

MVP 2008 MOST VALUABLE PRODUCTS

The 4th Annual MVP listing features 25 buzzworthy, reader-approved products | by **Jessy Goodman**

With pools full of summer swimmers, it's time to look at some of this year's most exciting products. Based on reader response to January's New Products Issue, we've assembled a collection of the tools, equipment and accessories that have aquatics professionals talking. Products range from innovative offerings to new twists on old favorites that help you run your facility. Items are presented in alphabetical order and all information is provided by manufacturers. Check out the following pages to see what's making a splash in aquatics this season.

1 Convenient Kit

Abocrete concrete patching and resurfacing compound by Abatron is available in a new convenience kit. It creates a permanent, shrink-free bond with concrete and repairs broken concrete and masonry, fills cracks and anchors posts, railings; not affected by salts or chemicals. Abatron, 800.445.1754; www.abatron.com
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2 Wind It Up

Alta's Power Winder takes the manual labor out of using a hand-operated pool blanket reel system. This product now fits all commercial reel systems and features safe, 12-volt operation. Alta Enterprises, 800.624.1235; www.alt-enterprises.com
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3 Clear View

The Vista Cross-Swim Goggle from Aqua Sphere has 180-degree peripheral views and a low, streamlined frame to help eliminate drag. The goggle provides 100 percent UVA/UVB protection, with a hypoallergenic silicone skirt for a waterproof seal. Also featured is Quick-Fit technology for fast adjustments. Aqua Sphere, 800.775.3483; www.aquasphereswim.com
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4 InVest

Aquam offers vests treated to resist odors, bacteria, mold and mildew. Designed to keep an unconscious person's head out of water in calm conditions and provide assistance in rough waters, they feature a two-color design, waist belt, crotch strap with side-release buckles and a corrosion-proof zipper. Aquam Aquatic Specialist, 877.766.5872; www.aquam.com
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1 Super Souvenir

The new water toy from Big Squirt! Inc. can be printed with any park's name, logo or message. This "official souvenir" is available in a selection of bright colors and includes free support equipment and training. Big Squirt!, 310.782.8180; www.bigsquirt.com

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2 Long and Short of It

Hawaiian Island Creations' new Dungeons board short is made of 100 percent peached polyester microsuede. The shorts have taped inseams to prevent rashes as well as a Lycra fly gusset. Hawaiian Island Creations, 310.366.7712; www.hicworldwide.com

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3 Tiny Treat

IttiBitz is a new pelletized ice cream product available in a range of flavors. It serves, stores and ships like regular ice cream without special cooling and handling needs. It's offered in a 24-pack of 5-ounce cups, or a two-pack of 1.4-gallon pails. Various POP materials are available. IttiBitz, 866.228.6258; www.ittibitz.com

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4 Pool Tool

The new ColorQ PRO 7 handheld pool photometer from LaMotte Co. performs seven primary pool tests to show on a digital display. Test factors include free chlorine, total chlorine, bromine, pH, alkalinity, hardness and cyanuric acid. The meter, multilingual instructions and reagents come in a convenient carrying case. LaMotte Co., 800.344.3100; www.lamotte.com

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5 Locking Up

List Industries offers Safe Space lockers, which are cylindrical and have no doors. The revolving barrel is rotated to expose a large storage space that enables the user to store personal belongings. List Industries Inc., 954.394.3522; www.listindustries.com

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6 Fun Fins

New Flex-Fins from Marine Rescue Products are color-coded by size and can be used for training, swim teams, camps, lifeguarding and more. Marine Rescue Products, 401.847.9144; www.marine-rescue.com

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1 Splash Around

Mason's New Splash Zone is a portable spray-park that sits on concrete. Thirty-two computerized jets pulsate in different patterns, turning the safety surface and tree into a soaking feature for kids ages 2 through 12. Mason Corp., 800.821.4141; www.masoncorporation.com

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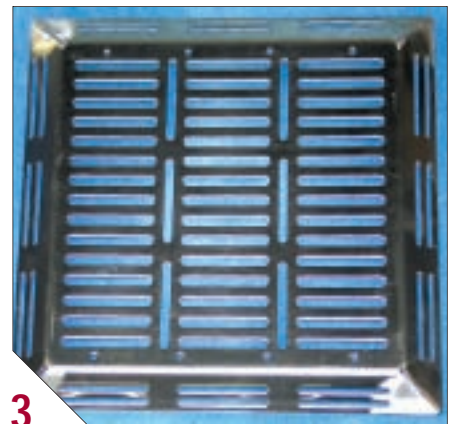
2 Cool Contraption

The PoolPro from Myron L Co. measures basic factors needed to correct pool or spa chemical balance. It tests mineral/salt concentrations, TDS, pH, ORP, conductivity and temperature. The product is buoyant, waterproof and stores up to 100 readings, which can be downloaded to a computer with the optional uDock accessory package. Myron L Co., 760.438.2021; www.myronl.com

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3 Safe Solution

Natare's MicroFlo anti-vortex safety main drain cover prevents entrapment or excess suction through a main drain. The stainless steel device can be placed over existing main drains and anchored into place. Its raised panel prohibits a swimmer from being entrapped. The product is chlorine-resistant for long life. Natare Corp., 800.336.8828; www.natare.com



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1 Scuba Dive

The Scuba handheld pool tester is new from Orbeco-Hellige. The Scuba meter tests for up to six water quality measurements, including chlorine, alkalinity, cyanuric acid and pH. It is waterproof and floats. Orbeco-Hellige, 800.922.5242; www.orbeco.com

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2 Play Time

Pebble Flex has released Pebble Flex CL and Aqua Flex, which are porous and nonporous applications, respectively. Both are light-stable, chlorine-resistant flooring products that are available in a wide range of colors and color combinations. Pebble Flex, LLC, 732.897.0444; www.pebble-flex.com

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3 Spray and Play

Playtime introduces the new Little Squirrels line of water-play products designed for young children. The company incorporates soft- and hard-sculpted play equipment with Squirrt Zone technology, water effects and hydraulic elements. Adult seating is integrated with the play features. Playtime, LLC, 303.662.0302; www.playtimeco.com

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1 Color Coat

Poly Solutions now provides natural tan as part of the standard colors available in the Ultra Poly One Coat selection of hybrid epoxy coatings. Tan can be used for water landscaping and waterfeatures that require blending into the surrounding area.

Poly Solutions, 724.449.1040; www.polysolutionsinc.com

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2 Great Grate

RenoSys Corp. offers its new GraniGrate for pools. Made of genuine granite, it can be top- or flush-mounted on the gutter; comes in a variety of styles and colors. RenoSys Corp., 800.783.7005; www.renosys.com

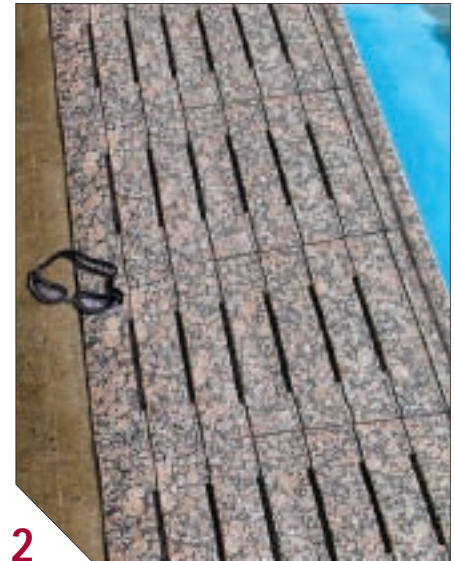
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3 Cabana Creation

Shade Creations cabanas are designed to pro-

vide facilities with functional, aesthetically pleasing shade. Waterloo's product is constructed from powder-coated steel frames and turnbuckles to promote quick attachment and removal of top and side panels. Customized shapes, sizes and designs are available. Shade Creations by Waterloo, 800.537.1193; www.shade-creations.net

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1 Under My Umbrella

Shade Systems presents Café Umbrellas for use in concessions, pools and waterparks. These portable umbrellas can be positioned for sun protection all day. During inclement weather, they can be quickly collapsed and stored indoors. Available in a wide range of colors. Shade Systems Inc., 800.609.6066; www.shadesystemsinc.com

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2 Smooth Sailing

The new ShadeSails USA product blocks 95 percent of UV rays; it can withstand winds up to 80 miles per hour. The sails can be custom fit to any location and come in 14 colors. ShadeSails USA, 877.265.5021; www.shadesailsusa.com

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3 Roller Derby

Sider-Oxydro offers the Sider-Proof FF-PR, which is a roll-on, cement-based resurfacing liquid plaster. It can be applied over existing pool plaster and concrete surfaces for a smooth finish. Sider-Proof also can be used in water-feature applications. It is lime-free for safe use on fish ponds. Sider-Oxydro Inc., 478.892.9800; www.sider-oxydro.com

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1 Calculating

Taylor Technologies offers two new versions of its Watergram Water Balance Calculator. Eliminates the need for subtraction in calculating CSI. Electronic version automatically figures the effect of cyanuric acid on TA; allows override of default levels. Taylor Technologies Inc., 800.837.8548; www.taylortechnologies.com

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2 Divine Design

Peroxolytes from Truox is a chemically engineered "designer oxidizer" in the form of a dry stable powder. When dissolved, it forms highly energized radicals that decompose combined chlorine and organic contaminants. Truox Inc., 916.920.4051; www.truoxdirect.com

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3 Bikini Island

The TYR Sport 2008 swimsuit collection features the new Crossback and Crossback Workout Bikini suits that fit to a woman's specific body type with self-adjusting back straps. The swimwear comes in a variety of colors and patterns, including camouflage and skulls. TYR Sport, 714.897.0799; www.tyr.com

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