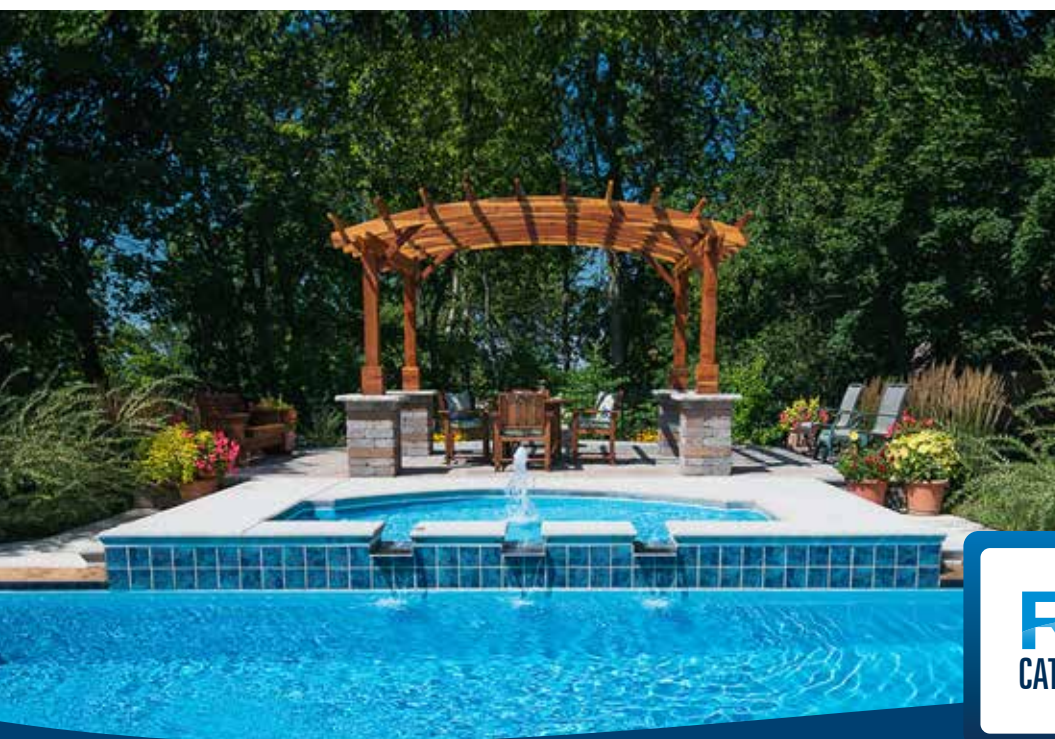




# EASY POOL CARE GUIDE >



**River Pools**  
CATCH THE WAVE



[riverpoolsandspas.com](http://riverpoolsandspas.com)





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**riverpoolsandspas.com**

And Find Us Here:



## About Your Pool

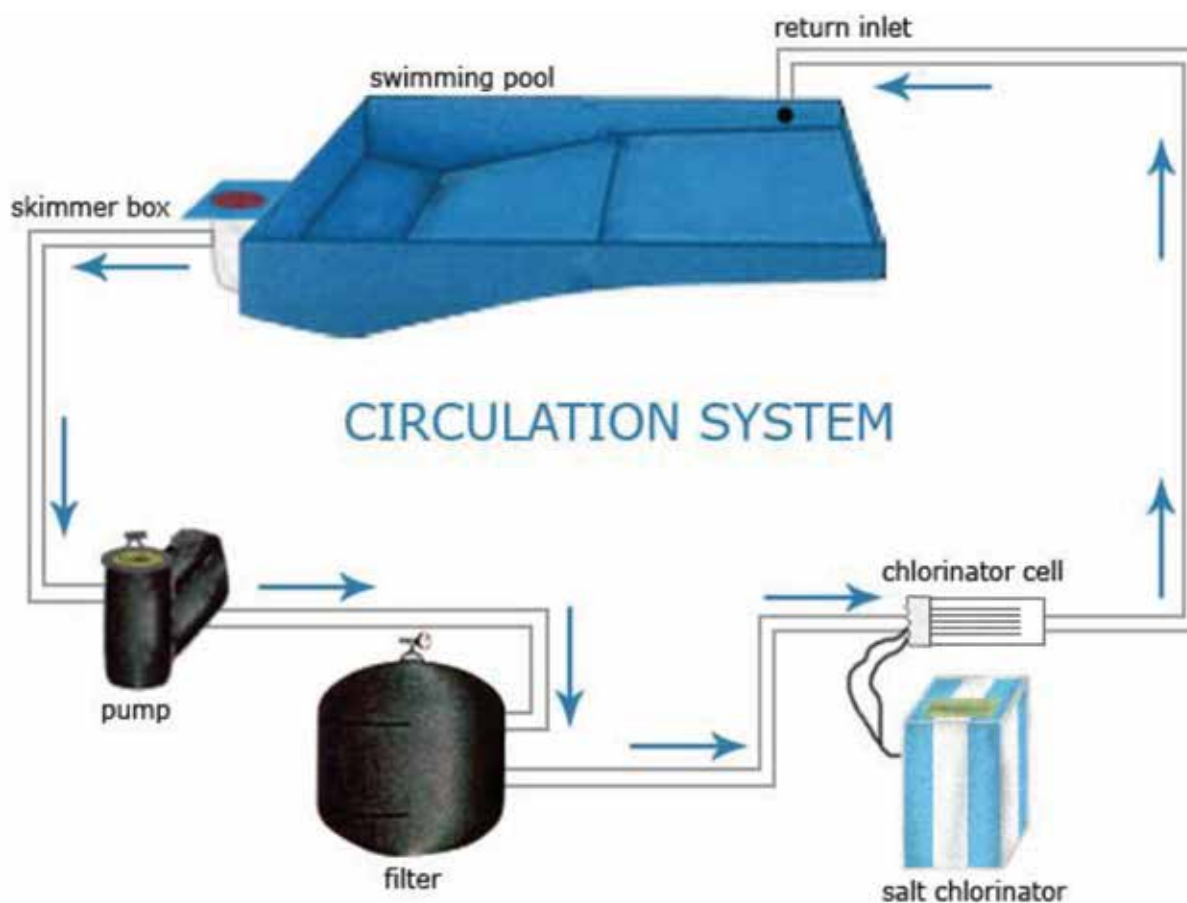
Please fill-out pool specification chart accurately, if possible.

Date of Install	
Pool Style	
Pool Serial #	
Pool Color	
Pool Gallons	
Filter Model	
Filter Serial #	
Heater Model	
Heater Serial #	
Lights Model	
Number of Lights	
Salt Chlorinator Model	
Salt Chlorinator Serial #	
Skimmer Model	
Other	
Other	
Other	
Other	

# How Your Pool Works

## Understanding Circulation

Your pump pulls water out of the pool through the skimmer and then sends it to be filtered/cleaned through your cartridge filter. The water then travels through the Salt Cell of your Salt Chlorinator to be sanitized before heading back into the pool through the returns.



**IMPORTANT! TO AVOID COSTLY, UNNECESSARY DAMAGE, NEVER DRAIN YOUR FIBERGLASS POOL! DOING SO WILL VOID YOUR WARRANTY!**

## Helpful Notes

- For the system to operate correctly the water level must always be at least mid-way in the skimmer. If not, the system will suck in air and not function effectively.
- Please remember to always keep the pump basket, as well as the skimmer basket, free of debris to ensure good water flow. You should also always make sure to keep your cartridge filter clean for the same reason.
- You should run your pump/filter system a minimum of at least 8 hrs a day, however, the best, and recommended, is continuously on low.
- Make sure the water level in your French drain is never higher than the water level in the pool. You should have a sump pump on hand to drain this pipe whenever necessary.
- Your pool should be properly winterized before freezing temperatures occur each year to prevent any type of costly damage. Also, if you have a solid cover, and not a mesh cover, then you must keep accumulated water and snow off to prevent damage to the cover as well as preventing it from sinking into the pool. Make sure that when you're pumping water off of the top of the cover that there are no holes, big or small, in the cover to avoid draining pool water without realizing.

**LET'S GET STARTED** >  
SO YOU CAN ENJOY YOUR NEW POOL



# **SIMPLE MAINTENANCE HOW-TO'S**



**Strainer pot basket**  
(located in the end of  
the pump)

## How to clean Strainer:

- 1 Turn pump off
- 2 Turn strainer pot lid counterclockwise and remove
- 3 Remove strainer pot basket and clean out debris
- 4 Put strainer pot basket back in, making sure the hole in the basket lines up with the hole in front of the pump
- 5 Put the strainer pot lid back on tightly, making sure not to cross-thread or pinch the o-ring
- 6 Turn pump back on, making sure no leaks around the lid and that the pump fills completely up to the lid with water



**Skimmer basket**  
(located in the skimmer  
box at the pool)

## How to clean Skimmer:

- 1 Turn pump off
- 2 Remove skimmer lid
- 3 Remove skimmer basket and clean out debris
- 4 Put skimmer basket back in place
- 5 Put skimmer lid back on
- 6 Turn pump back on



Notes



Pool filter

- 1. Pressure Release Valve
- 2. Pressure Gauge
- 3. Locking Ring

## How to clean the Filter:

- 1 Turn pump off
- 2 Release the pressure inside the filter tank by turning the air release valve at the top
- 3 Push the “push” button on the locking ring and turn counter clockwise to remove lid
- 4 Remove the cartridge filter located inside the tank and rinse off with a garden hose, making sure to rinse well in between each pleating
- 5 Rinse out inside of the tank if necessary (You can remove the drain plug at the bottom for water and debris to escape, but make sure to put it back when finished. Make sure not to cross-thread or pinch the o-ring when doing so.)
- 6 Put the cartridge filter back into the tank, making sure to seat properly
- 7 Put the lid back on, turn the locking ring clockwise until tight enough that it doesn't leak (Make sure not to cross-thread or pinch the o-ring.)
- 8 Tighten the release valve back down on top of the tank
- 9 Turn the pump back on and make sure no leaks



Notes



Pool Vacuum Hose



Pool Vacuum Head

## How to Vacuum:

- 1 Make sure pump is running on the right speed
- 2 Attach vacuum head to pole and attach vacuum hose (swivel end) to vacuum head
- 3 Remove skimmer basket from skimmer
- 4 Put the vacuum head and entire vacuum hose into the pool **\*get all air out of the hose and make sure completely full of water** - put the other end of the vacuum hose into the skimmer
- 5 Proceed to vacuum the bottom of the pool just like you vacuum your living room

**TIPS: 1. When trying to vacuum heavy debris like rocks or other abrasive objects, be sure not to drag them across the pool because it will scratch the gel coat. 2. Try not to vacuum too much large debris up at one time so as to not clog up the system, mainly leaves and twigs.**

- 6 When you're finished vacuuming, turn the pump off, then take the vacuum hose out of the skimmer
- 7 Put the skimmer basket back
- 8 Clean out the strainer pot basket (the basket in the pump)
- 9 Turn pump back on and store vacuum hose, pole, and vacuum head in a safe place. **(It's a good idea to store any pool accessories out of the elements to help prolong their life.)**



Notes





## How to Let Water Out of Your Pool if Needed:

- 1 Find the rolled up blue hose (backwash hose) and unroll to make sure its flat \*if its twisted the hose will burst - **make sure you put the discharge end of the hose in a suitable place, as water will pool here**
- 2 Ensure the hose is tightly attached with a hose clamp on the ball valve between the pump and the filter
- 3 Turn the pump to lowest speed
- 4 Turn the ball valve to its "open" position
- 5 Run until water level in pool is where desired



**DO NOT LEAVE POOL UNATTENDED. MONITOR CLOSELY SO AS NOT TO DRAIN TOO MUCH WATER.**

- 7 Remove water from the backwash hose before rolling up
- 8 Roll up backwash hose and store
- 9 Turn pump back to normal speed for normal operation



Notes



## How to clean your Salt Chlorinator Cell:

Visually check the Cell periodically, and clean it as necessary.

**Note: if you use River Pools' Pool Closing Service, we clean the cell at closing if we see a buildup.**



- Do not clean your cell if you cannot see any buildup to avoid over cleaning, as this will shorten the life of your cell.
- Do not use metal or other hard objects to clean the cell.
- Do not insert anything into the cell. Both of these actions could scratch the precious coating on the plates and void the warranty.
- Always add acid to water, NOT water to acid.

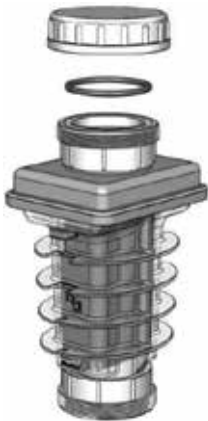


Diluted muriatic acid solution = 1 part acid to 10 parts water

**Use caution when handling Muriatic Acid, Follow manufacturing instruction on handling.**



Notes



Salt Chlorinator Cell  
Steps 1 - 2



Salt Chlorinator Cell  
Step 4

## How to clean your Salt Chlorinator Cell:

- 1 Remove the cell from the line by unthreading the barrel unions from the cell ends. There is no need to remove the electrical wire connections when using the cleaning cap.
- 2 Remove the black O-ring on one end of the Cell.
- 3 Attach the Cell Cleaning Cap to the other end of cell.
- 4 Pour into the Cell, either undiluted white distilled vinegar, or a solution of diluted muriatic acid (one part muriatic acid to 10 parts water).
- 5 Wait for foaming to stop (5-10 minutes when using muriatic acid; vinegar takes longer).
- 6 Safely dispose of the acid solution by pouring it into your pool.
- 7 Rinse the cell with water hose.
- 8 Put the O-ring back in place and re-install the Cell in the line.
- 9 If the cell cable connectors were removed make sure they are clean and free of debris and re-connect them.



Notes



# **WATER CHEMISTRY 101**





## Testing Your Water:

We recommend that you test your water once a week and keep a log of your water chemistry. There is a test strip that solely tests your salt level and one that tests everything else that you will be given and shown how to use at orientation.

Refer to chemical explanations on the following pages for what your tests should always read and how to correct any imbalance. Keep in mind that there are several factors that affect your water chemistry. These include rain, how much direct sunlight the pool gets or how much shade, exposure to animals, wind, temperature, overhanging trees, how many bathers enter at a time and how often, etc., etc. With that being said, you'll learn that certain occurrences should trigger you to test your water chemistry and adjust as needed.

Unbalanced water chemistry can cause unnecessary wear and tear on your pool and equipment. Not to mention it could cause, skin or eye irritation to bathers. Hence, it is very important to keep your water tested and balanced.



Notes



## Chemical Explanations:

### Salt-normal level 3200-3400 ppm (parts per million)

- You should always test the salt level with salt test strips. **Do not depend solely on your Salt Chlorinator to tell you how much salt is in the pool.**
- If your salt level is too low, or too high, then your salt chlorinator is unable to produce chlorine to sanitize your pool.
- To lower your salt level, if necessary, drain the pool a few inches at a time and add fresh water. Test in between draining so as to not lower the salt level too much.
- To increase your salt level, if necessary, use the salt chart that comes with the salt test strips to know how many bags to add per gallon, depending on what the current level is. Make sure that you brush around any salt that settles to the floor to encourage dissipation.
- After adding salt (or any chemical) you must wait 24 hours before re-testing to get accurate results, as it takes time to circulate throughout the whole pool. Running the pump on high for an hour after adding any chemical will help with this.
- Do not use just any salt. Use granulated pool salt. Other types, such as pellets or rocks can damage your Salt Chlorinator.



Notes



## Chemical Explanations:

### Chlorine-normal level 1-3 ppm

- Your Chlorine Generator makes chlorine for you through the process of electrolysis in the cell. With that being said, on a normal basis, you do not need to manually add chlorine, in any form to your pool. If your Chlorine Generator is ever temporarily out of order for servicing, etc. then, in that case, you would have to manually add chlorine to get a reading and keep your pool sanitized.
- There is no specific setting that everyone's Salt Chlorinator should be set to in order to keep an accurate/stable chlorine reading. Sometimes this may take a few adjustments before you find the "sweet spot" for your particular set up. For example, if it's the middle of summer, extremely hot, the pool is in direct sunlight, and the pool is being used pretty much every day, then you'll probably have to have your Salt Chlorinator on a higher generating setting to keep up with the chlorine demand. However, if you have an auto cover and the pool is constantly covered/shaded and not used often, then it can be kept on a lower setting.
- If your Chlorine level is constantly high, then you just need lower the output setting on the Chlorine Generator control.
- If your Chlorine level is constantly low and all of your other chemicals are balanced, then you just need to raise the output setting on the Chlorine Generator control.

**Note:** If you have algae, or when opening or closing the pool, you want the chlorine level to be high. In extreme cases, it is recommended to use chlorine shock (3lb per 10,000) and 1 bottle of algaecide to help clear the pool faster. Also, by using shock and algaecide 24 hours before closing, you will increase your chances of having a clear pool at opening.



## Chemical Explanations:

### Cyanuric Acid AKA "Stabilizer"- normal level 30-50 ppm

- This protects the chlorine from being destroyed by the sun. If you don't have enough Stabilizer in the water and the pool is in direct sunlight all the time then chances are you're going to over work your Salt Chlorinator to keep a good Chlorine level. Having enough Stabilizer is very important when you have a Salt Chlorinator, however, you don't want too much, either. Having too much Stabilizer can cause cloudy water and false readings on your test strip for other readings.
- The only way to lower this level if you add too much is by draining the pool a few inches at a time and adding fresh water. Make sure to test in between so as to not lower the Stabilizer level too much. Keep in mind that any time you have to lower your water level, or add fresh water; other chemicals are being lost or affected as well.
- To raise, simply add the pool chemical called "Stabilizer". **Make sure to read the chart on the back to figure out how much to add.**



Notes





## Chemical Explanations:

### pH-normal level 7.2-7.6 ppm

- pH determines how basic or acidic your pool water is. Unbalanced pH can cause irritation to bathers as well as reduce the effectiveness of the chlorine in the water sanitizing your pool.
- **To lower:** add pH decreaser/minus using chart on the container to determine quantity per gallons.
- **To raise:** add pH increaser/plus using chart on the container to determine quantity per gallons.



Notes



## Chemical Explanations:

### Alkalinity-normal level 60-120 ppm

- To prevent pH from fluctuating up and down, the proper amount of acid buffers, or total alkalinity, must be maintained in the pool. Low total alkalinity can not only result in pH fluctuations, but corrosiveness and the possibility of staining increases. High total alkalinity also can cause cloudiness and increase possibility for scaling buildup.
- To lower: There is no chemical called Alkalinity decreaser/minus. However, most of the time when the total alkalinity is high, so is the pH. So all you need to do is lower the pH and the total Alkalinity will follow.
- To raise: Add Alkalinity Plus using the chart on the back on the container to determine quantity per gallons.



Notes



## Chemical Explanations:

### Scale:

- At start-up of your pool, we will add a scaling preventative called "Scale Free." **We recommend that you use a routine maintenance does as per instructions on the bottle. (5 ounces per 10,000 gallons once a month)**



Notes



## Chemical Explanations:

### Metals (Copper, Iron)-Normal level 0

- Metals cause staining on pool surfaces if left untreated.
- If you have metals in your pool you will need to add “Metal Remover” found at any pool store. Follow directions on the bottle for quantity per gallons.



### Phosphates-Normal level 0-100 (recommended as close to 0 as possible)

- Phosphates build up in your pool over time and are brought in by any type of organic matter that gets into your pool. This can include leaves, pine cones, twigs, any debris blown in by wind, fertilizers, etc, etc. People who live close to fields often have more issues with phosphates. Animals are also covered in phosphates and can transfer them into the pool.
- Phosphates are like food for algae. If your pool has a lot of phosphates, then algae will always try to grow. This sets a higher demand for chlorine to keep up with keeping the pool clear and sanitized. In turn, your Salt Chlorinator will be working harder than it should, shortening its life span little by little.
- The good news is that phosphates are easy to get rid of. There is a special test kit made for testing phosphates. Once you know your phosphate level you can add “Phos-free”, using the instructions on the bottle for quantity per gallons. “Phos-free” can be found at any pool store.



Notes





## Chemical Explanations: RECAP

### What your chemical readings should be:

- Chlorine level- Normal is between 1-3 ppm**  
 If all other chemicals are balanced and chlorine is low, turn salt system up to produce more chlorine. Normal settings vary, but most common is between 30-40%. After heavy pool usage (i.e. big parties), push the 'turbo' button.
- Salt- normal 3200-3400 ppm**  
 If low add recommended dosage on salt chart that comes with test strips.
- pH- normal level 7.2-7.6**  
 If low-add 'ph plus', use dosing chart on back of container. If high-add 'ph minus', use dosing chart on back of container.
- Alkalinity- normal is 60-120 ppm**  
 If Alkalinity and pH are both low or high together, just adjust the pH and the Alkalinity will follow. If the Alkalinity is drastically low by itself, add 'Alkalinity increaser', use dosing chart on back of container.
- Cyanaric Acid (Stabilizer)- normal is 30-50 ppm**  
 If low, add 'stabilizer', use dosing chart on back of container.



Notes

## Orientation Notes



Visit our website for many other “How-To” videos

## Chemical Log

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## Chemical Log

[illegible]

## Chemical Log

[illegible]

## Chemical Log

[illegible]

## Chemical Log

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# CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW PURCHASE.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY  
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THURSDAY POOLS EXPERIENCE!

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