

# ROUTINE POOL MAINTENANCE

## 1 SHOCK DOSING WITH CHLORINE

Shock dosing with chlorine is an essential part of a spa pool maintenance program.

'Shock dosing' refers to giving 2-3 times the normal daily dose of chlorine. We recommend the use of **Hichlor or Liquid Chlorine** for this purpose.

Shock dosing should be carried out at a minimum of every 3 weeks to prevent bacteria and algae from becoming resistant to your usual daily dose rate. Pools with heavy use may require shock dosing every 7-10 days.

Shock dosing is a safe procedure but should be done before swimming. Allow the chlorine level to drop to approx 1.0 ppm before commencing swimming.

## 2 FILTRATION

During regular use the filter should operate on a **daily basis**. As a guideline, the filter should run for at least 3 hours per day to ensure a thorough turn-over of water.

## 3 TESTING

During regular use the water in your spa pool should be tested at least once per day.

This will help ensure that your water balance is correct, the pH is operating within the recommended range and the level of free chlorine is within the desired range.

# TROUBLE SHOOTING

**Cloudy water** - Caused by early algae growth and a build up of **body fats, poor filtration**. Check and adjust pH to 7.2 to 7.6. Ensure recommended dose of chlorine is added consistently.

We also recommend that you change water every 2 - 3 months. Check your filter operation. Use Filter Cleaner regularly to ensure optimal filter performance.

**Unpleasant odour** - Usually caused by an **excess build up of chlorine/presence of chloramines**. Check and adjust pH to 7.2 - 7.6. Add chlorine/bromine following use of the Spa Pool, not before.

**Difficulty maintaining pH** - Usually caused by **low alkalinity**. Increase alkalinity to 120 - 150 ppm by adding Poolstar Buffer.

**Eye and skin irritation** - Caused by **incorrect pH or presence of chloramines**. Adjust pH to ensure levels fit within the 7.2 - 7.6 recommended range.

## Safety First

**SAFE HANDLING:** Keep all chlorine and conditioning chemicals in a cool dry place out of the reach of children. Do not mix different chemicals or types of chlorine. Do not interchange container caps. ALWAYS add chemicals to water. Never water to chemicals.

**FIRST AID:** If Pool chemicals accidentally contaminate skin or eyes, immediately flush with copious amounts of water. If swallowed DO NOT induce vomiting. Give plenty of milk or water. Seek medical advice or ring the **National Poisons and Hazardous Chemicals Information Centre: 0800 764 766**

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# EASY CARE GUIDE FOR YOUR

# SPA POOL

TESTING

PROBLEM SOLVING

MAINTENANCE

 **POOLSTAR**  
SWIMMING POOL CHEMICALS

[www.poolstar.co.nz](http://www.poolstar.co.nz)

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# HOW DO I KEEP MY SPA POOL CLEAN?

Keep your spa pool clean with the use of sanitisers such as Chlorine and Bromine assist in killing bacteria and preventing the growth of algae. Regular filtration and keeping the water balance correct will also greatly assist in keeping your spa pool clean all year round.

## What Makes My Spa Pool Dirty?

Every day your pool is bombarded with dirt and bacteria from:

**People** – Every time you swim in your pool, you release bacteria, body fats, and between 15-50ml of ammonia and nitrogen.

**Dirt** – Dust from the wind, bird droppings, decomposing leaves and muddy feet.

**New Water** – Rain carries sediment, and washes in from the side of the pool; even tap water is far from pure.

**Algae** – Any body of water that is not constantly moving will have a gradual build up of algae. Algae come in thousands of types and many colours.

## Water Balance

Water quality varies widely depending on its source. If your pool is filled by tap, bore or rainwater you will have to treat it differently to obtain ideal pool conditions, or in other words the pool water needs to be 'balanced'.

Water balance is the relationship between pH, total alkalinity and your sanitiser. If your spa pool water is in balance the pH will be more stable and your pool will be more economical to run as your chlorine will work at maximum efficiency to sanitise water and kill algae.

Within the balancing act, it is essential to keep your spa pool physically clean. Chemical treatment cannot remove dirt; this can only be achieved by using the filter and other cleaning devices.

## Testing Your Pool Water

Test your pool water balance at least once a week by using either:

**1 AQUACHEK FREE CHLORINE TEST STRIPS**  
A fast easy method of testing which provides sufficiently accurate readings for most purposes.

**2 AQUACHEK BROMINE TEST STRIPS**  
A fast easy method of testing which provides sufficiently accurate readings for most purposes when using Bromine.

# HOW TO BALANCE SPA POOL WATER

To balance your spa pool for regular use and then maintain it you will need to:

### Adjust Total Alkalinity

Total Alkalinity acts as a buffer to sudden changes in water pH. Check your Total Alkalinity level of your spa pool regularly and adjust if necessary.

The ideal level?

To increase Alkalinity add Poolstar Buffer. As a guide, for a 2000 litre pool 34 grams (1 1/2 dessertspoons) will increase alkalinity by 10 ppm (ppm refers to parts per million).

### Adjust pH Level

pH is a measure of acidity or alkalinity in water and is measured on a scale of 0-14.

- pH below 7 is 'acidic'
- pH above 7 is 'alkaline'
- pH at 7 is 'neutral'

Water with a low pH (below 6.8) can cause eye or skin irritation, corrosion of fittings and excessive use of chlorine sanitiser. Water with a high pH (above 8.0) can cause eye irritation, cloudy water, scale formation and dramatically decreases the algae-killing efficiency of chlorine sanitiser.

To decrease pH add Poolstar pH Decrease: For a 2000 litre pool 25 grams (3 teaspoons) should decrease pH by 0.3 units.

To decrease pH add Poolstar pH Increase: For a 2000 litre pool 25 grams (3 teaspoons) should increase pH by 0.3 units.

### Chlorine Treatment

Chlorine rapidly kills bacteria and algae, and 'burns up' organic matter. Chlorine is most efficient in a pH of between 7.2 – 7.6. To maintain a clean germ-free pool in times of high use it is necessary to add chlorine daily to maintain a chlorine level of at least 2-3 ppm.

Use your test kit or test strips to determine the chlorine level of your water. Remember it is best to add chlorine to your spa pool after use not before.

## Which Chlorine?

The Poolstar range offers two different types of chlorine to suit your individual spa pool needs.

**1 CHLORINE GRANULES**  
A granular form of chlorine with a built in stabiliser. To dose daily make sure your free chlorine reading is 2-3 ppm.

**2 BROMINE TABLETS**  
Non-chlorine sanitiser in tablet form. Alter the number of tablets in the unit or open / close skimmer vents to maintain a reading of 4-6 ppm.

