

**AFM**<sup>®</sup>  
ACTIVATED FILTER MEDIA



# THE BEST FILTRATION MEDIA



**COMMERCIAL SWIMMING POOLS**





WE ARE  
DRYDEN AQUA!



# ABOUT DRYDEN AQUA



## OUR FACTORIES & OFFICES

-  **Dryden Aqua Distribution**  
Büsserach, Switzerland
-  **Dryden Aqua Technology**  
Bonnyrigg, Scotland

## OUR DISTRIBUTION HUBS

-  **Dryden Aqua Germany**  
Weimar, Germany
-  **Dryden Aqua North America**  
Dallas, TX, U.S.A

**i** Dryden Aqua is one of the largest manufacturers of water filtration media in the world. As marine biologists, we have a unique knowledge combination and detailed understanding of the biological, as well as, the physio-chemical reactions in water. This has enabled us to develop and manufacture a highly innovative range of products, **such as the Activated Filter Media, AFM®**. We are proud to provide **sustainable and cost-effective solutions** for the drinking & waste water industry, for aquaria and aquatic life support systems as well as for swimming pools worldwide.

**“Our mission is to provide products and solutions that have a positive environmental impact on our ecosystem. We help to make this world a better place - a non-toxic environment for all”**



# WHAT IS AFM® ?

## AFM® (Activated Filter Media)

Made from pure recycled **green and brown glass**, AFM® is a direct replacement for sand and can be installed in all types of sand filters without additional investments in infrastructure.

AFM® is verified to, at least, double the performance of sand filters, thereby, significantly reducing operating costs and outlasts all other filter media.

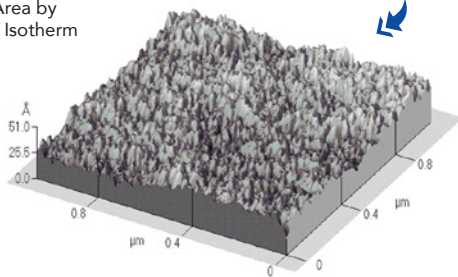
**Most importantly, AFM® was developed by Dr. Howard Dryden to prevent the formation of harmful disinfection by-products (DBP's), such as Trichloramines and THM's, to provide the best air quality and safest environment for all public pool guests and employees.**

## AFM® Unique features

AFM® is exposed to a unique 3-step chemical and thermal activation process to become self-sterilising and, to enhance filtration properties. **During the activation, the structure and the chemistry of the glass is modified.**

**AFM® Grade 1 = 50.000 m<sup>2</sup> / 1'000 kg \***  
Sand 0.4 - 0.8mm = 3.000 m<sup>2</sup> / 1'000 kg

\* Surface Area by Langmuir Isotherm Method



**Mesoporous structure**



**Self-sterilising hydrophobic surface**



**Self-sterilising surface**  
resistant to bacterial growth



**Increased surface area** for superior filtration properties



**Hydrophobic surface**  
for the adsorption of organics

## AFM® CERTIFICATIONS

- ▶ ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 and 45001:2018.
- ▶ NSF/ANSI 50, NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 certified by WQA for swimming pools and drinking water treatment.
- ▶ DWI (UK) Regulation 31 certification for potable water use.
- ▶ European Water Directive (98/83/EC) & (80/778/EEC) compliant.
- ▶ HACCP certified for use in food & beverage production.
- ▶ EN-12902 and EN-12904 compliant.
- ▶ IFTS (Institute of Filtration and Techniques of Separation) independently tested and verified filtration performance.



**YouTube**  
E-learning Video

## 100% BIO-RESISTANT FILTER MEDIA



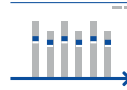
No biofilm  
No pathogens



No clusters  
No channeling



50% - 80%  
less Trichloramines

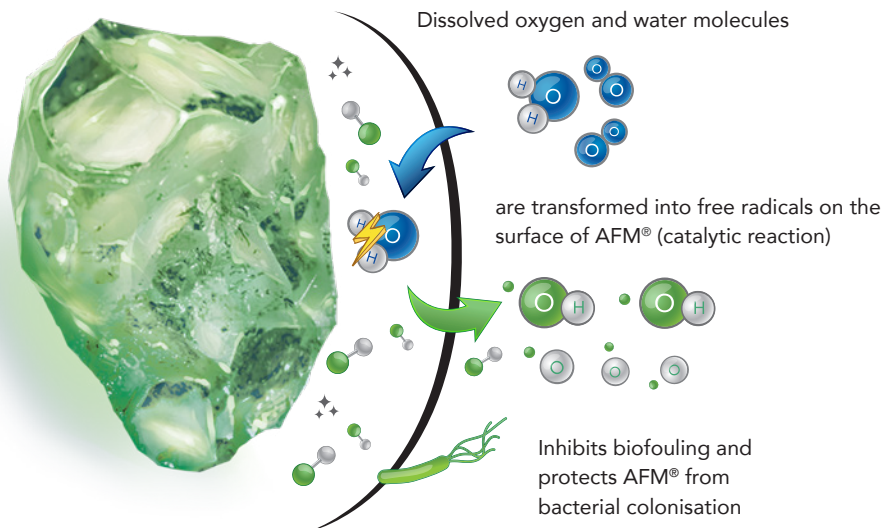
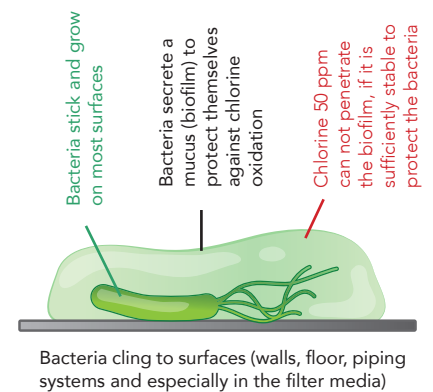


Stable & reliable  
performance

# UNIQUE SELF-STERILISING SURFACE RESISTANT TO BACTERIAL GROWTH

**Our approach:**  
Prevent the  
growth of  
bacteria rather  
than kill them!

One of the main differences between AFM® and other filter media such as sand and crushed glass is its bio-resistance. When in contact with water, a small amount of free radicals ( $O^{\cdot}$  and  $OH^{\cdot}$ ) are formed on the surface of the grains. **Thanks to their strong oxidation potential, free radicals protect AFM® from colonisation by bacteria and fully prevent the formation of biofilm.**



- ✔ Does not support bacterial growth, eliminates clumping, channeling and passage of unfiltered water.
- ✔ Prevents the biological conversion of urea to ammonia responsible for the formation of trichloramines.
- ✔ Provides predictable, repeatable and consistent filtration performance.
- ✔ Will consistently evacuate >95% of all retained particles during backwash.



i

### How do bacteria survive in a swimming pool ?

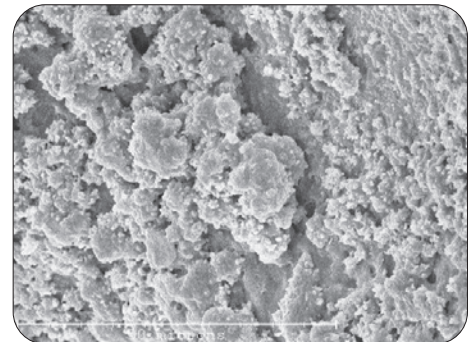
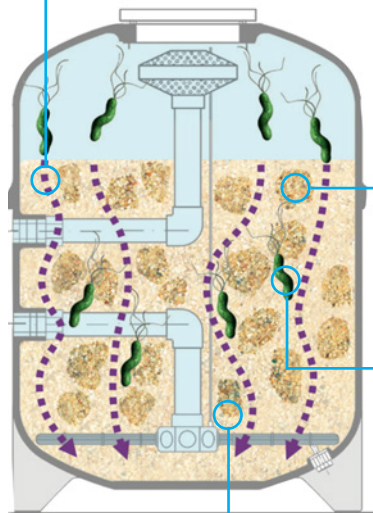
Within just a few days, bacteria will colonise all surfaces in contact with water. **The largest surface in contact with water, in a swimming pool, is the quartz sand in the filter.** 1 m<sup>3</sup> of quartz sand has a surface of 3000m<sup>2</sup> and it is an ideal breeding ground for bacteria. Bacteria will attach to the surface of the sand grains and, within seconds, will form a biofilm that protects them from oxidants. In this protective biofilm, bacteria can grow and multiply. Even high chlorine concentrations and good backwashing cannot stop this development completely.

## THE 3 MAIN PROBLEMS OF BIOFILM

### 1 INCONSISTANT AND UNRELIABLE FILTRATION

After 6 – 12 months, biofilm on the sand has developed to a degree where the grains stick together, forming clumps and causing channelling of the filter bed that reduces mechanical filtration performance and allows unfiltered water to reach the swimmers.

**AFM® filters work at constant high filtration and backwash efficiency and each filtration and backwash phase will show the same performance. There is also no possibility of unfiltered water reaching the pool.**



### 2 PATHOGENS

The filter develops into a breeding ground for pathogens, such as legionella and pseudomonas. Periodically, bacteria flocs will break through the filter. **AFM® prevents the growth and the transmission of these pathogens. Pool water is therefore much safer.**

### 3 TRICHLORAMINE - CHLORINE SMELL

Pool users introduce sweat and urine into the pool water. These consist of 80% urea. Bacteria in the biofilm convert this urea into ammonia which then reacts with chlorine to form inorganic chloramines (mono-, di- and tri-chloramine). Trichloramine (NCl<sub>3</sub>) is very volatile and is responsible for the unpleasant chlorine smell. It is also a severe health hazard causing skin, eye and lung irritation and will cause corrosion of buildings and installations. **With AFM®, there is no biological conversion from urea to ammonia in the filter bed: No biofilm ▶ No trichloramine ▶ No chlorine smell !**



## SUPERIOR FILTRATION PROPERTIES



Filtration  
to 1 micron



Exceptional  
water clarity



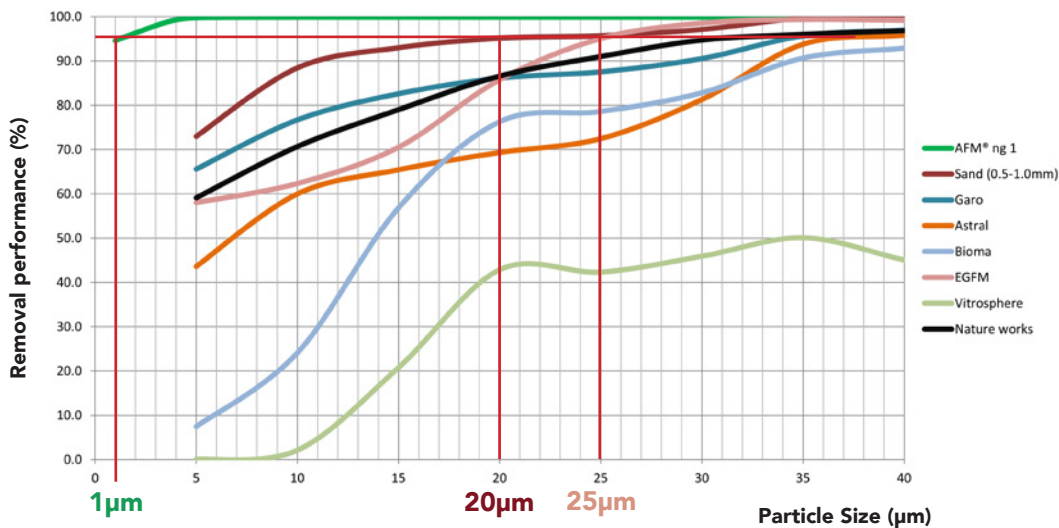
Reduced chemical  
consumption



Best  
air quality

## STABLE FILTRATION DOWN TO 1 MICRON

AFM® filters much finer than quartz or glass sand. The independent and best-known European laboratory for filtration tests IFTS ([www.ifts-sls.com](http://www.ifts-sls.com)) has tested AFM®, quartz sand and various glass sands. The tests were conducted **with fresh filter media without any biofilm**, a 20m/h filtration velocity, and without the addition of flocculants. The following results were achieved:



Independently verified by



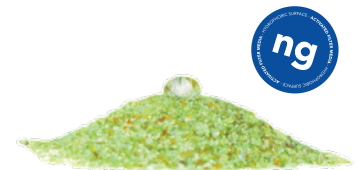
IFTS is a leading independent accredited laboratory, in France, specializing in water filtration



**Sand** filters 95% of all particles down to **20 microns**.



**Glass sand** filters 95% of all particles down to **25 microns**.

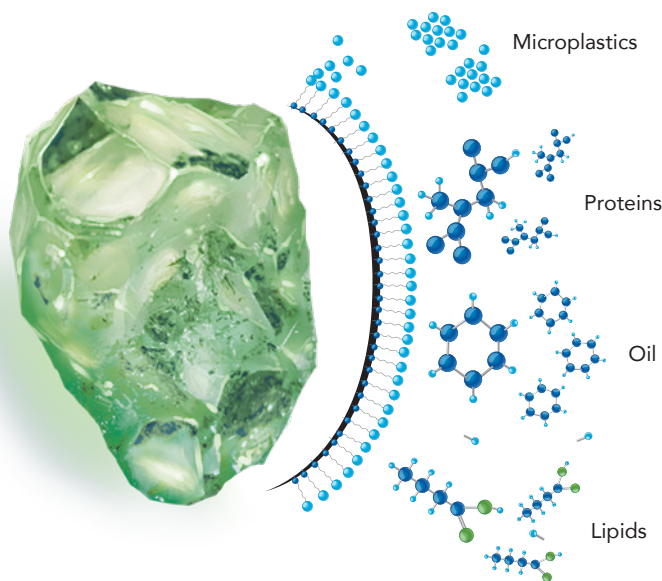


**AFM® ng** filters 95% of all particles down to **1 micron**.

► The greater filtration efficiency of AFM® will save up to 30% of chlorine compared to sand!



# ADVANCED ADSORPTION OF ORGANICS



Organic substances like oil and fats are more difficult to dissolve into water and tend to float or to be adsorbed onto a non polar hydrophobic surface.

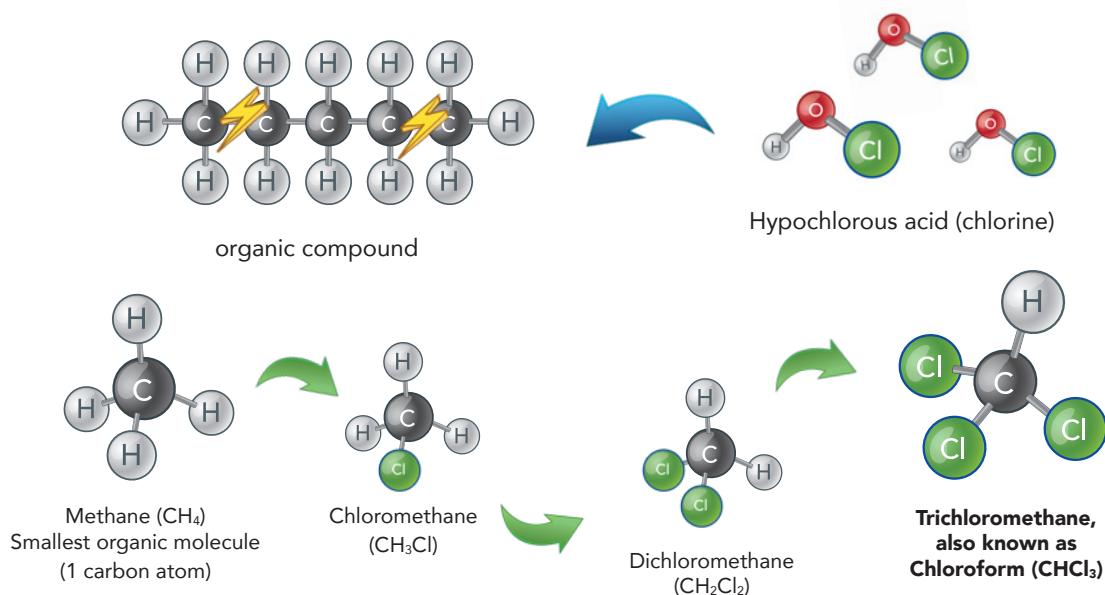
**Thanks to its very large hydrophobic surface, AFM®ng filters ≈ 50% more organic substances from water than quartz and glass sand.**

This can be confirmed by measuring the TOC (total organic content) or  $\text{KMnO}_4$  consumption.

## UP TO 50% LESS THMs !

**Less organics**  
= Less THMs

Trihalomethanes (THMs), including Chloroform, are very **toxic volatile by-products** formed when organic substances are not fully oxidised and react with chlorine in the water. Reducing the organic load will reduce the potential of their production. This is how AFM® reduces THM concentration by up to 50%, to provide **the best and cleanest air quality for all pool users and staff!**



Chloroform ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ) is one of the 4 trihalomethanes (THM's). It is dangerous for humans because it passes through lung tissue to enter the bloodstream where it can damage the nerves system. Chloroform is one of the oldest known anesthetics and it is now suspected to be carcinogenic. Babies and pregnant women are vulnerable and should not be exposed to chloroform or other THM's in high concentrations. In Switzerland, the limit for THMs in indoor pools has been set at  $< 20 \mu\text{g/L}$ . **Scan the QR code to watch our webinar about disinfection by-products in swimming pools.**



## ECONOMICAL AND SUSTAINABLE



Up to 80% less backwash water



Substantial energy savings



Lifespan > 20 years

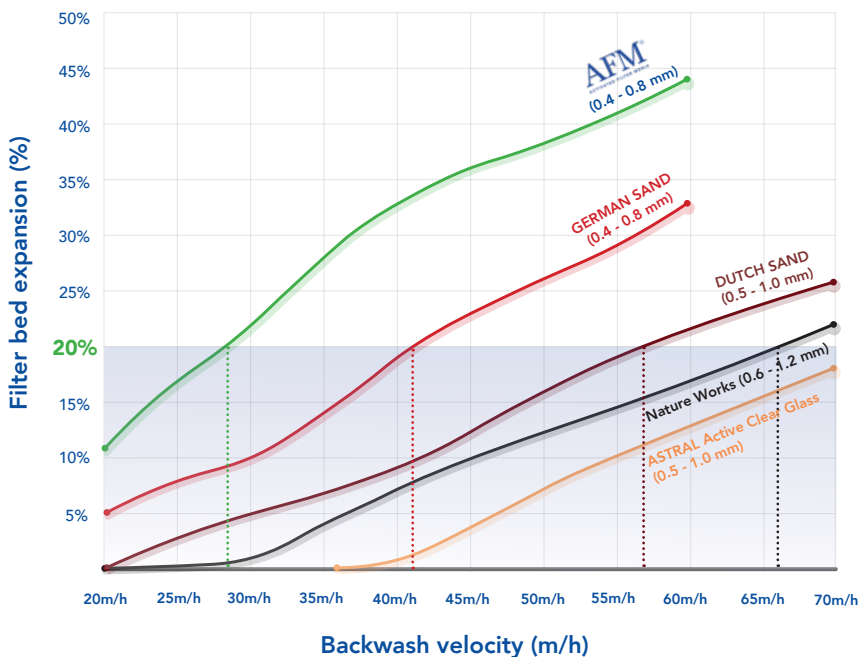


Guaranteed ROI

# UP TO 80% LESS BACKWASH WATER COMPARED TO OTHER FILTER MEDIA

Effective backwashing of pool filters is crucial for water and air quality, reducing chemical use, and optimizing equipment performance. It also extends filter life and improves pump efficiency, cutting energy costs. **A filter bed expansion of 15-20% ensures proper fluidization, removing all trapped particles, even deeply embedded ones.**

### Filter bed expansion at 25°C



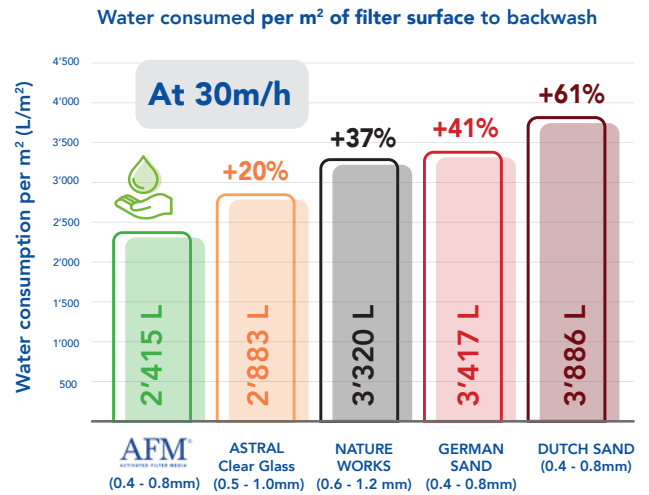
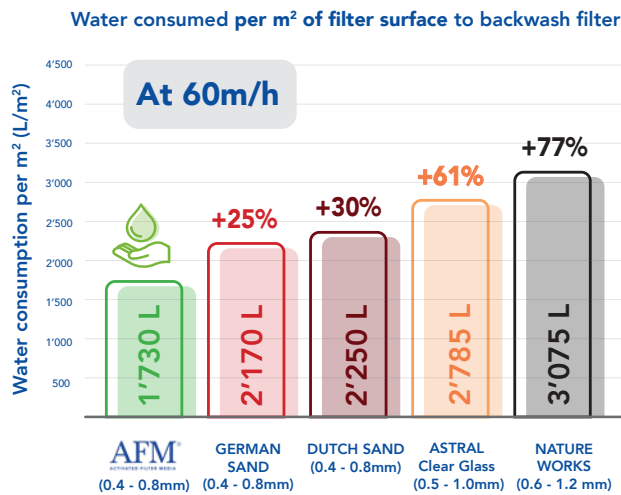
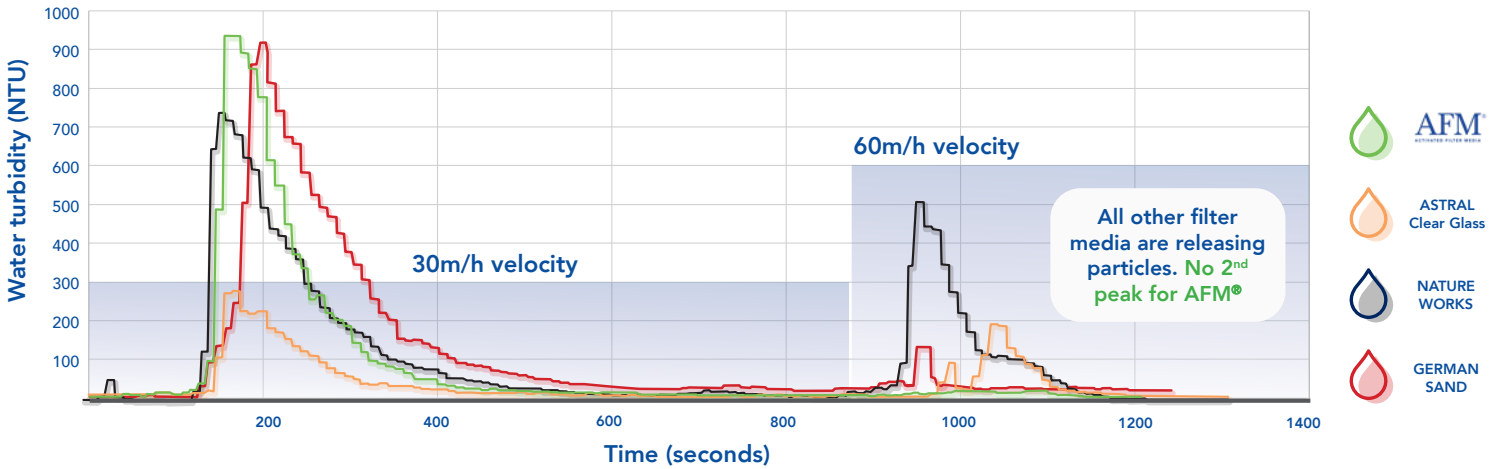
**To maximise energy savings**  
use a variable speed pump or a frequency controller ▶

Unlike other filter media such as „NatureWorks“ and „ASTRAL Active Clear Glass,“ which require backwash speeds of 65 m/h or more, AFM® ng (0.4-0.8 mm) can be effectively backwashed starting from 30 m/h.



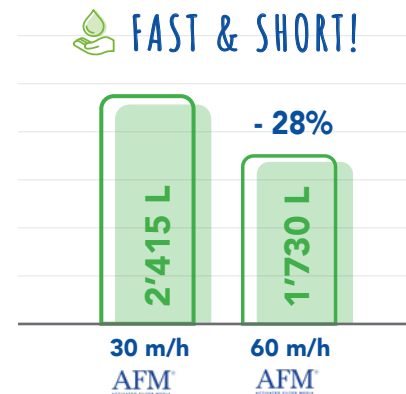
# ALL OTHER MEDIA CANNOT BE FULLY BACKWASHED AT 30M/H

The diagram shows that AFM® ng is the only filter media that can be effectively backwashed at 30 m/h. In the test, backwashing was first performed at 30 m/h, and the turbidity of the backwash water was measured. After 900 seconds, the backwash speed was increased to 60 m/h. While other filter media exhibit a second peak, indicating the release of additional particles, the turbidity curve of AFM® ng remains flat. This demonstrates that all particles were completely removed during the initial backwash at 30 m/h.



The charts above depict the **water consumption in liters per square meter (m²) of filter surface needed to achieve an effective backwash** and achieve a 90% reduction in backwash water turbidity. Tests were conducted at velocities of both 60m/h and 30m/h, revealing two significant findings:

- 1 AFM® surpasses all other filter media in backwash efficiency, **using up to 80% less backwash water.**
- 2 To maximise water consumption, a faster and shorter backwash is preferable for all tested media. **For AFM® specifically, reducing water consumption by 28% was observed when backwashing at 60m/h compared to 30m/h.**



## ► Filter maintenance and life expectancy

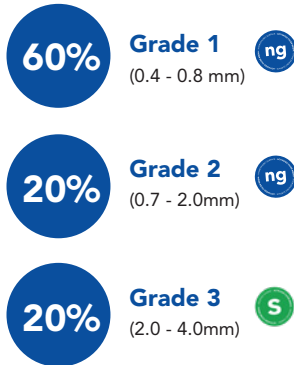
A major cost factor is the cost of replacing the media (removal, disposal and filling with new media). These costs are the same for AFM® and sand, but the life expectancy of AFM® is much higher than sand. Due to its bio-resistance and hardness, **AFM® will last for over 20 years if the filters are backwashed properly.**

# AFM® GRADES & LAYERING

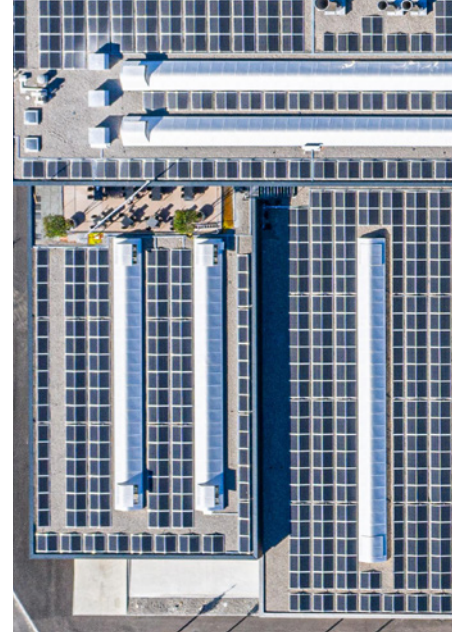
AFM® (1,300 kg/m³) is 15% lighter than sand (1,500 kg/m³).  
 In order to replace 24 tons of sand, you will need 20 tons of AFM®.  
**Quantity of sand x 0.85 = Quantity of AFM®**



Download our AFM®  
**Installation manual**



**i** For filters with nozzle plate, it is possible to use 50% Grade 1 and 50% Grade 2.



## RECOMMENDED FILTRATION AND BACKWASH SPEEDS

**Filtration speed : 15 to 30m/h**  
 Example: 30 x filter surface (m²)  
 = **Filtration flowrate (m³/h)**

**Backwash speed : 40 to 50m/h**  
 Example: 50 x filter surface (m²)  
 = **Backwash flowrate (m³/h)**



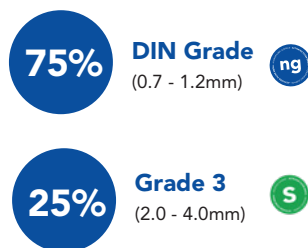
**Available in 25kg bags and 1'000kg bulk bags**



**Important:** When using air backwashing, make sure to use AFM® S (Standard) instead of AFM® ng. AFM® ng cannot be backwashed with air as it becomes hydrophobic again.



## NEW! AFM® DIN GRADE FOR POOLS WITH HIGH ORGANIC LOAD



**i** For filters with nozzle plate, it is possible to use 100% AFM® DIN Grade

**AFM® DIN Grade (0.7 - 1.2mm)** has twice the loading capacity of AFM® Grade 1 (6000 g/m² compared to 2700 g/m²) and therefore **needs 50% less backwash cycles that AFM® Grade 1.**

AFM® DIN Grade is **ideal for use in pools with high organic load.** That means instead of backwashing every 3 days – backwashing can be done every 7 days.



**Important:** AFM® DIN grade requires a backwash speed of at least 50 m/h.



LET'S GO GREEN!



100% recycled glass



100% Self-sufficient



Zero waste



Outstanding product lifetime

# THE MOST SOPHISTICATED & SUSTAINABLE GLASS PROCESSING FACTORIES IN THE WORLD

Green manufacturing can be done by all, and even small changes can make a huge difference for the environment ! Sustainability in factories is based on 4 areas : Sourcing, energy, water, and waste.



AFM® is manufactured from **100% recycled bottle glass sourced locally**, a raw material that already exists and needs to be reused.



Our production process is **energy self-sufficient**, using up to **1.2 gigawatts self-generated solar power** per year. Moreover, AFM® is cleaned and washed using **100% rainwater**.



**Waste is separated and recycled** or used in other industries. Sludge is responsibly disposed of or sold to biogas companies to produce **green electricity**.

## WHAT ABOUT SAND?



**Sand** is a finite resource, and its mining causes local resource depletion and environmental harm. **Sand mining disrupts and destroys natural habitats, like riverbeds, wetlands, and coastal areas, resulting in habitat loss and damage to ecosystems.**

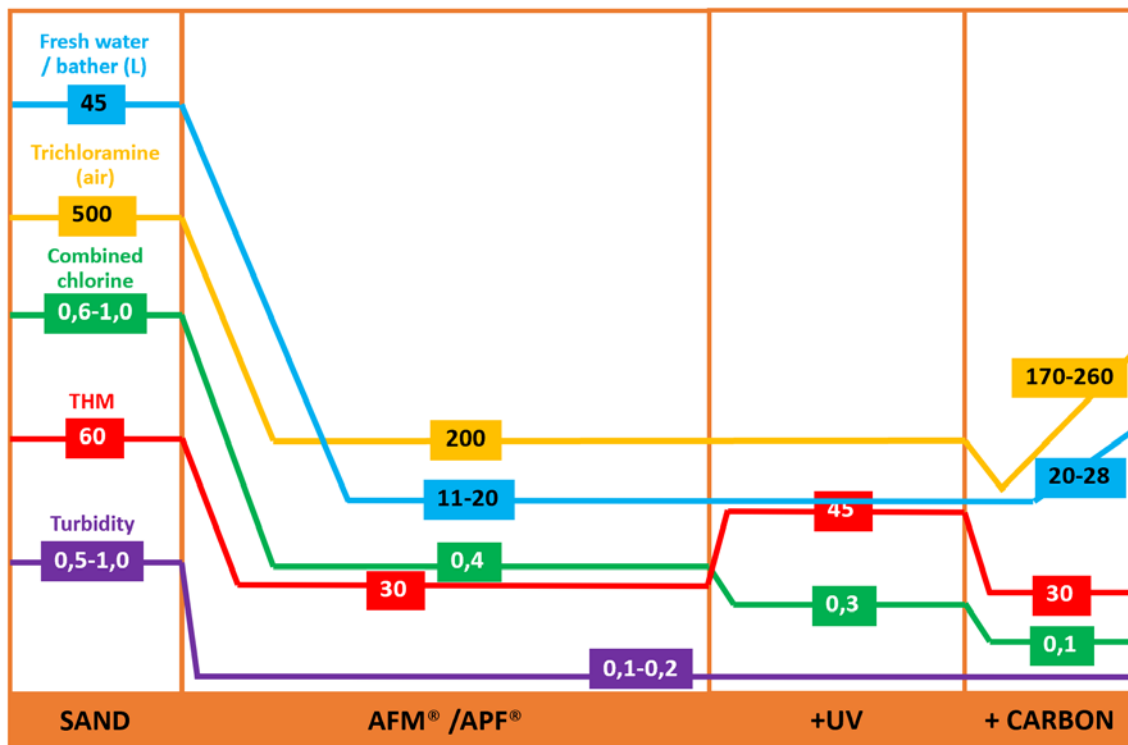




## BAD HESSELINGEN MAJOR PERFORMANCE TEST



A performance test has been conducted at an existing indoor swimming pool in the Netherlands. The pool has high bather loads and testing was conducted over **an 18-month period**. On a monthly basis, 36 different chemical and biological parameters were tested for comparative reasons to show changes in water quality over the period. The tests were also taken on the same day of the week and same time of the day to ensure consistency. C-Mark was the chosen lab for testing as they are the largest in the Netherlands, with recognised international testing procedures. All test protocols can be made available in Dutch. **The graph below summarises the most important parameters:**



**Phase 0:** Sand + Flocculation

**Phase 1:** AFM® + APF® (Flocculant) – no carbon

**Phase 2:** AFM® + APF® + UV

**Phase 3:** AFM® + APF® + 10 cm of activated carbon (coconut shell)



## PROJECT DATA "BAD HESSELINGEN"

<b>Pool:</b>	Public indoor pool
<b>Location:</b>	Hesselingen, NL
<b>Size:</b>	25 x 15m
<b>Filter:</b>	1 piece - ø 2700mm
<b>Visitors:</b>	≈ 5'500 per week
<b>Testing laboratory:</b>	C-Mark
<b>Testing period:</b>	2015 - 2017

## RESULTS & COMMENTS



### ► Water savings and return on investment

At 45 m/h backwash velocity, the water quality was dramatically improved and they now consume only 15L of fresh water / guest instead of 45L previously. Significant amount of water (≈ 40K€ / year) and electricity (≈ 2.000 kWh / month) are now being saved. **The return on investment (ROI) with this project was less than 2 years.** The savings in chlorine and acid were not included in this calculation – only water and heating costs!

### ► Water and air quality

Water and air quality has significantly improved (with 50% less fresh water). The water looks clearer with **much lower turbidity (< 0.2 NTU)**. Even after very high bather load, the water stays in perfect condition and chlorine smell is gone.

- **Trichloramines in the air were reduced by 60%** from 500 µg/m<sup>3</sup> to less than 200 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- **THMs were reduced by half** from 60 µg/L to 30 µg/L or less.

### ► Total combined chlorine

Combined chlorine is now low and steady. The maximum allowable level of combined chlorine in the Netherlands is 0.6 mg/l. In order to reach a value of 0.2 mg/l or less, a 5 – 10 cm layer of activated carbon (coconut shell) on top of AFM® was required and was the best solution.

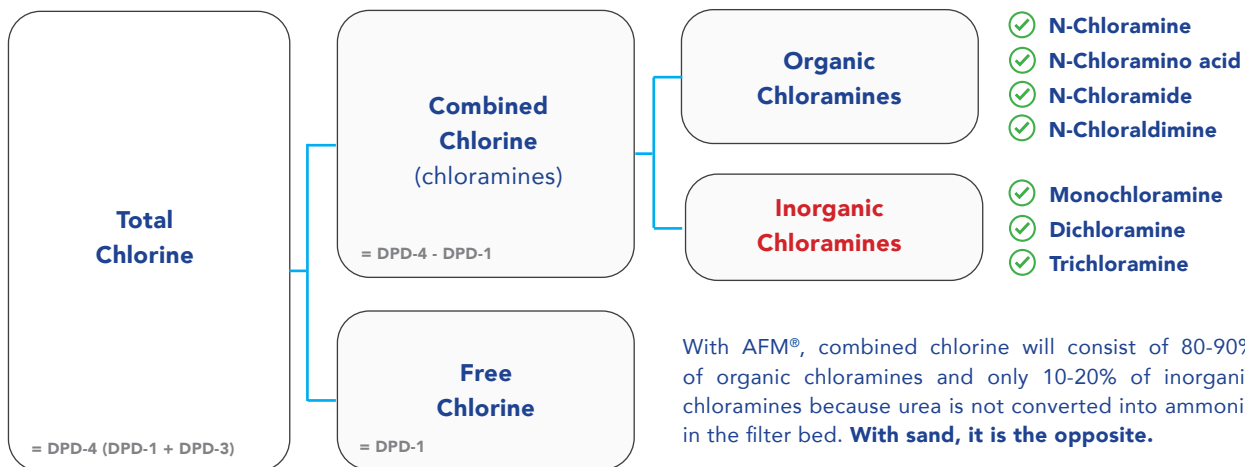
**Important note:** While UV systems are effective at reducing combined chlorine, they also have unwanted side effects. The number one reason we do not recommend using UV to reduce combined chlorine in swimming pools is because they only partially break down large organic molecules. These smaller components then react with chlorine in the water to form THMs (chloroform). In Bad Hesselingen, THMs jumped from 30 µg/L to 45 µg/L after the installation of the UV system (phase 2), and went back down after stopping it (phase 3) - see red curve.

**i** Our recommendations to keep combined chlorine below 0.2 mg/l on pages 14-15



## COMBINED CHLORINE < 0.2 PPM IN COMMERCIAL POOLS

AFM® will not form less combined chlorine (chloramines). However, the level of **inorganic chloramines (Mono-, Di- and Trichloramine) will be 2 to 5 times lower than with sand, while the level of organic chloramines will be slightly higher.** Organic chloramines are not volatile, slowly build up in the water and are non-toxic compared to Trichloramines.



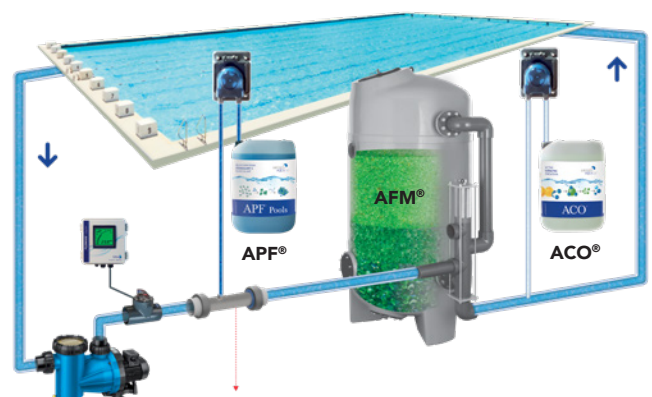
With AFM®, combined chlorine will consist of 80-90% of organic chloramines and only 10-20% of inorganic chloramines because urea is not converted into ammonia in the filter bed. **With sand, it is the opposite.**

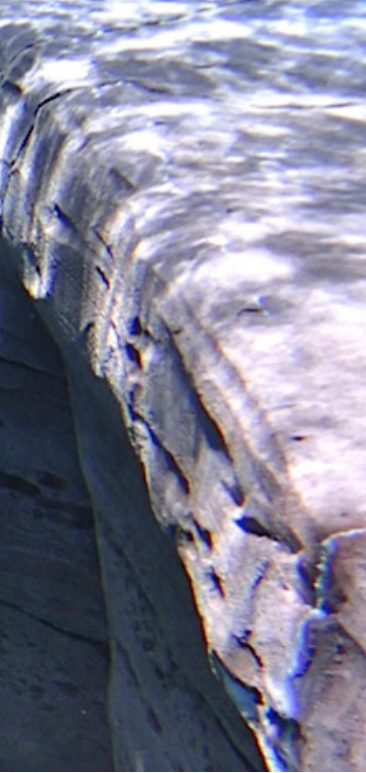
### ► Outdoor pools

Thanks to the sun, outdoor pools usually have less of an issue with chloramines. In this case, a properly sized DAISY® System (AFM® + APF®) will be enough to reach a combined chlorine below 0.2 mg/l.

**For the best results** use ACO® which will protect chlorine from the sun and reduce combined chlorine by up to 50%. Chlorine consumption will also be reduced by an average of 50% compared to non-stabilised pools.

DAISY®





## ACTIVATED CARBON VS ANTHRACITE - MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE!



Activated carbon (GAC)



Anthracite H & N

- ✓ **GAC** is very efficient for removal of combined chlorine with low contamination risk if the layer remains below 10 cm.
  - Has a very high surface (BET) : 900 - 1200 m<sup>2</sup>/g.
  - Does not contain iron.
- ✓ **Anthracite H** will remove combined chlorine, however:
  - Surface (BET) is 3x lower than GAC : 300 m<sup>2</sup>/g.
  - Requires 3x more depth than GAC (30 cm).
  - Can contain iron!
- ✗ **Anthracite N (brown coal)** is not efficient for removal of combined chlorine. It is not activated and has no adsorption capacities.

### ► Indoor pools

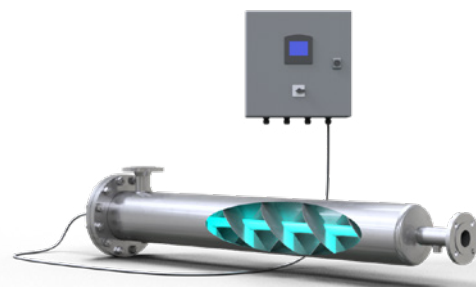
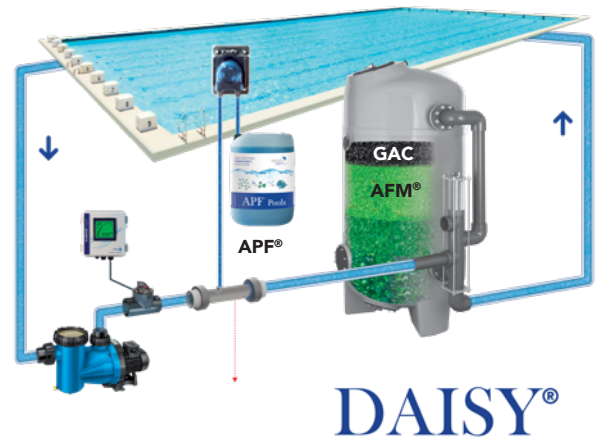
In public indoor pools, a properly sized DAISY® System will provide a stable combined chlorine level of  $\approx$  0.3 - 0.4 mg/l. To reach a value of less than 0.2 mg/l we recommend the following 2 solutions :

#### 1. Activated carbon (GAC)

**5-10 cm of Activated Carbon (coconut shell)** can be added on top of the AFM® filter bed. This small layer will avoid microbial contamination of the activated carbon while adsorbing organic chloramines leading to a maximum level of 0.2 mg/l of combined chlorine – even under heavy bather load.

#### 2. Advanced oxidation with Advanox™!

Advanox™ is a state-of-the-art water treatment system designed to **reduce organic substances and organic chloramines in water** by oxidation reactions with powerful hydroxyl radicals (OH·). When DAISY® is used in combination with Advanox™, the lowest combined chlorine concentration of < 0.2 ppm and the lowest THMs levels can be achieved. Unlike medium pressure UV systems, Advanox™ does not produce harmful THMs, consumes less energy and offers significantly lower operating costs!



**Advanox™ represents a much more effective & healthier solution than UV Medium pressure systems. It is also a perfect alternative to ozone with much lower CAPEX and OPEX! Scan for more information.**



**10 HIGH LEVEL TRAINING SESSIONS**

**You Tube**



## DOWNLOAD SECTION



**LinkedIn**



Dr. Dryden is a marine biologist specialising in swimming pool water treatment. His mission is to eliminate toxic disinfection by-products and provide the best air and water quality on the market. For over 35 years, Dr. Dryden has been working with chlorinated systems for Dolphins and other aquatic mammals before successfully introducing his technology to the pool industry. Today, as a testament to the performance, safety and benefits of his water treatment solutions, over 500'000 swimming pools worldwide are using Dryden Aqua products.

