

# *Laurel Thicket Property Owners Association*

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## Use of Sunscreen at Pool

When swimmers wear sunscreen of any kind – lotion sunblock or spray sunscreen – it gets together with the chemicals in our pool water and causes a reaction that you can actually see. Several outcomes may result: The chemical imbalance can cause cloudy water, a sort of gray scummy layer, a colorful yet most unwelcome oil rainbow and/or skin and eye irritations.

Now, protecting your skin from the sun is a critical step before outdoor play, so let's talk about some of the best solutions for this challenge.

We ask that all guests at the pool review these considerations and help our community eliminate the harmful effects that sunscreen and other personal care product runoff can create in our pool.

- Protective Clothing  
Consider wearing sun protective clothing – long sleeve swim shirts can significantly reduce the amount of sunscreen you must apply.
- Zinc Oxide and Water-Resistant  
Choose a sunscreen with Zinc Oxide as its main or primary ingredient, the less added ingredients in your sunscreen the better for you and the pool water. Also, look for the words “Water Resistant” on the label.
- Wait before entering pool  
Apply sunscreen to skin 20-30 mins PRIOR to dipping into the pool. This allows absorption of most of the sunscreen, thus reducing the amount that would immediately run-off into the pool water.
- Shower prior to entering pool  
Before the kids and adults enter the water, PLEASE shower first. Consider that, if wearing sunscreen, showering beforehand will remove that which would be removed by immersion in the pool water as well. It will have the same effect, on sunscreen effectiveness but will reduce the damage to the pool.
- Reapply  
Obviously, sunscreen should be reapplied after leaving the pool. Consider doing so shortly after you leave the pool to allow 20-30 minutes before re-entering the pool. Another rinse in the shower would be required.

We hope all our residents will do their best to help mitigate this problem, as failing to do so can result in having to close the pool to allow maintenance to regain a healthy chemical balance, which will also increase the cost of pool maintenance.

Together we can keep the pool, healthy, fun, affordable and most importantly OPEN!

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