



42210 Roick Drive #10 Temecula, CA 92590
Office: 866-765-2704 • Fax: 951-296-6503
info@solarsunrings.com • warranty@solarsunrings.com

Press Release

*From David J. Bartoli, General Manager of Solar Sun Rings, Inc.
March 24, 2010.*

Many of our customers have inquired about the "new" product being offered by some companies this year. The "new" product is basically a bubble pack hexagon 5 feet across the flats. They appear to come in two versions one opaque white and the other an opaque blue. They are both supposed to hook together with Velcro.

In 2003 when we began experimenting with a way to make a safe and easy to handle passive solar system, we began with this exact concept. On March 29, 2004 we filed a patent application for this exact design concept. The patent, US D534,488 S, was granted on January 2, 2007. We continued to experiment with this exact solar heater for about 9 months in 2003 and 2004 and realized it would not be a suitable product to market. It had too many objectionable problems.

The first problem realized was the interlocking hexagonal shape blocked too much of the direct sunlight. Because of the lack of direct sunlight they cultured a pool full of mustard algae like a bubble pack blanket. To fix this problem we changed the shape to round. The small open triangles between three pieces amounted to only 6% of the area of one circular piece or about 3% of the area of the average amount on a pool. This small amount of direct sunlight cured the mustard algae problem and did not significantly affect the heating or heat retention at night. The second problem we encountered was the porosity of the polyethylene itself. The PE absorbed water and the discs became heavier the longer they were on the water. This could not be fixed, it is a characteristic of this plastic. The Velcro degraded quickly from the ultra violet light and the "loop" side cultured bacterial algae in the fibers. The PE bubble pack was too stiff. This feature made them constantly partially swamped and when the wind blew they were too ridged to flop over themselves and so they blew off the pool. We concluded our testing when we found they produced no significant heat.



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We still believed we had good concept so we hired a plastics engineer to better develop the product. We changed to a soft very low phthalates UV resistant virgin polyvinylchloride. This was more expensive but more UV resistant than the reclaimed polyethylene used in most bubble pack. We changed the Velcro to encapsulated rare earth magnets with a double epoxy coating which increased our costs further. Our first preproduction samples were hand made. These were far superior in safety, heating and function to the original bubble pack concept. On June 24, 2004 we applied for a utility patent based on this better functioning concept. That patent # US 7,093,593 B2 was granted on August 22, 2006. It also grants us all geometric shapes including hexagons. I still have the 3rd run preproduction test products on my pool (6+ years in the sun). We have always upgraded our product with each production.

During the summer of 2005 we took the "Solar Sun Rings" to the National Pool Industry Research Center located on the campus of California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo for comprehensive year of testing. Solar Sun Rings proved repeatedly their ability to raise the temperature of the water daily the equivalent 21,000 BTUs per Solar Sun Ring including the loss at night. This is the only facility like this in the world. To test our product required the simultaneous use of 6 identical pools. Many merchants selling this "new" product are claiming their product puts out the same amount of heat (21,000 BTUs). This is consumer fraud. Our products are the only solar product ever tested at this unique facility. Solar Sun Rings put out more heat than roof top solar panels and about 6 times the heat of bubble pack per square foot. Logically cutting a solar blanket into hexagons will make it a lot less dangerous but why would anyone think cutting it into hexagons would miraculously make it produce over 6 times the heat per square foot?



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For those customers considering purchasing of this product, please bear in mind the samples we purchased did not include a proposition 65 warning for phthalates as required by law for plastic consumer products. We were not able to find the test results required by law on any web site selling this product. We at Solar Sun Rings, Inc. consider this product a violation of our patents illegally imported by an unscrupulous Chinese importer and illegally sold by opportunistic retailers.

To quote Aldo Gucci; "The bitterness of poor quality is remembered long after the sweetness of low price has faded from memory."

David Bartoli
General Manager
Solar Sun Rings, Inc.