acid), rinse and wash on a normal 30°/40°C cycle with a good proprietary liquid soap brand. We have found Ariel 3-in-1 to be particularly effective. We monitor the copper content levels in our pools on a regular basis and will reduce excessive levels where necessary but pool chemistry can change very rapidly with so many variables. This type of scenario is very common on cruise ship pools where the copper piping contributes to high copper concentrations. (The 'cure' for hair staining was to rub the affected hair with tomato ketchup as it contained acetic acid and then wash normally.)

The infant's paddling pool at Casa do Vale does not have its own pump/filter; it is connected to the main pool by 2 tubes. Therefore the water level is dependent on the main pool level and the chemical composition is the same also.

Enjoy safe swimming!