

What Is Involved In Swimming Pool Maintenance?

These Are The Key Points:

- We suggest you read the other leaflets in this series so you have a full understanding of pool maintenance.

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This is a tricky question as it depends on many factors including pool type, location (the presence of trees and vegetation or fields nearby), the weather and season, number of people using the pool, presence or not of a pool cover, how sophisticated and modern is pool equipment and so on.

When it comes to adding the chemicals, they should be added as soon as possible after your Wright Pools & Spas detailed water test. The instructions that you are given name the chemical to add, the quantity, how to apply it to the pool and the time you need to wait between adding different chemicals and swimming. Our experienced staff may also add their comments regarding each process and sometimes offer alternative product suggestions.

Where Should I Buy My Pool Chemicals From?

We only use reputable suppliers and we know that everything we sell works.

We offer complimentary pool water testing alongside advice for those that buy their chemicals from us. We do not know what the full chemical components in products are brought elsewhere and what may happen if they are mixed with what we supply. Cheaper chemicals may come with high levels of 'fillers', sometimes spurious ingredients (free unbound metals that can cause major problems) and low-level chemical concentrations - in the long run you will often pay more and work harder.

Why Do I Need To Backwash My Media Filter?

Remember that 80% of swimming pool problems are due to poor circulation and filtration! Backwashing the filter dislodges trapped debris and contaminants, flushing them out through your filter waste line. This should be done at least weekly during summer and more frequently when lots of people are swimming. When the filter media is clean, the pressure gauge is lower and water can easily flow in and out of the system. Please make sure that all the baskets are clear and any vacuum cleaners are detached from the suction lines before you begin to ensure you get maximum water flow. After you have completed a backwash, you then need to complete a rinse. Backwashing is also recommended after vacuuming the pool.

How Soon After Adding Chemicals Can We Swim?

Generally speaking, you can swim shortly after you have added chemicals to your pool - sometimes within the hour however we would recommend that after 'shocking' your pool, that you wait for the chlorine levels to naturally subside which may be just hours or can be days if it has been super chlorinated.

Why Is Balancing A Pool During Winter So Important?

If the water in your pool is kept balanced over winter you will avoid the following situations:

- Damage to pool equipment (pipes, fittings, filter, excess moisture in pumps etc) that may cause pump failure
- Damage to the pool's surface (poor balance can cause etching and staining)
- Costly chemical fix-up at the beginning of the summer
- Harbours algae which can bloom as soon as temperatures rise causing a sudden green pool

How Do I Keep The Swimming Pool Water Looking Sparkling And Bright All Year Round?

Other than what has been already mentioned in terms of sanitation, oxidation and water balancing, we use and recommend a product called **Pool Optimise**. This product is a powder, principally boric acid, that is added to pools via the skimmer at the beginning of the summer and the beginning of winter and literally 'optimises' pool water management. Using it will reduce your chlorine consumption, smother algae, make skin and hair soft and tangle free, promote eye comfort and give your pool that added extra sparkle. Highly recommended for all pool types.

Is It Ok For My Dog To Swim In My Pool?

Pool chemicals are not harmful to dogs, however we strongly recommend that you do not let your dog swim in your pool. But if you do, please be mindful...Some reports say that one dog swimming is equivalent to 20 human swimmers when it comes to impact on your pool water and filter system. Dogs do carry all types of organic matter on their bodies which will enter your pool water and consume your sanitisers. In some breeds, the hair is an issue and could possibly block up your baskets and/or the inside of your filter.

Problem Solving

How Do I Remove Debris And Algae From My Pool?

Remove large debris using a leaf net. Make sure the skimmer basket is emptied and cleaned. Algae is best removed by first brushing down the walls and floor then making sure that your filter is backwashed.

Depending on how green your pool is (Light Green, Emerald Green or Swamp Green) dictates the process we would follow from a chemical treatment perspective. A good quality powerful chlorine (we recommend and use **Bioguard PowerChlor**) alongside a large dose of a quality algaecide in many cases will resolve this issue quite quickly, however, it can be a costly and time-consuming process if left to fester. The pool will then need to circulate (keep the pump on!) for a solid 24-36 hours or until the pool is clear. We would then recommend that you thoroughly backwash your filter, fill your pool water back up as far as possible and then vacuum any algae that has settled on the pool floor to waste, bypassing the filter.

We do not generally recommend using a flocculant however this may be a last resort measure. **Bioguard Power Flocc** is a pool settling agent. It is slowly poured into the skimmer (minus the basket) with the filter in the 'Recirculate' or 'Whirlpool' position. In the absence of these settings on your filter you will have to dilute the product as directed on the label. Then have the pump running for two hours on recirculate. After its addition the pool should be left undisturbed for 24 hours, Then SLOWLY and GENTLY vacuum **to waste**.

Use of **Bioguard Super Clear Clarifying Tabs** and/or **Polysheen Plus** can be helpful to clear up any resultant cloudiness following treatment.

Please see our separate leaflet for a detailed treatment protocol of a green pool.

Metal Stains Or Coloured Pool Water

When in solution within the source water, metals are virtually invisible and not a problem....until they get oxidised and chlorine is an oxidiser! The result can be plating of the metal on to your pool surface. So it is really important to know if you have metal in your water.

Questions To Ask Yourself:

- Have you sourced the swimming pool water from a bore or some other groundwater?
- Is the pH within the normal range of 7.4-7.6?
- Can the stain be removed with brushing? If so, it is more likely to be caused by algae.
- Has the pool water been tested for copper and iron? We can do these tests for you in our complementary water test. However we can only test for these two metals and it is possible there are other metals such as manganese, so we might ask more detailed questions.
- Do you use a copper-based algaecide? Has this come from us or another supplier?
- Do you have a heater? Corrosion of the heater can cause high copper levels in the water.
- To complicate matters a negative metal test does not rule out metals in the water, as they may have precipitated out of solution. Adding chlorine to the water can aggravate the problem. Clear water may quickly become discoloured.

Recommendations:

- **Bioguard Pool Magnet** is designed to remove metals from the water. It can be inactivated by a high chlorine level so a high/shock dose of chlorine OR an oxidizer should not be added before and for 5 days following its use. It can be added directly into the pool and as close as possible to the stained area. This should be followed by **Bioguard Quick Clear** that is added directly into the skimmer. This product allows the filter to remove the "bound" metals from the water. Watch the pressure gauge on the filter. If it goes into the red, backwash the filter.

Stubborn stains may need the direct application of a multi-stain remover – please ask us for advice in store. Some stains may be permanent if they have been left for a period of time.

White Scale Build-Up On The Pool Surface Or Equipment

Questions To Ask Yourself:

Have the calcium levels and pH of the pool water been checked?

Is the pool water sourced from a bore or some other groundwater? Some town water supplies in our geographical areas (Martinborough for example) are excessively “hard”.

Recommendations:

- High calcium levels or high pH (alkalinity) can cause this problem. **Bioguard Scale Inhibitor** is designed to prevent scale build up and may remove existing scale. This product is added to the deep end of the pool with the pump running for 1-2 days. Maintenance treatment is a lower dose once a month. In the case of excessively high calcium the pool may have to be partly emptied and topped up with ‘Soft’ water. This could be rainwater or trucked-in water.
- **NB** Make sure you are **NOT using calcium hypochlorite** as your chlorine sanitiser. Although it is cheap (we have never sold it), this product can raise calcium levels excessively, as well as being a potentially explosive and dangerous product to use.

Unable To Maintain Chlorine Levels At 1-3 ppm (Chlorine Demand)

Questions To Ask Yourself:

- Is the chlorine in your pool free and available or combined? We test for this in-store.
- Have you got adequate levels of **Stabiliser** in the water? We can test for this too. Stabiliser stops the chlorine in OUTDOOR pools being burnt off by the effects of UV radiation.
- Have you got sufficient chlorine being generated (if using a salt water generator)...is there sufficient salt? Is your generator actually working? Do the probes need cleaning?
- If using tablets or manually added chlorine, has sufficient been added depending on bather load or other bioburden such as leaves, grass or algae?
- Is the pump being run for sufficient time enabling a good circulation of chlorine?
- Is the filter being backwashed and rinsed at least once a week (or cartridge filter cleaned once a month)?
- Is the pH within normal limits? A high pH results in chlorine not working well. We test this in-store.
- Has the pool been shocked with **Bioguard Burn Out Extreme**? This may have to be repeated.
- Are there phosphates in the water? These are a food source for algae and need to be removed. We test for phosphates in store

As a Wright Pools & Spas customer, please feel free to drop into any of our shops with a water sample of at least 500 mls and get a complementary water test and advice from our trained staff. We do need to know how many litres your pool is and a few other details such as the type of pool, what chemicals (take photos) you are using and the componentry on your pool.

403 High Street, Lower Hutt • T: 04 570 0547 • E: info@poolsandspas.co.nz
18 Kapiti Road, Paraparaumu • T: 04 298 6984 • E: kapiti@poolsandspas.co.nz
156 High Street North, Carterton • T: 06 379 6645 • E: wairarapa@poolsandspas.co.nz