



# PRESTIGE POOLS & SPAS



## General Pool Care Information

### A Pool Owners Guide for Achieving Excellence in Pool Maintenance

Success in the care and management of a pool is best demonstrated by how well water chemistry and proper maintenance is understood. There are no “magic bullets.” The best way to ensure maximum enjoyment with minimum expenses all starts with a good education.

One of the most important aspects of pool care is water chemistry. For a complete breakdown and explanation of chemicals, please refer to Prestige Pools & Spas *UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHEMICALS* brochure. In the meantime, here are some important tips in handling pool chemicals and general water chemistry information...

### Handling Pool Chemicals

- Always read and familiarize yourself with label directions prior to using the product.
- Always use the correct dosage as instructed. Sometimes “less is more.”
- It is a good idea to carefully dissolve chemicals in a bucket of water prior to adding to the pool. When in doubt, add to the deep end in front of a return jet.
- Never add chemicals through the skimmer except for Stabilizer (Cyanuric Acid).
  - Stabilizer should be added through the skimmer to better dissolve/distribute the chemical and must be added slowly. Adding too much too quickly will cause the product to coagulate and possibly ruin your plumbing and filter equipment.
- Never mix one chemical with another prior to adding to the water
- When mixing a chemical in a 5 gallon bucket, always add the chemical to the water; never the water to the chemical.
- When adjusting chemistry levels such as pH and Alkalinity please leave ample time between adjustments. Some cases require up to 24 hours of circulation before making the next adjustment.
- Store chemicals in a cool, dry location away from direct sunlight, with proper ventilation. Do not store liquids above dry chemicals. Do not store pool chemicals near household, lawn and garden equipment and/or supplies.
- IN CASE OF EMERGENCY: Flush eyes or skin immediately for 15 minutes and seek medical attention. Inhalation: Seek fresh air immediately and seek medical attention. Ingestion: Seek Poison Control Center immediately and DO NOT induce vomiting unless instructed by a medical professional.



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## Daily and weekly Maintenance

- Vacuum the pool to remove accumulated debris.
- Check the pressure gauge on Sand and D.E. filter systems to determine if backwashing is required. Always backwash according to the manufacturer's specifications.
- Sand Renu/Cartridge Renu should be added as necessary to improve filter performance. Majestic Blue can be added weekly to improve the overall clarity of the pool water.
- Pool sand should be changed every 3-5 years, with Zeobrite being changed every 6-8 years. Changing the sand in the Spring prior to pool operation is the easiest time to make the switch.
- Add water as needed. For best results have all skimmers and main drains open, with all return jets pointed downward to keep the water surface as calm as possible (the less the total surface area, the faster the surface can be skimmed).
- Brushing pool surfaces will help reduce the opportunity for algae blooms.
- Check skimmer and strainer housing baskets often to remove any debris that can obstruct water flow and reduce the effectiveness of chlorine/salt sanitizers.

## When You Need An Immediate Answer

- You haven't closed your pool and freezing temps arrive: Leave your pump running with all the valves open! It isn't necessary to keep your heater on.
- My safety cover is ruined/needs replacing: DO NOT throw out the old one. We may need it as a template to reproduce a new safety cover.
- Your pool water level is below the skimmer/your pool has leaked empty, and your motors are running dry: Turn off your filter system immediately. Refill pool to the best of your ability and call our Service Department if your pool still loses water.
- Your pool light is on when your pool water doesn't cover the lens: Turn off light immediately and do not turn back on until water completely covers the lens.
- There is no flow of pool water: Check for clogged baskets, if your pump has prime, or backwash. If you backwash, be sure to rinse for approx. 30 seconds every time for maximum filter efficiency. When in doubt- Turn off your motor and call us.



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## Other FAQs and Helpful Tidbits

- Make sure that all pool equipment (pool brushes, vacuum equipment, leaf skimmers, etc) are returned to storage after every use for safe keeping.
- If you have a solar cover trim the edges to fit the contours of your pool. It is also helpful to cut the solar covers into smaller segments for easier storage and for safer conditions if someone was to fall in the pool while the solar cover is in use.
- Solar covers, though effective, cannot be left on at all times. If not properly ventilated the chlorine levels in a pool can bleach out your liner prematurely, or build to levels dangerous to swim in.
- Safety covers put a lot of friction on your pool coping. Keep organic debris, children and pets off cover to avoid unnecessary wear and tear. Should your aluminum coping need repainting, use Rustoleum White.
- Check the salt levels with independent testing periodically. For best results- add salt to the steps area, as the water tends to be warmer and the oscillation from the return jets will dissolve the salt faster.
- Remove your ladder(s) and handrail(s) for periodic cleaning and polishing. Clean out the ladder cups with a brush and lime-removing product. Rinse immediately to protect your concrete.
- During heavy wind/rainstorms make sure all patio furniture and miscellaneous items are secured. Broken glass and/or patio furniture in the pool tends to puncture liners.
- Purchase a plastic storage container capable of holding your safety rope, skimmer basket(s), strainer basket, plugs, lids and other miscellaneous items to keep your opening and closing supplies safe and accounted for.
- Get an early start on pool opening and pool closing reservations. There are limited slots available per day and premium availability goes fast.
- Keep track of chemicals used per year. Buying in bulk saves time and money. If you reside farther than you'd prefer to drive to visit our showroom, we can deliver chemicals to your house free of charge with any chemical purchase over \$100.00.
- Pools are a source of fun and enjoyment. Do not obsess or stress. Just have a good education and patience and you'll do fine.



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