



Pool Care FAQ's

1. Make sure you always have test strips on hand.

Cloudy water? Test strips. If your chlorine level is really high but your pool is cloudy, either clean your filter or run the pump longer. If your chlorine level is not registering, throw in some extra shock and let the cloud filter out the cloudy algae bloom.

Don't know if you should shock it or not? Test strips. If your chlorine is low, throw in your shock (1lb or gal per 10k gallons). If your chlorine is not low, there's no need to shock it yet.

Itchy skin? Test strips. Odds are your PH and Alkalinity are low. You will need to add the proper amount of alkalinity to bring up the PH to stay in range. In this case, bring in a water test to get your exact amounts to add.

As a new pool owner, you should be test stripping the water multiple times a week to make sure that you are maintaining a chlorine reading. The warmer the water gets, it will require more shock and usual. The colder it is, it will require less than usual. Chlorine tabs are more supplemental than anything, they do not typically maintain your chlorine reading for long periods of time. They simply contribute to stabilizing the chlorine reading that you are adding via shocking the pool.

2. Do not skimp out on properly balancing the water.

A lot of people will tell you "All I add to my pool is tablets and PH increaser!" This is so far from the ideal and safe way to operate your pool. The best way to take care of and extend the life of your filter equipment, the life of your liner or plaster, your heat exchanger, chlorine generator, etc. is to balance your water.

We typically tell people to bring their water once a month for the duration of the season, that way you are only adding the things that you need, and keeping up with it for your own skin safety, optimal chlorine usage, and proper equipment maintenance. You will end up spending less money on your pool in the long-run if you are taking care of your water chemistry properly.

People do not always understand the absolute importance of this, and we cannot stress to you enough how much this impacts everything that has to do with your pool.

3. Everyone's water is different.

Your water's natural make-up will be different than your neighbor's. NO water is the same and requires all of the same things. Your system that you will come up with for maintenance and balancing will

always differ than another person that you talk to, and there is no cure-all for any one issue.

There are a lot of gimmicky items and chemicals for the pool industry, as there is with everything else, that will not do as they promise. It's best to stick with the basic items and chemicals that have stayed tried and true over the years as our knowledge of water chemistry and pool equipment has evolved. If you ever have any questions about something that's wrong in your pool, you can always bring in a water test! For those of you with a chlorine generator (salt) always let us know what your instant salinity (not your average) is reading on your generator when you bring water in.

4. Do not forget to run your filter enough and clean it properly.

Filters are a very important part of maintaining clean and clear water. If you ever suspect that something is wrong with your pressure gauge or the way that the water is circulating, you can always check your return pressure physically by putting your hand in front of the returns (the jets coming back into the pool) to see if the pressure feels good and strong. If it doesn't but your pressure gauge is reading fine, then the gauge is probably bad. Very common for what it's worth.

Do not forget to clean your filter. If your return pressure is poor, clean it. Cartridges should be taken out and sprayed down or soaked in a cartridge cleaner. Sand should be backwashed and rinsed very well or if over 6-8 years old it should be changed (Sand just naturally takes longer to filter cloud than any other filter. Keeping clarifier on hand is a good option for pools with these filters). D.E. Filters should always be operating with the proper amount of D.E. in it, backwashed and rinsed properly, and if still having an issue should be acid washed.

5. Pump and skimmer baskets

Do not forget to clean your pump and pool skimmer baskets frequently. It's crucial to do this because the loss of pressure could quickly turn your pool green or cause other issues for you, like putting extra strain on your motor. Make sure none of your baskets are cracked to let larger debris into your skimmer line or pump impeller.

6. If you ever have questions about something- DO NOT GUESS.

Never be afraid to ask questions or bring in a water sample. This will help you learn how to operate your pool system and properly maintain your water. It's better to ask than to do something irreversible, or end up spending more money instead of doing it right the first time. We would much rather see you happy and enjoying your nice clean pool with everything functioning properly! :)