

Basic Pool Care

Supplies Needed

Test Strips (1 bottle)
Chlorine Stabilizer (8lb pail)

Chlorine (25-50lbs of tablets preferred)
pH+ (25lb pail)

Shock (several 1lb bags)
Alkalinity+ (25lb pail)

Note: Never try to filter or balance a pool that is full of green algae or has a large quantity of leaves and debris. The leaves should be removed 1st then the algae must be killed and finally the water can be balanced.

Testing the water chemistry with test strips

A new bottle is recommended for each season. Never trust test strips past their expiration date or that have been in the sun for a long duration. Follow the directions on the package for testing the water and then compare the strip to the color chart on the bottle. Correlating to each color for each chemical is a number. There is also an ideal range for each test. It is safest to adjust pool chemistry in small incremental steps to avoid overdosing the pool. This is done by adding ½ to ¾ of the required chemical letting it fully dissolve and circulate throughout the pool, and then retesting water prior to adding any more chemicals.

Chlorine (Sanitizer)

Range: 1.0 – 5.0

Description: Sanitizers are used to kill bacteria and other unwanted micro-organisms.

Risks: Improper levels will allow bacteria and algae to flourish.

Installation: For safety and convenience, we recommend using tablets in an automatic chlorine feeder, or using a salt water chlorine generation system. Never place chlorine tablets in skimmer baskets or floaters as it may damage your liner or your plumbing lines.

Results: Quantity used varies based upon chlorination method used.

Stabilizer (Cyanuric acid)

Range: Target on test strips for stabilizer is 50-60.

Description: Stabilizes the water so that it can hold the chlorine longer.

Risks: At low levels it will be extremely hard to maintain a safe amount of chlorine in the pool.

Installation: The safest and easiest way is to put the stabilizer in an old sock and hang the sock near a return or place it in the skimmer. Wait 3 days for it to fully dissolve before retesting. Note: The only way to remove stabilizer is to remove some water and add fresh water.

Average Pool Size (capacity)	16' x 32' rectangle (20,000gal)		18' x 36' rectangle (25,000gal)		20' x 40' rectangle (30,000gal)	
Sample results = Chemical required	0 = 10lbs	40 = 3.5lbs	0 = 13lbs	40 = 4.3lbs	0 = 15lbs	40 = 5lbs

Alkalinity

Range: Target is 100-120 on the test strips.

Description: Alkalinity indicates the water's ability to resist changes in the PH reading.

Risks: Improper levels will make the pH hard to control and readings un-reliable.

Installation: Broadcast alkalinity powder evenly over pool water. Dissolves almost instantly.

Average Pool Size (capacity)	16' x 32' rectangle (20,000gal)		18' x 36' rectangle (25,000gal)		20' x 40' rectangle (30,000gal)	
Sample results = Chemical required	0 = 29lbs	40 = 18lbs	0 = 37lbs	40 = 22lbs	0 = 44lbs	40 = 26lbs

pH

Range: Target range is 7.2 – 7.8

Description: pH indicates how corrosive the water is.

Risks: Improper levels of pH will cause burning eyes and itchy skin. It will also damage liners, metal parts, and pool heaters.

Installation: Broadcast pH powder evenly over pool water. This should be the last chemical you adjust.

Average Pool Size (capacity)	16' x 32' rectangle (20,000gal)		18' x 36' rectangle (25,000gal)		20' x 40' rectangle (30,000gal)	
Sample results = Chemical required	6.8 = 3lbs pH+	8.4 = 3lbs pH-	6.8 = 9lbs pH+	8.4 = 4lbs pH-	6.8 = 11lbs pH+	8.4 = 5lbs pH-

Weekly Maintenance Tasks

- Test water with test strips and adjust chemicals as required.
- Shock pool according to direction on the bag. (Chlorine shock should always be completely dissolved before adding to the pool to avoid damaging the liner.)
 - Fill Chlorine dispenser with chlorine tablets.
 - Check filter pressure and backwash as required.
 - Empty skimmer baskets as required.
 - Vacuum pool as needed.

Just because your water is clear does not mean it is safe to swim in!

The Inground **Vinyl Liner** pool repair experts!

Filter Maintenance

Note: This service is no longer offered with an opening.

DE filters are great. If you keep your pool clean they're pretty low maintenance, requiring backwashing and reloading of the DE powder. At least once a year you need your entire filter assembly, including the grids, cleaned and inspected. Depending on the type of filter, size of pump, and length of the backwash cycle, excessive D.E. can build up inside the filter. This extra D.E. can lead to premature pump or filter failure, higher electrical costs, and poor water circulation (which can cause excessive algae growth). Most filter manufacturers recommend that this should be done at least once per year, more often on pools with heavy usage (pets, parties, etc.) or high foliage/debris levels. Proper filter maintenance is essential to maintain water clarity and avoid bacterial and algae growth within the filter.



Filter after customer back washing (prior to cleanout)

Three ways to clean your D. E. filter Backwashing, Dismantling and Cleaning, and Chemical Cleaning

Backwashing Filter

All filters should be periodically backwashed. Instructions from the filter manufacturer should be on the side of the filter.

Same filter after dismantling and cleaning



D.E. Filter Cleanout

\$135.00 (with closing or service call)

Includes the disassembly and cleanout of one D.E. filter. After cleaning we inspect the element fabric and structure, the manifold, the air relief screen, the tank clamp band and o-ring, and the air relief assembly (if your filter is so equipped).

D.E. Filter Cleanout and Chemical Cleaning

\$195.00 (with closing or service call)



Same filter after chemical cleaning

Includes disassembly and cleaning of the filter as above. In addition, the elements (grids, fingers, etc.) are brought back to our facility. After cleaning the elements with a degreasing agent to remove lotions, oils and make-up, they are tested for any build up of calcium or minerals. If present the elements are then cleaned with a mild acid soak. Any deficient parts (less than \$15) are replaced (at an additional charge). If any elements are bad it is always recommended to replace all the elements at the same time since the failure of one element is an indication that the other elements will also soon need replacement.

D.E. filters are only as good as it backwashes. To have clean sparkling water, the filter is the most important component of your pool.