

Brighton club adds a dash of change to its pool



One of the region's first salt water pools has opened in Brighton.

Scott Wachtler 04.OCT.07

BRIGHTON — Salt water -- it's not just for the ocean anymore.

The Commonwealth Sports Club in Brighton recently converted its 60-foot, five-lane swimming pool into a salt-water pool.

According to Laura Wilson, fitness and program manager, the new pool uses a process called salt water chlorination. Although not a new idea for people who have their own pools, the process is part of a trend in the health club industry aimed to keep pools sanitized and provide a more enjoyable experience for its members.

The cost to convert the pool was less than \$5,000, and Wilson said that the Commonwealth Sports Club will save money over the long run.

The pool, which maintains a year-round temperature of 82 degrees, uses a smaller amount of chlorine than before. Much of the savings comes from the fact that the club will no longer have to spend money on the other chemicals needed to maintain a pool's proper pH level.

The pool now uses 1,200 pounds of salt that doesn't need to be replaced like the other chemicals.

"This is what I would consider the health club industry's way of going green," Wilson said. "It eliminates the use of toxic chemicals, saves water and ultimately provides an enhanced experience for our swimmers."

"We used to have to buy buckets of chlorine," Wilson added. "Safety was an issue too. I didn't like having the staff handle the stuff."

Barbara Wexler of Brookline has been using the pool since the conversion took place in mid-August.

"I used to swim in a pool that had this before, so I was glad to hear it was coming here," she said. "I'm really happy that I won't have any more smelly suits and no more green hair."

Wexler said that the water is better on her skin and her swimsuits. Since the process uses less chlorine, the water doesn't dry out your skin or fade swimsuits.

In addition, Wilson said that members have told her that the water makes them slightly more buoyant.

A backstroking Wexler agreed.

"It's definitely more buoyant. I don't have to work as hard!"

Wilson said when the decision was made to convert the pool, the most common question members had was about the feel and the taste.

"It's much less salty than the ocean," Wilson said. "I think I read that the ocean's salinity level is about 35,000 parts per million. The pool is 3,500 parts per million. Tears are saltier than the water in the pool."

Furthermore, Wilson said that some members have told her the water feels smoother.

- [The Bulletin Newspapers](#)