

Weekly Chemical Regimen for Pool Maintenance

In order to have a safe and healthy pool for you and your family to enjoy, maintaining the chemical balance of the water is of utmost importance.

Using a dip strip (small blue bottle with yellow cap) is an easy and quick way to check the chemical levels. Here are the guidelines for ideal readings.

	Range	Ideal Reading	Where to look	Comments
pH	7.2 to 7.8	7.4	top pad on strip	
ppm Free Chlorine	1 to 3	3 ppm	first pad from top on strip	ppm = parts per million
ppm Total Alkalinity	80 to 120 ppm for gunite pools	100 to 110 ppm	second pad from top on strip	ppm = parts per million
	125 to 150 ppm for liner/fiberglass pools	130 to 140 ppm		
Calcium Hardness	200 to 400 ppm			
ppm Stabilizer	30 to 100 ppm	40 to 80 ppm	Bottom pad on strip	

Free Chlorine is the first most important thing to maintain. This is what is going to keep your pool clean, clear, and algae-free. You want to **always** be in-between 1-3ppm. If you are low on chlorine, add 1 bottle of the liquid shock, or a bag of powdered shock per 10,000 gallon of water in your pool. Disperse it as you walk around the pool, or add it in front of one of the pool returns so it disperses into the pool.

Total Alkalinity is the 2nd most important. This will reduce fluctuation of pH levels and aid chlorine in doing its job properly. It will also prolong the life of your filter system (i.e. pump, heater, valves, and gaskets). Your total alkalinity should be in between 100-110ppm (for gunite pools) OR 130-140ppm (for liner/fiberglass pools).

Rain water and evaporation will affect alkalinity levels. Testing your water weekly for this is highly recommended.

The **pH reading** is the 3rd thing to maintain. This helps with the total balance of the water. It also stops eyes from burning when opened under water. Your pH reading should be 7.4 -7.6 ppm. For every .2 ppm your pH is above 7.8ppm your chlorine effectiveness is decreased by 20%.

Rain water and evaporation will affect pH levels. Testing your water weekly for this is highly recommended.

Calcium hardness level is the 4th item to maintain. Many people do not monitor this chemical, as they believe it to be unimportant. However, neglecting the calcium hardness level in your pool leads to drastic life loss and long-term damage of plaster jobs, liner life, and any metal products in the pool or filter system. Water is aggressive in nature and is constantly pulling minerals and elements out of everything it comes in contact with. If a gunite pool's calcium hardness level is not monitored

properly, the water will start pulling calcium directly from the plaster, causing it to pit, become rough and eventually crumble. In a liner pool, if the calcium hardness isn't monitored the liner will lose elasticity and become brittle. Your calcium hardness range should be 200-400ppm. The good thing is once you have your calcium hardness level normalized, you won't have to worry much about fluctuation.

Stabilizer level is the 5th thing to maintain. This helps with the fluctuation and over consumption of chlorine in the pool. There are many things that can degrade your chlorine level in your pool. The sun is a major culprit of chlorine consumption. This is why we recommend running the filter during the day and **not** over night. When the pool water is at a standstill, it is easier for the sun to burn out the chlorine. Other things that affect chlorine are usage of the pool. When people swim (bather load) in the pool, they bring bacteria in with them through their bodies, what they wear and if they have any products in their hair. Stabilizer should be added **SLOWLY** into the skimmer closest to the filter system with all other suction lines closed. If added too quickly, it **CAN CLOG** the skimmer line. It should take about 25-30 minutes to add one 6-pound bottle of this product. It **SHOULD NOT** be added all at once. If you find yourself getting antsy, walk away and come back later to do the rest. The pool needs to run for 48 hours without backwashing for this product to breakdown in the filter.

Algaecide is the 6th thing you want to check weekly to prevent growth of algae. You should use 2 oz of algaecide per 10,000 gallons of water in your pool. You should be doing this the same time you do your weekly shocking.

Pressure in your filter system is the 7th thing to watch for. The pressure you will need to backwash at is 10lbs of pressure above what your start up pressure is for the season. Another way to tell if you need to backwash is to look at the flow in the pool. When there is little to no movement in the pool from the returns, you should backwash. When you backwash, you should do it for 1-3 minutes. When the multiport sight glass is clear you're done backwashing. Once the pool is cleaned up from the opening 1 minute should be sufficient for backwashing. When you backwash you should go from backwash till the sight glass is clear, then to rinse till the sight glass is clear, then to filter. Do this a few times to make sure all impurities are flushed out of the filter. Sand filters require no additional steps to backwashing. Cartridge filters need no backwashing. They need to be taken apart and cleaned off with a hose. If you have a D.E. filter, you need to add 4-6 scoops of the D.E. powder (depending on the size of your filter) into the skimmer closest to the filter after the backwash process is complete. **WHENEVER YOU CHANGE POSITIONS ON THE MULTIPORT VALVE OR ANY OTHER VALVE ON THE SYSTEM, THE PUMP MUST BE OFF!**

The timer should be set for a 12-hour cycle; usually 8am-8pm.

The next page is where you can fill out all of your pool information and notes of what your weekly service will be. We recommend printing this out and keeping it by your chemicals.

If you have any questions or service needs, no matter how minimal they may seem, please feel free to call South Shore Pool Solutions.

