

NEW
UPDATES

FIBERGLASS POOL CARE GUIDE

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO MAINTAINING YOUR POOL'S FINISH AND HAVING SAFE* WATER

Your sparkling clear water may still be damaging your pool's finish. Pool water needs to be within ranges and balanced to avoid chalking, staining, and discoloration.



TOP 5 TIPS FOR MAINTAINING YOUR POOL FINISH:

1. Use Stain & Scale Control

Regularly use a stain/metal and scale control product to prevent discoloration and maintain your pool's finish. These products contain chelating and sequestering agents that can effectively shield your pool from calcium.

2. Avoid Calcium Hypochlorite

Calcium hypochlorite (cal-hypo) is a common ingredient in some shock treatments. It is important to avoid using it in fiberglass pools. Instead, choose better options like liquid chlorine or non-chlorine shock treatments to protect your pool's surface.

3. Maintain pH Between 7.2 - 7.4

pH is key to preserving your fiberglass pool finish. We recommend keeping your pH between 7.2 and 7.4 to protect your pool surface.

SALT

Saltwater pools, in particular, tend to raise pH levels, so it's important to monitor and maintain a pH below 7.8 to avoid any damage.

4. Maintain Calcium Hardness Levels Below 120 ppm

Fiberglass pool owners should not add calcium or products that use calcium to their pools. Low calcium levels are beneficial to fiberglass pools! If your water is above 120 ppm, use a water softener or stain and scale control product to prevent scaling and discoloration.

5. Use Liquid Chlorine Only to Maintain Chlorine Levels Between 1 - 3 ppm

Keep chlorine between 1-3 ppm. If you need to increase it temporarily, make sure your pH stays below 7.8 to avoid damage.

FIBERGLASS POOL RECOMMENDED CHEMISTRY

RANGES

pH: 7.2 - 7.4

Calcium Hardness: Less than 120 ppm

Total Alkalinity: 80 - 120 ppm

Total Chlorine: 1 - 3 ppm

CYA: 30 - 50 ppm

Metals: 0

TDS: less than 1500 ppm*

SALT

*Maximum TDS of 1,000 ppm more than safe salt levels (2,700 – 3,400 ppm, depending on saltwater system manufacturer)

BALANCE:

Langelier Saturation Index (LSI): -0.30 - +0.30

Note: Under no conditions should LSI go above +0.30. In winter months, LSI may go below -0.30.



NEED MORE HELP?

Visit our online owner's manual for all updated guidelines.



This guide provides key tips for fiberglass pool care and maintaining the surface finish. However, it does not cover all aspects of pool maintenance. For complete care, including specific instructions for additional equipment, please consult the recommended guidelines from your equipment manufacturer.

* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *Operating and Managing Public Pools, Hot Tubs and Splash Pads*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-swimming/toolkit/operating-public-pools-hot-tubs-and-splash-pads.html>

DON'T BE STANDARD. YOUR POOL ISN'T.

STANDARD POOL CHEMISTRY GUIDELINES FOR THE PAST CENTURY

Concrete pools, which inherently contain calcium, have been the standard model for water chemistry guidelines and testing for nearly a century. Fiberglass pools, by contrast, are calcium-free in their structure. They do not react the same to calcium. Excess calcium combined with high pH and chlorine can result in discoloration to the gel coat surface.

CALCIUM EFFECT ON FIBERGLASS POOL SURFACE

Calcium is the root cause of most of the discoloration on fiberglass pools. The gel coat surface of a fiberglass pool shell should last a very long time if the pH, chlorine and hardness (calcium) are maintained at the required levels. If pH and chlorine are raised above the recommended ranges, then the possibility of discoloration increases based on how much calcium is in the water.

EFFECT ON FIBERGLASS POOL SURFACE CAUSED BY HIGH RANGES OF BOTH pH & CHLORINE WITH & WITHOUT CALCIUM		
pH & CHLORINE RANGES		
	BOTH IN RANGE	BOTH HIGH
NO CALCIUM	GOOD	GOOD
ANY CALCIUM	GOOD	DISCOLORATION*

*discoloration can be avoided with proper use of a stain and scale control product

NOTE: At zero calcium levels, the gel coat surface will tolerate a wider range of pH and chlorine. As calcium is added, the gel coat surface is more likely to discolor with high levels of pH and chlorine.

SOLUTIONS TO AVOID DAMAGE DUE TO CALCIUM

ONE: use a chelating agent/scale and metal control. This is extremely easy, very economical, and requires very little maintenance depending on the agents you use. Chelating agents bind to the metal ion (calcium) and effectively traps and isolates the metal ion (calcium) so that they do not initiate any oxidizing reaction.

TWO: take the calcium out of the water. This can only be done with a water softener. Water softeners take the calcium out of the water. Currently this is difficult to do as even a large water softener is usually only capable of softening 1,000 gallons before it has to regenerate. This process would take 10 to 20 cycles and is very impractical to perform on a swimming pool at this time.

THE BOTTOM LINE

WATER CHEMISTRY: USE A CHELATING AGENT/SCALE AND METAL CONTROL IN ALL FIBERGLASS SWIMMING POOLS.

Follow the 5 tips, chemistry ranges, and LSI on the front along with cleaning procedures for the pool and equipment.

SALT / UV

Use a UV system, no matter what method you use, to sanitize the water (this goes for salt systems, tablets, etc.). UV units perform all the sanitizing but do not leave a residual. You must still maintain a small residual of chlorine. This can be provided by your primary chlorine method. If it is a salt system, it should be set on its lowest level. UV systems should run 24/7 at an efficient low pump speed. The advantages of UV units include: no change in pH, alkalinity, hardness, TDS, or chlorine; UV unit effectiveness does not diminish in the sun and does not count on cyanuric acid; they are very economical; it is easy to change a bulb and winterize the unit.