

# Relax

## ABOVE GROUND POOL CARE GUIDE



**A COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE GUIDE FOR  
ABOVE GROUND SWIMMING POOLS**

TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH POOL OPERATION MANUAL

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# Basic Pool Care

Owning a swimming pool is the perfect way to relax. Your pool is a major asset, if maintained correctly it will bring many hours of pleasure for the whole family. This guide outlines the basic requisites for keeping your Above Ground Pool in pristine condition.

Above Ground Swimming Pools are available in a multitude of different shapes, sizes and designs; consequently it is not possible to offer advice for a specific make of pool. ABOVE GROUND POOL CARE MADE SIMPLE is intended as an unbiased, general guide for Above Ground Swimming Pools. For more specific advice on your particular pool, read the Instruction Manual supplied with your pool.





# The Mechanics of Your Pool

Equipment specifications vary widely from one pool to another; however, the vast majority of Above Ground Pools will share the same basic mechanics:

Pool water is drawn from your swimming pool via an outlet, usually a surface skimmer, by your pool circulation pump. The circulating water is then pumped through the filter (either a Cartridge Filter or Sand Filter). Suspended particles of debris will be trapped during this process. If your pool incorporates a heating system, the filtered water is then passed through a heater before being returned to the pool via a return inlet.

To enable your filtration system to operate efficiently it is essential that you carry out the following tasks on a regular basis:

1. Regularly remove any debris that has collected in your pools skimmer basket. The vast majority of pollution in pool water is in the top few inches of pool water. To combat this, your surface skimmer needs to work efficiently.

2. Your pool circulation pump may also incorporate a basket. Your filtration system will not work effectively if the pump strainer basket becomes blocked. As with the skimmer basket, it needs to be cleaned regularly. Before removing the pump strainer basket, switch off the pump motor before using the two valves to isolate the water flow on both sides of the pump. If your pool filter incorporates a Multi Port valve, you should put it in to the "Closed" position, close the valve on the suction side of the pump before removing the lid of the pump strainer basket. Remove, clean and replace the strainer basket, fully tighten the pump lid and switch the Multiport valve back into the filter position and re-open the isolator valves before switching on the pump motor. Read your pool installation manual before starting up the pump; some pumps need to be primed by filling the pump strainer with water before they can be started.



Your pool filter has been designed as a highly efficient dirt collector; it is essential that you remove the dirt that accumulates. On Above Ground Pools that are equipped with Sand Filtration a process known as "Backwashing" is used to clean the Filter. Backwashing involves reversing the flow of water through the filter sand for 1 - 2 minutes. This process removes dirt trapped in the filter sand, the dirty water is pumped to waste.

It is not possible to clean Cartridge Filters by backwashing. Cartridge Filters need to be physically removed before they can be cleaned. (refer to your pool installation/operation manual)

## HOW LONG SHOULD I OPERATE MY CIRCULATION SYSTEM FOR?

Different pool manufacturers specify different run times for filter systems. The general consensus from pool professionals is that to ensure high water quality you should run your pool filter system for at least 8 hours a day. You should increase this during peak summer months to at least 12 hours per day. If your pool is heated you will possibly need to operate the circulation system for longer periods to allow the heater to achieve the desired pool temperature. If your pool becomes green or cloudy you will need to filter the water continually and backwash daily until the problem has been remedied. Shortening your filtration cycle will usually prove to be a false economy.



Sand Filter/Pump Package  
complete with Multiport Valve

# Filtration

A key component on any swimming pool circulation system is a Time Clock. When setting your Time Clock it is worthwhile splitting the daily run time into at least two segments; e.g. If you decide to operate the circulation system for 10 hours per day you should split the 10 hours into 5 hours in the morning and 5 hours in the evening. You should avoid running the filter when the pool is being used.

As with all electrical equipment on your pool, the Timer should be linked to a 30mA Earth Leakage Circuit Protector Device. (E.L.C.P.)

## CARTRIDGE FILTERS

Cartridge Filters, as opposed to Sand Filters, will sometimes be supplied on Above Ground Pools. Cartridge Filters have the advantages of being smaller, and cheaper than Sand Filters. However, Cartridge Filtration is not as efficient as Sand Filtration; if your pool is fitted with a Cartridge Filter and you repeatedly experience water quality problems you should consider upgrading to a Sand Filter.



# Filtration

If your pool experiences clarity problems you should use a Clarifier to enhance the performance of your Pool Filter. Very small particles of dirt suspended in your pool water will be too small to be caught by your Pool Filter; this often results in cloudy pool water. Liquid pool Clarifiers work by attracting the small particles of dirt suspended in your pool water. As the smaller particles are clumped together into larger particles your pool filter will be able to trap them. A multitude of Pool Water Clarifiers are available from your Pool Dealer. Choose your Pool Clarifier carefully; in general, the tablet, granular and gel type Clarifiers available from your Pool Dealer are not compatible with Cartridge type filtration. The liquid clarifiers available from your Pool Dealer are usually the most effective on pools fitted with Cartridge Filtration.

It is essential that the Cartridge Elements are kept clean at all times. They should be removed, hosed down and soaked in a solution of Cartridge Cleaner. Your local Pool Dealer will be able to supply you with a product specifically formulated for cleaning cartridges. Wear rubber gloves when handling these products, they are highly concentrated. Cartridges should be soaked in a bucket overnight and thoroughly rinsed before being reused. Don't be tempted to use a household-cleaning product or put them in your dishwasher; this will do more harm than good. You should buy a spare Cartridge Element, this will prevent your filtration system being out of service when your original Element is being cleaned. Cartridge Elements should be replaced at the beginning of each season.

## USEFUL TIP

To improve the quality of your pool water, run the filtration for 24 hours per day during the busy season. The longer the filter is left running, the better the water quality.

The increased cost of running your Pool Circulation Pump for 24 hours per day will be more than offset by the savings made in water treatment products.

# Sand Filtration

Larger Above Ground Pools will incorporate a Sand Filter, rather than a Cartridge Filter. Sand filtration is an effective means of physically removing particles from your pool water. Your sand filter will incorporate a Multiport valve. Your Multiport valve controls the various functions of your filtration system; it is essential to understand it's various settings. A Multiport will typically incorporate the following settings:

## **FILTER**

You should consider *filter* to be the normal setting for your Multiport Valve. Whilst the Multiport is set in this position, Pool Water is drawn through the pump, passed into the top of your filter and pushed through the filter media, trapping suspended matter. At the bottom of your sand filter is a set of "laterals"; these act as an underdrain system and will allow your pool water, but not the sand to return to the pool.

## **BACKWASH**

Sand Filters are designed to accumulate dirt. It is important that they are cleaned regularly; this process, commonly known as *backwashing*, should typically be carried out every week. *Backwashing* involves reversing the flow of water through the filter for several minutes, or until the site glass shows clean water. During this process the water is automatically discharged to waste, taking the accumulated dirt with it.

Before carrying out a *backwash* ensure that the water level in your pool is at least 50mm above the skimmer centreline. Never allow the pool water level to drop more than half way down the skimmer during normal operation.

## **RINSE**

This setting should be used immediately after backwashing, but only for 10 – 20 seconds. Your pool water follows the same path as when on FILTER, except the water exits to waste rather than returning to your pool.



# Sand Filtration

## RECIRCULATE

This setting should be used if your filter is temporarily out of action. Pool water will be circulated, bypassing the filter tank. RECIRCULATE is useful for retaining heated water even if your filter is not being utilised.

## WASTE

Takes water from your pool, bypasses the filter and runs to waste. By using this setting when vacuuming a heavily contaminated pool you will prevent your filter from becoming clogged.

## CLOSED

Must only be used when the pump is shut off. Used to isolate the circulation system during maintenance.

### USEFUL TIPS

The sand in your filter will lose its sharpness over a period of time and become less effective. It is a good idea to change filter sand every 3 years or so. It is essential that the replacement sand is swimming pool grade.

Over a period of time the sand in your filter may become coated with oils and other contaminants. Contaminated filter sand is an ideal environment for bacteria. To minimise filter contamination you need to clean the sand at least once per year using a proprietary cleaner. Filter Cleaners are highly concentrated; wear gloves when handling these products.

Use a Clarifier to increase the efficiency of your filter. See page 6 for more information.

# Cleaning Your Pool

Your pool will need to be vacuumed and brushed at least once per week, twice per week during warm spells. Neglecting to clean your pool, even if it looks clean can result in water quality problems; remember, "Prevention is far less costly than cure".

## BRUSHING YOUR POOL

Don't wait until the surfaces feel slippery before carrying out this task; brush the pool surfaces even if they look clean. Algae suspended in your pool water is fairly easy to destroy, this is not the case if algae has a surface to cling to. Brushing the floor and walls of your pool will prevent algae and bio-film from gaining a foothold in your pool. Use a Nylon Pool Brush, brushes with stainless steel bristles will damage your pool Liner. Certain areas of your pool will need particular attention; pool water "dead spots" (areas in the pool that have poor water movement) and pool surfaces facing the sun are particularly prone to algae.



## VACUUMING YOUR POOL

There is a wide selection of Vacuum systems for swimming pools. The design of your pool will determine which system is best for your particular pool. If your pool is fitted with a Cartridge Filter you will probably have little alternative to using the "Venturi" type Cleaner; these can be purchased for less than £50. If your pool is fitted with a Sand Filter and a relatively powerful main circulation, you should consider a Manual Suction System as the bare minimum system for your pool. Again the equipment required is relatively inexpensive, certainly less than £100. Automatic Suction Cleaners are also an option for Above Ground Pools fitted with sand filters. As a general rule of thumb, the more money you spend on a Pool Cleaner, the less time you will need to spend keeping your pool clean. The 3 most popular types of Pool Vacuums for Above Ground Pools are listed on the following three pages.



# Cleaning Your Pool

## Garden Hose Vacuums (“Venturi Vacs”)

Commonly used on pools fitted with Cartridge Filtration. You should consider this to be the bare minimum equipment required for vacuuming your pool. This type of Pool Cleaner consists of a Vacuum Head attached to a Garden Hose Pipe and a Telescopic Pole. Water from the hosepipe is fed into the Vacuum Head, creating a Venturi. The water is forced upwards, taking any dirt, leaves etc. at the bottom of the pool with it. The water escapes through a fine-mesh bag, leaving any debris trapped in the bag. The bag is emptied when vacuuming is finished.



### Advantages

The cheapest of the 3 systems.

### Disadvantages

Will not filter out smaller particles.

Adds cold water to your pool.

Can be time consuming.

Not recommended for large Above Ground Pools.

# Cleaning Your Pool

## Manual Suction System

Consider this to be the bare minimum system if your pool is fitted with sand filtration.

Consisting of a Pool Vac Head attached to a Vacuum Hose and a Telescopic Pole. The Vacuum Hose is plugged into the pools recirculation system; debris is sucked up into the Vacuum Hose and trapped in the pool filter system.



**Advantages** Economical, approximately £100 equipment outlay

**Disadvantages** Time consuming; alternative Vacuum systems can be carried out when pool is unattended.  
Will only work if your pool circulation pump is suitably sized.

## Automatic Suction Cleaners

There are numerous brands of automatic suction cleaners available. Kreepy Krauly is probably the best known of these units. The Cleaner is linked to your pool filtration via a flexible hose. The Cleaner hose is plugged into either a dedicated vacuum point or into the skimmer. Water is sucked through the vacuum hose as the Cleaner moves around the pool in a random fashion.

**Advantages** Few moving parts; therefore little or no servicing. Can be left unattended, thus saving time on pool maintenance.

**Disadvantages** More costly than a conventional manual Vacuum. May not work efficiently on pools with small circulation pumps.

Whatever system you opt for, your pool will need to be vacuumed at least once per week during the swimming season.





# Heating Your Pool

Every year, thousands of people purchase an Above Ground Pool only to find that, even in the height of the Summer, the water is too cold to enjoy. The dilemma facing Above Ground Pool owners is which is the most cost-effective means of heating a pool. Direct **electrical heating** is most popular for these reasons:

- Very low initial purchase price in comparison to other forms of heating.
- Easy to install and plumb. No need for vents and chimneys.
- Takes advantage of "Off peak" heating tariffs to minimise running costs.
- Smaller than alternative heating, therefore easy to site near your pool.

Installing Heating on your pool will dramatically increase the enjoyment you gain from your pool. Not only will you benefit from a comfortable water temperature during peak season, you will substantially increase the length of your swimming season. You will need to run your pool circulation continuously when opening your pool in Spring. Once you have achieved the desired temperature you should revert back to operating the pool circulation via a time clock. The length of time that you will need to run your circulating pump to maintain your desired water temperature is dependent upon many factors (air temperature, wind chill factor, heater output etc.). Pool circulation needs to be run for longer periods when the weather is cold. Ensure that your Above Ground Pool has its Solar Cover fitted whenever the pool is not in use. This will ensure that your pool water will be maintained at a comfortable temperature without the heater having to work too hard.



If adding an Electric Heater to a pool with a Salt Chlorinator, ensure that it has a body made from Titanium to resist the more corrosive water.

Electric Heaters should only be installed and serviced by qualified professionals

## USEFUL TIP

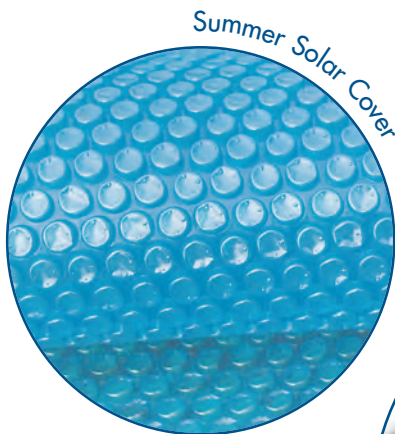
Keep a Floating Thermometer in your pool during the season. Find the temperature that you consider to be the most comfortable and set the thermostat on your heater accordingly.

# Pool Covers

Your pool needs to be covered when not in use. During the season you will need to use a Solar Cover. If you leave your pool erected during the winter months you will need to remove, clean and store your Solar Cover and fit a Winter Debris Cover.

Pool Solar Covers are designed as both heat retention and "solar collector" covers. You should consider a Solar Cover as an essential component of your Swimming Pool.

The cost of heating a pool is greatly reduced when a Solar Cover is used regularly. Unheated pools fitted with a Solar Cover will benefit with warmer water compared to a pool that is left uncovered.



# Pool Water Chemistry

Maintaining your pool water in a safe, balanced state can be a daunting prospect for new pool owners; the aim of this section is to explain in simple terms the few basic tasks that are essential for all pool owners. By closely following the guidelines in this publication your pool water will remain in pristine condition. There are no shortcuts. By carrying out a few simple tasks regularly you will ensure high quality swimming pool water. Basic pool water quality can be broken down into two basic categories:

## Water Sanitation

Pool water needs to be sanitised to ensure bather safety. Bacteria will rapidly multiply in pool water that remains unsanitised. Chlorine is highly effective at destroying potentially harmful germs; it is also a very effective product for destroying algae. It is, by far, the most popular form of sanitiser for pool water.

## \*Water Balance

pH being the most important factor for Above Ground Pools. pH is the measurement scale for the acidity and alkalinity of your pool water. Maintaining your pool within the ideal pH range of between 7.2 and 7.6 will ensure that your pool water is neither corrosive nor scale forming. Running your pool water outside the pH range of 7.2 and 7.6 will also result in skin and eye discomfort. It will also result in equipment failure.

## Speciality Products

We recommend the use of Relax Algicide to assist the Chlorine in keeping your pool water clear from Algae. Use of Relax Liquid Clarifier will help to keep your water sparkling clear.

By regularly paying attention to the above, you are unlikely to encounter water quality problems.

\*This guide restricts Water Balance to pH control. More detailed Water Balance guidelines relating to Calcium Hardness, Total Alkalinity and Cyanuric Acid is available in Plastica's comprehensive publication: *Pool Care Made Simple*.

# Pool Water Chemistry

## FIND OUT THE VOLUME OF WATER IN YOUR POOL.

You will need to know how much water your pool holds before you can determine the quantity of Water Treatment products your pool needs. Find out the water volume in litres rather than gallons; it's easier to calculate the quantity of product required in metric rather than imperial. Your pool supplier should be able to supply you with this information, if not you can use the following guide.

### USEFUL TIP

If you know your pool water volume in Gallons, multiply the amount of gallons by 4.5 to give you an estimate of the volume in litres. E.g. 1,000 gallons is approximately 4,500 litres. 1000 litres is the metric equivalent of 220 gallons.

## POOL WATER VOLUME ESTIMATES

Consult the Pool Operation Manual supplied with your Above Ground Pool to determine the amount of water your pool holds. Several examples of the most popular pools are listed below

### INFLATABLE ROUND POOLS

Pool Diameter	Depth	Estimated Pool Volume
8 feet	30 inches	2,150 litres
10 feet	30 inches	3,500 litres
12 feet	30 inches	5,100 litres
15 feet	42 inches	9,500 litres

### ROUND METAL FRAME POOLS

Pool Diameter	Depth	Estimated Pool Volume
15 feet	42 inches	14,000 litres
18 feet	48 inches	24,000 litres
24 feet	48 inches	42,000 litres



# Pool Water Chemistry

## METAL WALL SPLASHER POOLS

Pool Diameter	Depth	Estimated Pool Volume
12 feet	36 inches	10,000 litres
15 feet	36 inches	15,000 litres

## OCTAGONAL WOODEN POOLS

Pool Diameter	Depth	Estimated Pool Volume
4 metres	1.17 metres	12,000 litres
5 metres	1.31 metres	21,000 litres
6 metres	1.31 metres	30,000 litres

## STRETCHED OCTAGONAL WOODEN POOLS

Pool Dimensions	Depth	Estimated Pool Volume
4 metres x 5.9 metres	1.31 metres	20,000 litres
4 metres x 6.9 metres	1.31 metres	24,000 litres

The Estimated Pool Volumes listed above are based on manufacturers figures, check your Above Ground Pool Operation Manual for the water capacity of your particular pool. Once you have determined how many litres of water your pool holds, write it down in the space provided on page 18 of this book. (See DOSAGE RATES FOR YOUR POOL). You will need to refer back to this when adding products to your pool water.



# Pool Water Chemistry

## WHICH SANITISER SHOULD I USE FOR MY POOL?

Your pool water may look crystal clear, but that does not mean that it is healthy. Your pool is constantly being polluted by the environment; dirt, leaves, pollen etc are introduced daily. Swimmers will also introduce pollution to your pool water, your filter will remove much of this debris, but you will need to sanitise your pool water to keep it clean. If you take a look around a Pool Shop, you will see up to 5 or 6 different types of sanitiser for your pool, some are chlorine based, others are non-chlorine. Each of the systems available has its good points, but they all have their drawbacks. For most Above Ground Pools the most suitable sanitiser is Relax Stabilised Chlorine Granules.

Stabilised chlorine granules (Dichlor) have the advantage of being fast dissolving and will not cloud your pool water when added. They are fairly neutral in pH and contain a stabiliser to minimise the amount of chlorine lost to sunlight. Being readily soluble they offer the advantage of allowing you to instantly increase the chlorine residual of your pool water.

For more information regarding the alternatives to Relax Stabilised Chlorine Granules contact your local Pool Dealer. You can run a pool on salt (Sodium Chloride) if you have a Chlorine generator fitted. Chemical dosing is the same as for a normal Chlorine run pool, just the Chlorine is produced by breaking down salt dissolved in the water.

In addition to keeping your pool sanitised at all times, you should treat your pool with a specialised Shock treatment on a weekly basis. Energize contains a blend of oxidisers and a clarifier to revitalise your water. Use Energize weekly and more frequently if your pool has been heavily used.

## HOW MUCH PRODUCT DOES YOUR POOL WATER REQUIRE?

It is not possible to determine how much Water Treatment Product your pool needs without first knowing the following information:

The volume of your pool water (Preferably in litres) Write this information down on the space provided on page 18 of this guide.

Your Test Kit Results You need to know the condition of your pool water before you can determine how much of a Water Treatment Product is required to adjust pool water to the optimum level.

# Pool Water Chemistry

## RECOMMENDED LEVELS FOR YOUR POOL

	MINIMUM	OPTIMUM	MAXIMUM
FREE CHLORINE	2ppm	3ppm	4ppm
pH	7.2	7.4	7.6

## DOSAGE RATES FOR YOUR POOL

ALL DOSAGE RATES ARE PER 1,000 LITRES OF POOL WATER  
MY POOL CONTAINS.....LITRES OF WATER

TO ADJUST POOL WATER	PRODUCT TO BE ADDED	QUANTITY: GRAMS PER 1000 litres
INCREASE FREE CHLORINE BY 4ppm (parts per million)	Stabilised Chlorine Granules	8g
REDUCE pH to 7.4	pH Minus (Dry Acid)	10g per day until pH has been lowered to 7.4
INCREASE pH to 7.4	pH Plus (Soda Ash)	10g per day until pH has been increased to 7.4
MAINTAIN ALGICIDE LEVEL	Concentrated Blue Algicide	25ml per 1000 litres initial dose, 2ml per 1000 litres every 2 weeks
REVITALISE POOL WATER	Energize	1 sachet per 25,000 litres per week

As an example let us assume that your pool contains 10,000 litres (2,200gal) of water, and that your pool water test gives the following readings: Free Chlorine = 0ppm, pH = 7.7

## TO INCREASE THE CHLORINE LEVEL

To increase the chlorine residual of your pool water to the maximum recommended level of 4 parts per million you will need to add 8g of Relax Stabilised Chlorine Granules per 1000 litres. A heaped teaspoon holds approx 7g of Stabilised Chlorine Granules.

If your pool holds 10,000 litres of pool water this will equate to 80g.

# Pool Water Chemistry

## TO REDUCE THE pH OF POOL WATER

To reduce the pH of your pool water you will need to add Relax pH Minus at a rate of 10g per 1000 litres of pool water. Consequently if your pool holds 10,000 litres of water you will need to add 100g of Relax pH Minus per day until your Test Kit results indicates that the pH of your pool water is 7.4. A heaped teaspoon holds approx 9g of pH Minus.

## MAINTAINING THE CORRECT LEVEL OF ALGICIDE

For a 10,000 litre pool you will need to add 100ml of Relax Concentrated Blue Algicide initially, then 20ml every 2 weeks. Take care not to over-dose this product; use the calibration marks on the side of the bottle to ensure that you dose the correct amount.

Caution      **Never mix any swimming pool water treatment products together.** Each product needs to be added to the pool water separately. Always add granules to water, never add water to granules.

## SALT POOLS

These pools work by having an electrolytic cell break down salt (Sodium Chloride) dissolved in the water, to produce Chlorine that acts as the sanitiser. You need to run the normal chlorine and pH tests and dose all the products required except for the Chlorine, which is produced in the water.

You will need a salt test kit in addition, to monitor the salt concentration in your pool.

## AFTER ADDING WATER TREATMENT PRODUCTS

### HOW LONG DO I NEED TO WAIT BEFORE I CAN USE THE POOL?

Pool professionals usually advise that swimming be suspended for a 30-minute period after treating your pool. Never add Water Treatment products while the pool circulation pump is turned off; you will need to operate the circulation pump for a full 30-minutes after treatment. Under no circumstances add any water treatment products while people are in the pool.



# Testing Your Pool Water

If you are “Shock Treating” (see page 26) your pool with chlorine you should wait until the chlorine residual drops to below 5ppm before allowing the pool to be used. After shock treating your pool water leave your Pool Cover off until the Chlorine residual has reduced to 4ppm (parts per million).

To ensure that your pool water is a clean and safe environment you will need to spend a short time testing the water chemistry and, if required, adding the appropriate water treatment products. Even if your pool water is crystal clear, you still need to carry out a couple of simple tests to ensure that it is safe to swim in.

There are several types of Testers available to you.

**Test Strips** (Litmus paper) are the simplest and quickest means of testing your pool water for Chlorine & pH. Salt test strips are available as well.

**Liquid Reagent** Kits are also available, care needs to be taken when adding the liquid solution to ensure that the correct quantity of reagent is added.

**Test Tablet** Kits are probably the most accurate means of testing your pool water; they offer simple, accurate analysis at an affordable price.

You should check your pool water daily for both sanitiser and pH. Most Above Ground Pool owners restrict the tests that they carry out to chlorine and pH. The more conscientious pool owner will also test the Total Alkalinity of the pool water on a weekly basis. Calcium Hardness and Cyanuric Acid (Chlorine Stabiliser) should also be tested for on a monthly basis. You will need to make the appropriate chemical adjustments if your test indicates that your pool water is outside the parameters outlined in this guide.

Your local pool shop will be able to offer this testing service if you do not have the appropriate test kit. They will require a 1 litre pool water sample. It is a good idea to keep record of all your test results, photocopy the back cover of this book and use it as a log-book.

# Winterising Your Pool



*Metal Frame Pool Fitted with Winter Debris Cover*

If your Above Ground Pool is the inflatable type, you will probably be best to empty the water and store the pool for the winter months.

Most rigid wall pools are best left in place over the winter, don't be tempted to dump the pool water and leave the pool empty over the winter, this will damage the Liner and potentially damage the structure of your pool.

Read the installation manual supplied with your pool to determine the correct winterising procedure for your pool. Freezing temperatures will damage your pool equipment if you fail to winterise your pool correctly.

Your pool pump, filter, heater and pipework, if left full of water, will probably suffer irreparable frost damage. Replacements will prove expensive. Pool professionals usually carry out the following procedure when shutting down pools:

# Winterising Your Pool

1. Vacuum your pool thoroughly.
2. Lower the pool water level to approximately 1 foot below the skimmer.
3. Adjust pH if necessary; the ideal pH for a pool about to be winterised is between 7.4 and 7.6
4. Superchlorinate pool water to approximately 10ppm (you will need to add Stabilised Chlorine Granules at a rate of 20g per 1000 litres of pool water).
5. Add a dedicated Winterising product to your pool water. (e.g Cleaner Winter). These products have been formulated to prevent algae from thriving over the winter months and will help keep the water clean until you open up your pool in the spring.
6. Disconnect electrical supply to pump and heater. Remove the fuse. If possible, remove the circulation pump and store in a place that is unlikely to experience sub zero temperatures.
7. Drain pool filter, heater and all pipework.
8. Plug or tape all exposed pipes to prevent rainwater entering the system. Even a small amount of water can cause damage in a particularly harsh winter.
9. Remove pool ladder.
10. Place several sealed plastic containers on the pool water (e.g. Empty plastic mineral water bottles). Use string to ensure that at least one of the containers remains in the centre of the pool. This will minimise the risk of damage to your pool from ice.
11. Place an empty plastic mineral bottle in the skimmer.
12. Fit Winter Debris Cover.

# Essential Equipment

## PRODUCT

## FUNCTION

### **POOL CLEANING**

Vacuum System

See pages 9-11

Deep Leaf Net

For scooping out debris from the pool floor

Shallow Leaf Skimmer

Removing leaves, insects etc from pool surface

Nylon Brush

Floor and wall brush

Telescopic Pole

To attach the equipment listed above

### **WATER TREATMENT**

Chlorine Granules

To ensure safe, healthy water

pH Adjusters

To maximise bather comfort and prevent equipment damage

Test Kit or Test Strips

Essential to ensure healthy water

Algicide

Optional Water Treatment product to deter green water

Clarifier

To maintain crystal clear water

### **POOL COVERS**

Solar Bubble Cover

To increase pool water temperature

Winter Debris Cover

Essential if your pool is left up over the winter period

### **ANCILLARY ITEMS**

Floating Thermometer

To observe water temperature

Backwash/Discharge Hose

To discharge pool water to a suitable drain

Pool Heating

Electric Heater or Solar Panels are the most popular choice for Above Ground Pools



# Pool Safety Tips

This publication is not intended as a definitive guide on pool safety. Your local Pool Dealer should be able to advise you on a full list of safety measures that you can carry out to minimise the risk of accidental drowning. Pools pose a danger when they are mis-used; it is essential that you lay down several common sense “ground rules” to all pool users.

**SUPERVISION** – Your pool needs to be supervised by an adult whenever in use.

**NO DIVING** – Above Ground Pools are not designed for diving.

**SAFETY FENCING** – Your Above Ground Pool should be surrounded by some kind of safety barrier to prevent unsupervised access to the pool. Access should be via a lockable, self-latching gate. There are a number of systems available. Ask your pool dealer for the system best suited for your particular pool.

**STEPS** - Remove any external steps whilst the pool is not in use.

**POOL ALARM** – Pool alarms should be considered as part of a security system. Bear in mind that if there is nobody within earshot of the alarm signal they are of little value.

**ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT** – Water and electricity do not mix. Keep all electrical equipment well away from your pool. Use a qualified Electrician to install your equipment. Do not use domestic extension leads near your pool. Read the Installation Manual before connecting the electrical supply to your pools circulation system. Any electrical equipment linked to your pool circulation system should be fitted with an E.L.C.P. device. Never allow any electrical items within 3 meters of the your pool. Switch off electrical supply when your pool is being used.

**POOL CHEMICALS** – **Never mix pool chemicals together.** Always add pool chemicals to your pool water separately. Mixing pool chemicals together before adding to your pool water will cause a dangerous reaction. Keep Pool Chemicals out of reach of children and pets.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## HOW MUCH CHLORINE DO I NEED TO ADD TO MY NEWLY FILLED POOL?

The quantity of chlorine you need to add is dependent on the volume of your pool water. You should add enough chlorine granules to your newly filled pool to achieve a chlorine residual of 4ppm (parts per million) By adding 8g of Relax Stabilised Chlorine Granules for every 1,000 litres of pool water will achieve a chlorine residual of 4ppm. Therefore if your Above Ground Pool holds 12,000 litres of water you will need to add 96g of Relax Stabilised Chlorine Granules.

## HOW OFTEN DO I NEED TO TREAT MY ABOVE GROUND POOL WITH CHLORINE?

Your Test Kit reading determines if your pool needs to be treated or not. Test your Above Ground Pool for both chlorine and pH every 2 days during the season. In periods of hot weather, you will need to check your pool water daily. If your pool is used heavily, during the 6 week holiday period for example, you should test for chlorine residual twice during the day. If the chlorine residual is low you will need to increase the residual before allowing your pool to be used.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## WHAT DO I DO IF MY POOL WATER HAS TURNED GREEN?

Pool Algicides are highly effective algae “preventatives”. However if algae manages to establish itself in your pool the most effective means of destroying algae is to “Shock Treat” your pool with chlorine before using an algicide. The quantity of chlorine required to destroy the algae is dependent upon the severity of the algae infestation. The following procedure should prove effective in restoring green water to clear water:

**Step 1** Run Filter pump continuously

**Step 2** Adjust pH to between 7.2 and 7.6

**Step 3** Brush pool floor and walls

**Step 4** Shock Treat your pool with Stabilised Chlorine Granules 20g per 1,000 litres of pool water.

If the algae infestation is very heavy (e.g. you are unable to see the bottom of your pool) increase the quantity of chlorine from 20g to 30g per 1,000 litres.

**Step 5** Dose with Clarifier to assist the filter to remove the small particles.

**Step 6** Wait 24 hours or more before adding the required amount of Concentrated Blue Algicide to prevent algae returning. (100ml per 10,000 litres)

**Step 7** Wait a further 24 hours before vacuuming dead algae to waste.

The author of this publication, Steve Smith has included certain information taken from sources believed to be reliable.

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