

Pool Safety - No Glasses near the pool!

Pools can be dangerous places, but pool safety goes a lot further than the prevention of drowning. For instance, I am forever advising our clients to keep drinking glasses and bottles away from the pool area and here's why.

In the summer of 2006 we were called out to a pool where an accident had taken place. There had been a pool party the previous evening and, somehow, a glass had been left on the steps. When the pump started the morning the jets washed the glass off the steps and it rolled into the pool. About 11a.m. the teenage son jumped into the shallow end and landed on the glass. The glass shattered under his foot, lacerating his sole and slicing the tendons of his foot. He was hospitalised for emergency surgery, spent the rest of the summer hopping about and is still limping from the experience. Like so many ex-pats he was not covered by Medical Insurance. That was just the start of their financial troubles.

Clear glass is invisible in water and so, wishing to avoid further accidents, the parents agreed over the phone that the pool should be emptied to ensure that all remnants of the broken glass were removed. The pool was on an Urbanisation without main drains and so the pool had to be emptied by tanker trucks; at a cost of €520. The tanker company could not begin the work for a week or so and in that time the pool went green (all chlorine having been depleted by the blood in the water), the pH rose and the walls of the pool and the sand filter became badly calcified.

We carried out the repairs to the pool; we acid-washed the walls, replaced the sand in the filter and arranged for the pool to be re-filled by the same tanker driver – at a further cost of €660 for the water. Perhaps in total the whole affair cost the owners somewhere around €5-6000 including the private medical bills. Quite an expensive party, all in all!

In early February 2007 I attended the Spatex Pool Exhibition in Brighton and found, amongst other pool-related items, an elegant collection of Polycarbonate Barware; something for which I had been searching for quite some time.

The advantage of Polycarbonate is that it is unbreakable in normal use and is therefore safe to use around the pool, it looks and feels like traditional glass, is microwave-safe and good for 2000 dishwasher cycles. The manufacturers, who are in New Zealand, guarantee their hand-finished products for 5 years. We now have a supply of Polycarbonate Barware and also a page of our website dedicated to them.

Please see http://www.deep-blue-pools.com/Pool_Glasses.htm

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