



POOL CARE TIPS for HOMEOWNERS

Some simple maintenance routines can help keep your pool from turning into an algae-filled pond. Spending a few hours a week doing routine maintenance is the key.

Cleaning:

Check your skimmer baskets once a day. Remove any debris that has accumulated in them. Removing this debris will keep the pressure on the pump at a good level. Leaves and other large pieces of debris can quickly build up in this basket and hurt your pump's performance.

The skimmer removes a lot of debris for you, but by no means should it be doing all of the work. You need to remove any debris that may be floating on the surface with a skimmer pole. This is especially important after a storm when the wind may have blown a large amount of leaves and other debris into the pool. It is also necessary to do some weekly cleaning. Use a pool vacuum to sweep out debris on the bottom of the pool and use a brush to scrub the sides.

And of course, make sure you are running your pump for six or more hours every day. Just because no one is in the pool doesn't mean you don't need to turn it on. The pump plays a critical part in pool maintenance. It removes small particles from the water and keeps the water moving, thus helping combat any algae that might try and build up. Running the pump everyday will make everything else go smoother and your water will stay clear.

Chemicals:

The first thing you will need is chlorine. Chlorine kills any bacteria that may be in your pool water and that is why it is so important. Shock your pool once a week in the summer. This basically means, give your pool a chlorine overdose to kill anything that might be in there. It is also a good idea to shock the pool in the evening. Direct sunlight can strip your pool of chlorine before it has really had a chance to work. Keep a steady amount of chlorine in the pool by keeping your chlorinator full of chlorine pucks. Check the chlorinator on a regular basis to make sure they haven't dissolved. Once they have, add more.

To keep the chlorine in your pool longer you **must** stabilize the water. Stabilizing will act as a shield for your chlorine and keep it in the pool longer. Stabilizing the pool properly at the beginning of the summer should keep your pH and alkalinity levels correct for the season. The pH and alkalinity levels are very important. **If the water is not balanced properly it may result in damage to the pool heater or pump.** Excessive rain may affect your pool balance so testing your water regularly is essential. We recommend using test strips once or twice weekly and having your water professionally tested monthly. We offer free water testing to our customers.

Filters:

Your pool has a cartridge filter. These filters are less maintenance than sand or DE filters and don't require backwashing. They do however need to be cleaned. We clean them in the fall when we close your pool, but in the spring after the pool has been open for a few weeks, they should be cleaned again. Any dirt and algae that are in your pool when it's opened will get trapped in the filters as the pool clears but also, in the spring the filters get clogged with pollen and anything blowing off of the trees. If you notice throughout the season that your water pressure is not good or that the pool is cloudy and doesn't clear up with chemicals, your filters probably need to be cleaned.

Salt Chlorination:

If you have a salt chlorination system, you must run your system 12 hours daily to maximize the system's effectiveness. The desired level of salt in your pool should be 3200 ppm. There are test strips that test salt levels to be sure your levels are accurate. **Do not add any pool water balancing chemicals (including salt) unless the generator is turned off.** When we open your pool for the season, we leave the generator on 0 because we add salt. After a day or two you can turn the generator up to 55%. It is also recommended that you run the Salt Generator in Boost mode either before or after having a pool party to maintain the salt chlorination levels. Please refer to your manual for Salt Generator maintenance.

Spas:

Spas need to be kept balanced the same as pools do, so test your spa regularly as well. Children should be under constant supervision while in the spa and they should never put their heads under water.

Water level:

Make sure you keep your water level up to the second screw from the top on the skimmer. If your water level gets too low you may have trouble with your pool filter running properly, you may get air coming out of the returns, you may get errors on your heater or burn out your pump motor. During really hot summer days with no rain, the pool can evaporate quickly. This is something you should check at least once a week. In the case of excessive rain, watch to make sure the water level does not get too high. If the water level gets too high, water may get behind the liner causing it to float. **This may cause wrinkles and damage to your liner.**

Winter Care:

Regular Tarp Cover—These covers need to be pumped off regularly during the winter. A utility pump (cover pump) can be purchased at a hardware store and hooked up to a garden hose to pump the water off. Most of the water needs to be pumped off when we come to open it in the spring to avoid any additional charges to your opening.

Safety Covers—If you see excessive water, you may need to unlatch the cover and use a cover pump to pump the water down to the level of the first step.