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Maintenance of your pool/spa and the balance of the chemicals are critical to the longevity of the pool/spa, its equipment and to your health

1. Daily Pool Maintenance:

- ✓ Water must be maintained at midway of tile.
- ✓ Add water if needed through the skimmer to prevent stains
- ✓ Clean out the skimmer baskets.
- ✓ Clean strainer baskets in filter pump as needed.
- ✓ Test water daily.
- ✓ Add chemicals as needed.

2. Testing Pool Water:

- ✓ Maintain PH between 7.4 -7.8.
- ✓ If PH reads above 7.8, lower the PH with Muratic Acid or PH Down (Dry Acid).
- ✓ If PH is reading below 7.4, raise PH with PH UP or Soda Ash.
- ✓ Maintain chlorine level between 2.0-3.0 at all times. Check chlorine level after heavy rains, a lot of swimmers, and after pool parties.
- ✓ Superchlorinate pool or shock treat pool at least every 2 weeks or more often if the pool is heavy use. Shock pool with 1 lb. of granular chlorine per 10,000 gallons of water, or 1 gallon of liquid chlorine (12.5%) per 10,000 gallons. A non-chlorine shock such as Oxybrite or Pro Guard may also be used to regenerate the chloramines that are in the pool.
- ✓ Maintain cyanuric acid between 40-90 PPM. To get to this range, add a stabilizer to the pool. Be careful not to add too much. The only way to lower the cyanuric acid is to drain some water out, and add fresh water. Usually only new pools with fresh water have to add stabilizer. Unless your pool has gotten off balance. Check C.A before adding any type of stabilizer to your pool.
Note: Granular chlorine, Silk Sticks, and Silk Tablets have stabilizer in them.
- ✓ Maintain total Alkalinity between 80-120 PPM. To raise the Total Alkalinity, add Balancer to the pool. To lower alkalinity, add acid. Be cautious not to add too much as it will bring down the pH also.
- ✓ Maintain Calcium Hardness above 200 PPM. Test for Calcium Hardness after the pool has been stabilized.
- ✓ Add Algicide each week to prevent algae from growing.
- ✓ Add Staintrine weekly or when adding water to prevent stains from forming and to help protect the equipment.

NOTE: Clean cartridges with pressure washer or soak them in an acid base solution with enzyme cleaner.

3. Swimming Pool Water Control

Although it may be difficult to tell just by looking, several factors can affect your pool water. Improper water management may result in the following:

- Algae
- Bacteria

- Corrosion or metal fixtures & equipment
- Scale deposits and build-up
- Etching of plaster
- Stains

a) Testing Water

Testing your pool water is a very important factor to your pool water. Swimming pools are subject to many factors, which can influence the quality of your pool water. Check your pool water in the early morning or late evening to establish a consistent pattern.

b) Why is chlorine added to the pool?

Chlorine is a sanitizing agent which prevents the growth of algae and bacteria. Chlorine wants to consume any organic matter that enters the pool.

c) Super Chlorination or Shock Treatment

This is the addition of 3-5 times the normal dosage of chlorine. Shock the pool after heavy rains, many swimmers in the pool, pool parties, and excessive heat.

d) P.H.

This is a system of measuring the acidity or alkalinity of the pool water. If the PH is too low, this may cause corrosion, staining, cloudy water, eye irritation, and the wasting of chlorine when adding it to the pool. If the PH is too high, this may cause, scale, inactivates, C2, eye irritation, itchy skin, cloudy water, and staining. Adjust as necessary.

e) Total Alkalinity

This is a measurement of the alkaline materials dissolved in the water, which serve as buffering agents. Buffering is needed to prevent changes in the PH of the pool water.

f) Calcium Hardness

This is the portion of the total hardness due to soluble calcium salts. Testing for hardness will tell you whether your water has corrosive or scale forming tendencies.

g) Cyanuric Acid

This is an organic chemical that is needed in the pool to prevent the loss of chlorine due to sunlight. Cyanuric acid is also known as a stabilizer, conditioner, isocyanuric acid, or s-triazinetriol. When using a stabilizer, extend the life of your chlorine 3 ½ times longer.

4. Knowledge About Algae

Algae are microscopic plants which can grow in a pool if the free chlorine reading had been below the required amount of 2.0. They give the pool a green, murky appearance or can appear in isolated spots on the pool walls and bottom, They also make the walls and steps very slippery.

Note: Algae love to eat up chlorine, be sure to keep the free chlorine and total chlorine levels around 2.0.

- ❖ **Green Algae** free floating form which gives a green appearance to the pool. Removal can be accomplished by super chlorination.

- ❖ **Black Algae** appears as black spots on the pool walls and the bottom and can also grow in the light fixture(s). Algae are very strong and adhere to the pool surface. It must be brushed down. Use a strong algicide, Spot Kill or Super Spot Kill to remove the algae.
- ❖ **Brown Algae** appear as brown spots on the pool walls or bottom. Brush area then super chlorinate the pool and add 1 quart of Algaecide.
- ❖ **Mustard Algae** is an unusual resistant stain. The use of MSA, a copper base algaecide or algaecide to the pool is recommended. Treat per the directions on the bottle.
- ❖ **Pink Slime or Red Algae** starts as individual bacterial cells that eventually attach themselves to the pool surfaces such as ladders, underneath the coping, in the skimmer boxes, toys, bathing suits, underneath the cover, in the light(s) in the cover box, and decking. Once they attach, the cells multiply into a visible colony which creates the pink or reddish color.
Note: Once pink slime or red algae occurs, it will not completely go away. It is a very tricky algae or bacteria as it is known and it will disappear and re-appear. Therefore it is critical to spray as much as possible to help it from reappearing. A stingy stick of chlorine or 3" puck may be used to rub in the areas where you can get to. Remember to take out the light and spray with chlorine also. More than one application may be required.

Removing Algae

- ✓ Wash all clothing in Clorox detergent. Wash all toys in chlorine solution. To keep the algae from recurring, get a spray bottle and fill with liquid chlorine and spray directly on the spots or growth.

