

RE: Hot Tub Advice



From Davison, Cristina <Cristina.Davison@sepa.org.uk>
To <contact@glampitect.co.uk>
Date 2020-03-11 11:28

Hi Calum and Alisdair,

I have received some inputs from Chemistry and, unfortunately, they were also not aware of this product (Active Silver Oxygen). My colleagues at chemistry have contacted the company asking for information on the disclosable ingredients for the algaecide and the 'comfort enhancer', but haven't received a detailed data sheet to date. They informed me that silver salts are usually used in disinfection processes and can be very toxic in the environment, but is rapidly removed by formation of the sulfate salt, which mitigates the toxicity.

SEPA Chemistry and Policy departments are currently looking into these discharges and working on the risk assessment for different hot tub cleaning products, however, they could not provide me with an anticipated date for having the results of these analysis published or available for internal use.

In a nutshell, considering the level of information we have at the present about the use of Active Silver Oxygen, I can not confirm that this product poses no harm to the environment. Bromine and chlorine are more often used as cleaning products for hot tubs and, as I already told you, providing the hot tub water is allowed to cool, it's drained to the separate soakaway and that there is no chlorine/bromine in the water, it can be discharged to land without the need for an authorisation.

In case I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Cristina Davison

Environment Protection Officer
Compliance & Beyond

Scottish Environment Protection Agency - SEPA Galashiels
Burnbrae, Mossilee Road, Galashiels, TD1 1NF
Tel: 01896 754797 / 07768 090304
Email: cristina.davison@sepa.org.uk

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From: contact@glampitect.co.uk <contact@glampitect.co.uk>
Sent: 27 February 2020 13:44
To: Davison, Cristina <Cristina.Davison@sepa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Hot Tub Advice

Hi Cristina

Ali is away on holiday so it's over to me.

Thanks for your prompt response and yes, 2 weeks is no problem. It will be good to get a full conclusion on it.

I look forward to hearing from you when it's done.

Thanks

Kind Regards

Calum MacLeod

Glampitect

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From: Davison, Cristina <Cristina.Davison@sepa.org.uk>

Sent: 27 February 2020 13:30

To: 'contact@glampitect.co.uk' <contact@glampitect.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Hot Tub Advice

Hi Alisdair,

Thank you for contacting SEPA to discuss this hot tub water discharge.

Since it's the first time I heard about this product, I thought it was worth it to pass your enquiry on to our chemistry department to check if the components of the Active Silver Oxygen can be harmful to the environment. It might take about two weeks to hear back from them, is that ok?

I can anticipate that provided the water is allowed to cool down there will be no difference whether it goes to the field/gravel area or to a dedicated soakaway. This is up to you and your client to decide what suits best in your case. The only concern would be if you were proposing to use the same drainage infrastructure for waste water, as the chemicals/sanitiser products could kill the bugs in the septic tank or treatment plant.

As soon as I have any news I'll get in touch with a definitive answer to your query.

Kind regards,

Cristina Davison

Environment Protection Officer
Compliance & Beyond

Scottish Environment Protection Agency - SEPA Galashiels
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From: contact@glampitect.co.uk <contact@glampitect.co.uk>

Sent: 26 February 2020 14:43

To: Davison, Cristina <Cristina.Davison@sepa.org.uk>

Subject: Hot Tub Advice

Good afternoon Christina,

We spoke on the phone a few weeks back regarding drainage of wood fired hot tubs into a green field.

A quick overview - Our clients are in the processes of applying for planning permission to install 3 glamping pods on their farm just outside Hawick. They would like to install wood fired hot tubs (one for each pod) and have the ability to drain them either into the field or to a dedicated soakaway.

You advised that the warm water temperature would require drainage to a gravel area to allow the water to cool before contacting the soil, rather than draining to a soakaway.

Our client would still like to explore the soakaway and has produced (with information from the hot tub manufacturer) the attached document. This explains how the hot tubs will be cleaned, allowed to cool and drained to the separate soakaway.

Would you be able to advise if the proposal would be acceptable from SEPA's perspective?

Kind Regards,

Alisdair Young

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