

# Swimming Pool Registry Program Announced

Automobiles are rated by horsepower. Furnaces by Btu's. Refrigerators by cubic feet. Homes by square feet. And swimming pools by ...

Well, the fact of the matter is that, until now, swimming pools haven't been rated. There has been no way for the prospective pool owner to compare similarly appearing pools, except by price.

The National Swimming Pool Institute has now initiated a program this year to correct this problem as well as to provide other benefits, particularly in the safety area, to pool prospects and owners.

"The NSPI swimming pool registry program," says

Brack Whitaker, a Tucson builder and the man credited with getting the program started, "is a natural outgrowth of NSPI's 'Minimum Standards for Residential Pools' and of the need to provide this information as well as safety information to the consumer."

"But until the registry program got under way, there was no way for the industry to enforce these standards."

WHITAKER, the immediate past president of NSPI, points out that the pool industry has always been a voluntary supporter of safety regulations — such as fencing around the pool — and that the

registry program is another step in the right direction.

"Most communities now have ordinances requiring fencing," he states, "and the major remaining safety problem is the diving board."

Besides seeking a way to enforce the minimum standards, the NSPI swimming pool registry program is an effort to deal effectively with the potential hazards, too.

"Without going into a lot of technical jargon, the registry program, by making the minimum standards mandatory for builder participation, stresses the idea of a 'safe water envelope' which is simply an area into which both experienced and novice

divers can safely dive from a board specified as being adaptable for use in pools with specified depth, width and length of 'safe water envelope' measurements."

The major diving board problem in the past, according to Whitaker, is that many pools are built without boards which are added later by the owner. But the owner too often installed a board with too much spring for the "safe

water envelope" to catch the diver safely.

BASICALLY, the NSPI pool registry program operates like this:

1. The builder signs an agreement with the institute

to construct all of his in-ground pools to meet or exceed the NSPI minimum standards.

2. When he builds a pool, he registers this pool with NSPI by the class of pool built. (There are five classes rated

according to the dimensions of the "safe water envelope.")

3. A permanent plaque is placed in the deck around the pool noting the registry number and the type of pool constructed.
4. The owner receives a certificate and a free safety booklet from the registry agency, a leading national accounting firm.
5. The plaque and booklet explain what class of diving board the owner should have for his pool.

"The program, then," Whitaker summarized, "is meant to force compliance with minimum standards, to insure safe use of the pool and to help the consumer realize that he has a high quality product built by a company and an industry interested in his safe use and enjoyment of the facility."

This type of activity has resulted in the growing popularity of an "entertainment center" in the home.

The well equipped center includes a sink with hot and cold running water, ice and hot water dispensers for instant drinks, an ice-making machine and a built-in hot tray.

An entertainment center makes having guests easy and fun — so host and hostess can enjoy their own party.

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**Pest Of The Week**

**BLACK VINE WEEVIL (TAXUS WEEVIL)**

This insect attacks Japanese yew and broadleaf evergreens (such as rhododendron, azalea, mountain laurel and others), winter creeper euonymus and hemlock.

The adult beetle emerges to feed at night on the lower leaves of the plant. The edges of the leaves will appear to have half circles cut out of them. The larvae feed on the roots, causing damage ranging from an unthrifty appearance to sudden death of a plant. Adults will be emerging soon.

Prepare to control this insect if you have had trouble in the past, particularly on Taxus.

WAYNE JONES SAYS: Don't wait to do your landscaping because you don't know how! We will draw a plan for your home, and give you our expert advice on what to plant and how to plant it. We draw free plans to scale for our customers. Just bring in your house and lot dimensions and a picture, if possible. Your site survey usually has all this information on it. We can do the planting for you, for an additional labor charge.

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**'Enough Is Enough When Using Sprays**

EAST LANSING Here's a problem that most gardeners are familiar with when using sprays around the home.

Recommended amounts of spray materials are usually given in pounds or quarts per acre or per 100 gallons of water. These amounts have been tested and evaluated to give the best degree of control with the least amount of waste of material.

The problem arises, says Michigan State University plant pathologist D.J. deZeeuw, when the materials are used in small volumes. The best way to convert pounds per 100 gallons to a smaller amount per gallon is to weigh out the material on a scale that will weigh small amounts accurately, de Zeeuw suggests this rule-of-thumb method:

use one tablespoon (or three teaspoons) of chemical per gallon of water for each pound of formulation recommended in 100 gallons of water.

This method may not hold true for all materials, so you should always check the label for rates to use for small quantities.

Keep in mind that when a specified amount of a material is recommended, that rate is what you should use. Extra amounts are wasteful and may be injurious to plants.

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