POOL CARE GUIDE





Confident Pool Care!™

Where Pool Time Meets Quality Time.

CALCULATING POOL SIZE

Knowing the size of your pool will help you determine the right amount of chemical to use.

RECTANGULAR

WIDTH  X LENGTH  X AVERAGE DEPTH  X **7.5** = **TOTAL GALLONS**

ROUND

DIAMETER  X DIAMETER  X AVERAGE DEPTH  X **5.9** = **TOTAL GALLONS**

OVAL

SHORT DIAMETER  X LONG DIAMETER  X AVERAGE DEPTH  X **5.9** = **TOTAL GALLONS**

Pool Care Checklist for Crystal Clear Water



WEEKLY MAINTENANCE

- ☐ Check water balance (pH, sanitizer, alkalinity, calcium, chlorine stabilizer)
- ☐ Adjust pH and sanitizer as needed
- ☐ Refill sanitizer feeder or skimmer
- ☐ Shock
- ☐ If using a maintenance algaecide, add weekly dose
- ☐ Brush sides and bottom of pool
- ☐ Vacuum if necessary
- ☐ Empty skimmer baskets
- ☐ Check filter pressure, both from return and filter housing gauge. Backwash or clean when pressure is 10 psi over baseline pressure.

MONTHLY MAINTENANCE

- ☐ Check water balance (pH, sanitizer, alkalinity, calcium, chlorine stabilizer)
- ☐ Adjust alkalinity as needed
- ☐ Add other maintenance chemicals such as stain and scale inhibitors per label directions.
- ☐ Inspect pool equipment for leaks and damage. Check plumbing and valves for leaks or cracks. For salt pools, inspect cell for scaling and damage.

WEEKLY POOL CLEANING

Keeping a pool clean is essential to its attractiveness and smooth operation. Inadequate or infrequent cleaning encourages algae growth, filter problems, murky water, and reduced effectiveness of chemicals.

- ☐ Remove debris in the water with a leaf skimmer as often as necessary.
- ☐ Remove all loose dirt and organic wastes that algae can feed on by brushing pool walls.
- ☐ Clean out the skimmer and the pump lint trap to remove debris and increase the suction for vacuuming.
- ☐ Vacuum the pool floor and walls thoroughly to remove all dislodged dirt and debris. Open or close the appropriate valves and adjust wheels and brushes for proper contact with the pool floor. Replace them if worn or no longer adjustable.
- ☐ If accumulation builds on the waterline, acidic cleaners are typically best on scale-based accumulations and basic cleaners are good for oil and cosmetic buildup.
- ☐ To keep dirt out of the pool, hose down the decking and coping as often as needed.
- ☐ Check the filter for scale, grease and oil build-up that can cause clogging. If present, remove it with filter cleaners, following label instructions
- ☐ Backwash the filter according to your manufacturer's instructions and replace the filter media if necessary.





Common Pool Issues and Solutions



CLOUDY WATER

Potential Causes

- Inadequate filter runtime
- Dirty/Worn filter.
- High pH (>7.6)
- Low Chlorine

Solutions

- Shock if chlorine is low.
- Clean or backwash filter
- Balance pH, High pH can cause excess calcium to fall out of the water.
- Apply **Pool Time® MAXBlue® Clarifier or Super Water Clarifier** per label directions if water is balanced and filter is operating well.

ALGAE

Potential Causes

- Inadequate Chlorine Levels
- High pH
- Infrequent Shocking
- Debris harboring algae

Solutions

- Balance water pH to 7.2-7.6
- Apply **Pool Time® MAXBlue® Advanced Algaecide** according to label directions.
- Brush Daily and vacuum debris off surfaces.
- Watch filter pressures and clean/backwash as needed.
- Shock and maintain Chlorine levels to prevent reoccurring outbreaks.

RECURRING ALGAE

Potential Causes

- A chlorine residual was never fully reached after the first algae treatment.
- Algae could be in filter housing causing recontamination days or weeks later.
- Algae could live in hard-to-reach places, ladders, handrails, skimmers, etc.
- Runoff from landscaping could bring new algae into the pool environment that could look like a reoccurring algae problem but is unrelated.

Solutions

- Ensure proper water circulation and that there are no “dead zones” where algae can thrive.
- Ensure all surfaces are brushed regularly to prevent algae from taking root.
- Clean filter housing and pump basket to ensure no algae are living and contaminating the water repeatedly.
- Ensure that there is no Chlorine Demand or Chlorine Debt with your water chemistry.
- Ensure that water is balanced, and sanitizers are at adequate levels to not fall below 1.0ppm always.

STAINS

METAL	SURFACE STAINS	WATER DISCOLORATION
Iron	Brownish Rust color Orange/brown	Rust color Light brown Greenish
Copper	Blue Black Grey	Turquoise green Deep blue Gray (not common)
Manganese	Black Dark Brown	Coffee brown Violet purple

Solutions

- Add a sequestering agent or stain and scale control agent to water according to label directions.
- For localized spots, put **Pool Time® pH Down** into a sock or nylon stocking then rub on spot to reduce or remove the stain.
- For advanced staining, drain the pool and acid wash area. Not recommended for vinyl liners.

Common Pool Issues and Solutions



CHLORINE DEMAND

Also Referred to as Chlorine Debt. This is a situation where free chlorine is near or at 0.0ppm. If shock is added and is depleted immediately, there is a chlorine demand present. This means that there are contaminates that exist at higher levels than a single dose of shock can eliminate and must be dosed multiple times until a chlorine residual is established.

Potential Causes

- Stubborn algae
- Landscaping runoff (ammonia and other fertilizers)
- Large amounts of bather load/contaminates (parties, pets, season startup)

Solutions

- Repeated shock applications
- Additional chlorine tablets or chlorinator/brominator/salt cell setting adjustments.

EYE OR SKIN IRRITATION

Potential Causes

- Improper water balance, especially pH
- Chloramines, due to organic wastes in the water
- High chlorine levels
- Improper sanitation or infrequent shocking

Solutions

- Check the water balance, paying particular attention to the pH level. (High Total Alkalinity or calcium hardness does not usually create irritation).
- Use DPD chlorine test to determine if chloramines are present, indicated by the difference between total and free chlorine. Irritating chloramines can be removed with a shock treatment.
- If Chlorine is too high, levels can be reduced with time or specialized chlorine neutralizing products.
- If shocking is not done frequently, Sanitation byproducts can build up and can be irritating, weekly shocking can prevent this.

FECAL RELEASE

Some human waste in a pool is unavoidable. Perspiration, body oils and urine are oxidized during chlorination and shocking. Perspiration and urine have a high nitrogen content, creating chloramines that must be oxidized to prevent swimmer irritation. Human feces in the water require physical as well as chemical removal.

If someone has defecated in the pool, special steps must be taken to eliminate the danger of infection.

- Close the pool temporarily until it can be treated.
- Remove as much of the feces as possible with a net or scoop.
- Shock with **Pool Time® MAXBlue® Chlorinating Granules** or **MAXBlue® Advanced Shock** to eliminate any bacterial contaminants and prevent cross infection.
- Run the filter for at least 24 hours and test chlorine levels frequently to ensure at least 2.0ppm Free Chlorine is maintained.

LOW RETURN FLOW

Poor water circulation occurs when any part of the system is clogged or not functioning properly.

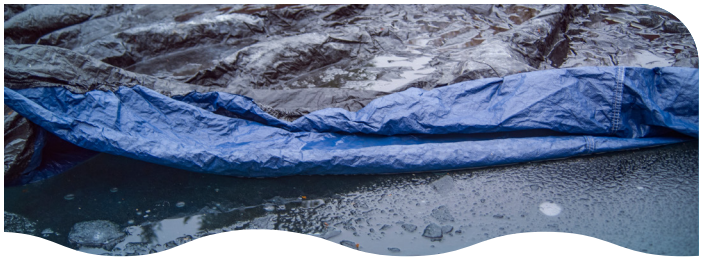
Common Symptoms

- Increased filter pressure
- Decreased flow through inlets or the skimmer.
- Cloudy water or the presence of floating debris not caught by the skimmer.
- Decreased filter pressure.
- Accumulations of dirt or debris in corners or on steps.

Solutions

- High Filter Pressure
  - Follow your manufacturer's instructions for the proper backwashing and cleaning procedure.
- Decreased water flow through inlets or skimmer can be improved by:
- Checking the skimmer basket and emptying daily if needed.
- Periodically emptying the leaf basket between the skimmer and the pump.
- Check the filter pressure.

All-season Checklist



POST PARTY CHECKLIST

Events of high bather load stress the balance of the pool water and residual chlorine. Improper post party procedure can lead to cloudy water, chlorine demand, and scum buildup.

1. Remove any debris that may be on the surface or bottom of the pool. Brush and vacuum surfaces. Check skimmer baskets for debris or obstructions.
2. Test water balance. Rebalance pH, Alkalinity, and Chlorine in order.
3. Shock according to volume of pool to break down contaminates.
4. **Pool Time® MAXBlue® Clarifier** or **Super Water Clarifier** can be used to accelerate water clarification.

STORM CLEANUP

Storms can be disruptive of both pool chemistry and equipment. To get a pool back to safe and sanitary conditions:

1. Ensure that all pool equipment (pumps, filters, heaters, etc.) is functional and not damaged.
2. Remove any debris in the pool and in skimmers. Vacuum leaves and other debris.
3. Clean or backwash the filter.
4. Add **Pool Time® MAXBlue® Clarifier** or **Super Water Clarifier** if water is cloudy to enhance filter performance.
5. Replenish sanitizer as rainwater can deplete free chlorine.
6. Test, balance, and apply shock to break down contaminates that may have gotten into the water.

SEASON STARTUP

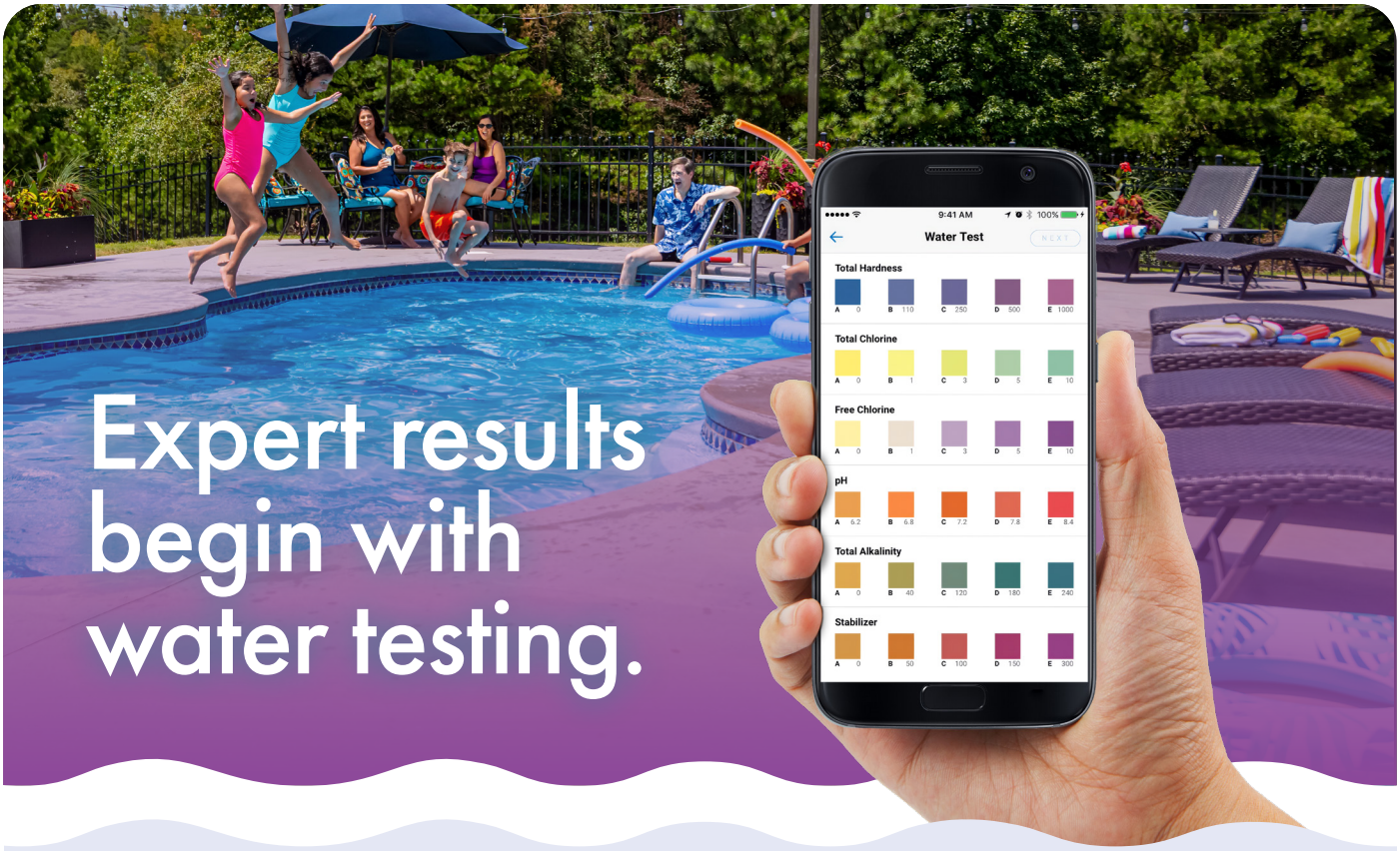
Many problems can be avoided later in the season by opening the pool the right way.

1. Fill the pool to the middle of the skimmer opening to make cover removal easier.
2. Brush any debris off the pool cover. Remove the cover carefully, preventing any rainwater that has collected from draining into the pool. Wash the cover, dry thoroughly and store it away from the weather and chemicals.
3. Remove all plugs from fittings and return lines. Reinstall pumps, motors, drain plugs, filters and any other equipment dismantled for the winter
4. Check the filtration system for proper operation and a clean filter element. If the filter element is dirty, remove grease, oil, and scale build-up. In D. E. filters, change the filter media prior to start-up. Check for any obvious leaks in the system and repair them.
5. Vacuum the pool if needed.
6. If pool water is clear, circulate it for 24 hours before taking a water sample. If the water is cloudy or green, add **Pool Time® MAXBlue® Chlorinating Granules** or **MAXBlue® Advanced Shock** and run the filter for 24 to 48 hours before testing.
7. Test and Rebalance water. Bring free chlorine to 1.0-4.0ppm.

WINTERIZATION/ SEASON CLOSING

Protect your pool from scale and other damage by closing it down properly for the winter. Spring start-up will be easier and smoother too.

1. Test the water for pH, chlorine and Total Alkalinity levels and balance if needed. This is crucial because pool water becomes very corrosive at low or high temperatures.
2. Clean all pool and water surfaces thoroughly
3. Shock with **Pool Time® MAXBlue® Chlorinating Granules** or **MAXBlue® Advanced Shock** and add a preventative dose of **Pool Time® MAXBlue® Advanced Algaecide**. Add a stain and scale control product if available.
4. Clean filters thoroughly and drain housings.
5. Partially drain the pool to 1-6 inches below skimmer line. If using a mesh cover or no cover, drain 18-24 inches below the skimmer.
6. If possible, drain all pipes. In colder climates, add a pool antifreeze product to minimize damage from expanding ice.
7. Remove drain plugs on pumps.
8. Turn off salt cell controllers, timers, and other electrical control equipment.
9. If a heater is present, remove drain plugs and remove water.
10. Remove automatic cleaning equipment and drain chlorinators or brominators.



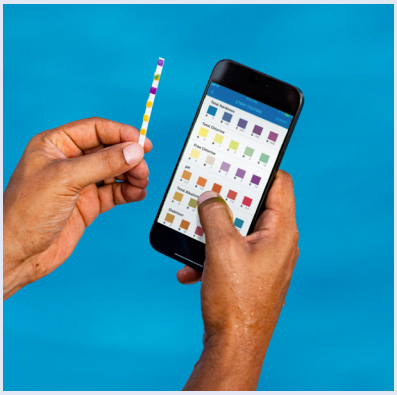
For best results, download the ClearPool Expert™ App to receive a personalized treatment plan made for your pool.



Dip one test strip into pool water at elbow depth and away from jets. Hold strip level for 15 seconds.



Compare the colors of test pads to the color strip on the back of the bottle.



Enter your results in the FREE Pool Time® ClearPoolExpert™ App.

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