

CAT Controller Courier # 36

September 2009

Winterization of You Chemical Feed Equipment

It is that time of year again and winterization of pools and pool equipment is very important. Most remember to winterize the circulation and filtration equipment, but neglect to winterize automated chemical feed equipment. Here are some simple steps to take when winterizing chemical feed equipment.

1. Remove pH and ORP sensors from the flow cell or the return line. The sensors should then be placed into their storage caps with a mild table salt and water mixture. (Enough salt water to cover the bottom inch of the sensor) Sensors should be stored at room temperature (72 degrees).
2. Empty, clean, rinse, and dry out the flowcell (Optional: Unhook influent and effluent sample tubing and leave flow cell valves open so that all water is able to drain from the flowcell). Be sure to empty, clean, rinse and dry your influent and effluent sample tubes as well.
3. If using peristaltic pumps remove the pump feed tubes, clean them, rinse them off, dry them out, and store them at room temperature (72 degrees). The same steps should be taken for the injection tubing coming from the solution vats and also going into the return lines; clean, rinse, dry this tubing.
4. Empty, clean, rinse, and dry all solution vats and/or erosions feeders, so that they are free of any chemicals and/or liquids.
5. Controllers that are installed indoors can stay placed at their original installation position. Optional but recommended: Controllers that are installed outside and will be exposed to extreme winter weather you may want to bring and store inside. Do make sure that all controllers are POWERED DOWN and the both the female and male plugs are protected from moisture, this will shelter the controllers form any possible moisture reaching the electric elements.

Why is my ORP so Low?

This question is posed to CAT approximately 5 times a week, "I don't understand; I have 4ppm Free Available Chlorine in the pool but my ORP is 550mv." Instead of getting extremely carried away with this article and explaining everything that affects ORP in detail and why; I have chosen to simply show you what to look for when this situation occurs. Once you discover which one of these variables is the culprit for bringing down your ORP and you would like to know more about why, please contact me and I will be happy to explain.

- Higher pH readings (above 7.5pH)
- Higher Cyanuric Acid readings (Above 25ppm you will start to notice decline in ORP)
- Higher Temperatures (Above your normal operating temperature, you will observe a decline in ORP)
- The presence of Chlorine Neutralizer
- The presence of Stray Electrical Current (This may cause both higher and/or lower ORP readings)
- A Dirty ORP Sensor (The reference junction of the sensor must be cleaned regularly)
- An Old/Failing ORP Sensor
- Very High Total Dissolved Solids (With the exception of Salt Pools)
- Insufficient Flow Rate/Turnover Rate (Will inhibit the proper and even distribution of chemicals)
- Using a weaker Oxidizer (Bromine Pools/Spas tend to produce lower ORP readings at higher levels)

Each one of these variables can bring down or make for a lower than anticipated ORP. Each one of these variables has a very good explanation for why it brings down the ORP. The best way for me to answer the question, "I don't understand why my ORP is so low?" is to say, "What else could possibly be going wrong in your pool, OTHER than the controller being inaccurate?" I am not saying that controllers never fail; I am simply saying that we should eliminate all other possible problems before faulting the equipment.

Written By:

M. Troy McGinty
CAT Controllers, Inc.

Sell Sell Sell! Look for the Up Sell

This time of year things are probably starting to calm down a bit. It is a good time for your company to sell more equipment or up sell your current customers on accessories and ad-ons. CAT Controllers offers a full line of accessories that can not only benefit your customer but they can benefit you and the efficiency of your business. The following is a list of accessories for CAT 4000 and 5000's that your clients may be interested in:

1. Poolcomm Air Time - Know what your pool is doing and be able to make chemistry changes any time from any Internet connected computer in the world.
2. Digital Flow Sensor - Don't spend \$500 on a full scale new digital flow meter. Purchase the paddle wheel flow sensor with saddle clamp from us for half the price and the controller will not only give you a read out of GPM but it will alarm you when it is time to backwash.
3. Tank Level Sensors - Never run out of chlorine or acid again before its to late. Install tank level sensors and be alarmed in advance that your tank levels are low.
4. Water Level Control - Save yourself hundreds of dollars on a new automated water level control system and use the existing CAT Controller. Add an optical level sensor and a dry contact cable to the CAT and add a solenoid valve to your fill pipe, now you have automated water level control.
5. Stratum Alarm Kit - This kit give your Stratum VRS a voice. When you connect a Stratum to a CAT 4000 or CAT 5000 controller if the Stratum "Suction Alarm" is actuated the controller will create a remote alarm which can be either emailed and/or text messaged to whomever you please.

Lastly don't forget that CAT Controllers is your 1 STOP SHOP! Sell a new CAT Controller and include the pump tank systems. CAT Controllers SALE is still going on for a limited time! Buy a CAT 2000 Pro Pack and 2 Stenner variable output pump/tank combos for \$2000.00!!!

Show your customer the benefit of a CAT Controller and click [here](#) to request your End User Power Point Presentation today.

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Stratum VRS

The Virginia Graeme Baker Act is still in effect and the CPSC is enforcing this mandate! Please remember to get your pools up to code ASAP! In an effort to provide increased profit for your business, CAT Controllers has lowered the Hayward Stratum VRS price for our dealers. Please contact your CAT sales representative to find out your NEW Stratum Price

1 Stop Shop Promo!

CAT Controllers is offering its annual 1 Stop Shop Promo! Purchase a CAT 2000 Professional Package, 1 Variable Output Stenner Pump/15 Gallon Vat Combo, 1 Variable Output Stenner Pump/30 Gallon Vat Combo all for \$2000.00 CALL RIGHT NOW 1-800-657-2287 !!

I would like to thank everyone for reading this month's CAT Controller Courier. I hope that all of you enjoyed its contents. Please send me any questions, concerns, ideas, and/or article subjects that may interest you for next month's newsletter. I hope all of you had a wonderful Labor Day weekend!

Sincerely,

Troy McGinty
CAT Controllers, Inc.

