

Case Study: PoolNaturally
10,000 gallon in ground pool
Ed Townsend, McAllen, Texas

Chlorine made him sick, dad found a remedy
Texas Tot with Stomach Disorder Learning to Swim in More Natural Waters

When Ed Townsend and his wife discovered that their two-year old twin boy, Luke, had a severe stomach disorder that made him hypersensitive to foods and other things, they did all they could to make his life more comfortable. That included finding a more natural, less-chlorine-intensive water treatment regimen for their 10,000 gallon swimming pool that was part of a new home they purchased in McAllen, Texas near the border. The chlorine in the water simply make young Luke vomit while he was trying to learn how to swim.

After doing research online last spring, the Townsends discovered a video news story by a CBS affiliate in the Twin Cities that talked extensively about a new way to use fewer chemicals and spend less time maintaining a pool or spa. See the video here: <http://wcco.com/video/?id=45959@wcco.dayport.com>. The all natural system called PoolNaturally® uses a species of sphagnum moss to condition water and reduce chemical loads significantly (up to 90% in some pool owners' experience). Ed decided to give it a try and ordered it online for the 2009 pool season. It was just what they needed, Ed says.

"Our results this summer with the PoolNaturally product were very good," notes the relieved father. "We were able to use lower amounts of chlorine that eliminated the bad taste in the water. Before Luke would either gag or throw up in the water. But with less chlorine, he's not getting sick."

The family discovered other benefits of using sphagnum moss

Reducing the pool's chemical load solved the family's immediate issue with their son's reaction to chlorine. But they discovered the water was a lot clearer and had a silkier texture to it. "It's been crystal clear — even on real hot days, and McAllen is always hot in the summertime," Ed explains. "But we've had the hottest summer on record down here this year, with temps running around 105-degrees!"

With the pronounced heat has come increases of algae in the pool. The Townsends are hoping that the longer they use the moss that they might get the same positive result other users have found in its effectiveness against algae, too: It can help control its proliferation, even in hot climates.

The best news though is Luke is learning to swim and not getting sick. "I was looking for a good alternative to high chlorine use," Luke's dad says. The less I have to use in the water, the better it is for our son and for the rest of the family, too.