Pool stains can come from various sources and are often unsightly and difficult to treat. The two most common stain producers in swimming pools are metals and organic material such as leaves. Metal stains are the most common and difficult to diagnose. Iron is one of the most common metals on the planet. It can be found almost anywhere. Typically iron will enter pools through rain or ground water. If you fill your pool from a well, your source water may be the culprit. Copper is another common staining agent. It can come from a myriad of sources also. Most common is misuse of a non-chelated algaecide or the effects of low PH water as it corrodes pump and heater parts. To determine if a stain is organic in nature or metallic:

Organic - *Place a single chlorine tablet in an old tube sock. Tie it off on one end and attach it to the end of your telepole. Place the chlorine tablet on top of the stain in an easy to monitor area. Allow the tablet to rest on the stain for 30 seconds. If the stain lightens in the area of contact it is most likely an organic stain.*

*Never handle chlorine products with bare hands. Be sure to wear proper safety equipment.*

Metallic - Go to your local grocery store and buy a citrus fruit, limes typically show the best results. Cut the fruit in half and rub the open half on the stain. If the stain is in a hard to reach place attach the fruit to your telepole by pushing your pole through the rind of the fruit slightly. Be careful not to puncture it too deeply or you may tear your liner while rubbing. If the stain lightens or comes off completely you have a metal stain.

If neither of these methods lighten nor remove your stain purchase a Jack’s Magic Stain I.D. Kit. Test each powder on the stain for 30 seconds. The powder that works corresponds to a particular stain remover that is customized for your stain.