

## 402 Pools - Summer Pool Maintenance Guide

Keeping your pool in top condition during the summer requires regular care. This guide will help you maintain your pool's water clarity, cleanliness, and overall health, ensuring a safe swimming experience for all.

### 1. Regularly Check and Balance Water Chemistry

Maintaining the proper water chemistry is essential for pool health. Check the following on a weekly basis:

- **pH:** Ideal range is 7.4–7.6.
- **Alkalinity:** Ideal range is 80–120 ppm.
- **Calcium Hardness:** Ideal range is 200–400 ppm.
- **Stabilizer (CYA):** Ideal range is 30–50 ppm.
- **Chlorine:** Ideal range is 1–3 ppm for chlorine pools.

#### Adjustment Methods:

- **pH:** Use pH increaser or decreaser.
- **Alkalinity:** Use alkalinity increaser or decreaser.
- **Calcium Hardness:** Use calcium hardness increaser if too low.
- **Chlorine:** Add chlorine tablets, liquid chlorine, or shock to maintain chlorine levels.
- **Stabilizer (CYA):** Add stabilizer if levels are too low, especially in outdoor pools.

### 2. Skim and Clean the Pool Daily

- **Skimming:** Use a skimmer net to remove debris such as leaves, twigs, and insects from the pool's surface daily.
- **Cleaning:** If debris has settled at the bottom, use a pool vacuum or automatic cleaner to remove it. Make sure to clear the pool's skimmer baskets regularly to ensure proper flow.

### 3. Brush the Pool Walls and Tiles

- **Brushing Frequency:** Brush the pool walls and tiles once a week to remove dirt, algae, or any buildup.
- **Areas to Focus:** Pay attention to the waterline and corners, as these spots can accumulate debris and stains.

### 4. Monitor Pool Equipment and Filters

- **Pump and Filter:** Check the pool's pump to ensure it's operating smoothly and isn't clogged. Clean or backwash the filter as needed to maintain optimal filtration.
- **Heater (if applicable):** Check that the pool heater is working properly. Ensure there are no blockages and it's functioning as expected.

- **Saltwater Pools:** For saltwater pools, check your salt chlorine generator to ensure it's producing the right amount of chlorine. Clean the salt cell every 3-4 weeks to prevent scale buildup.

## 5. Vacuum the Pool Weekly

- **Manual Vacuuming:** Use a manual vacuum to clean the bottom of the pool thoroughly. Pay close attention to the steps and any areas where debris might gather.
- **Automatic Cleaners:** If you have an automatic pool cleaner, run it weekly to help remove any dirt or leaves that have settled.

## 6. Shock the Pool Monthly

- **Shocking Frequency:** Shock the pool once a month or as needed to remove organic contaminants like body oils, sunscreen, and algae. This process should also be done after heavy rainfall or if the pool's water becomes cloudy.
- **How to Shock:** Add a pool shock product according to the manufacturer's instructions. For saltwater pools, make sure not to over-shock, as the salt chlorine generator will also produce chlorine.

## 7. Keep an Eye on Water Levels

- **Check Water Levels:** Ensure your pool's water level is at the middle of the skimmer for proper circulation. During summer, evaporation or splashing might lower the water level, requiring you to top it off with fresh water.

## 8. Maintain Pool's Surroundings

- **Clean Decks and Surrounding Areas:** Clean the pool deck, surrounding furniture, and pool area regularly. Remove leaves and other debris that can be carried into the pool.
- **Landscaping:** Trim nearby trees and bushes to prevent excess debris from falling into the pool.

## 9. Test for Pool Algae

- **Preventative Measures:** Algae can grow quickly during the warmer months. To prevent algae blooms:
  - Maintain proper chemical balance.
  - Use an algaecide if necessary.
  - Run the pump at least 8–12 hours daily to circulate water and prevent algae buildup.

## 10. Check Pool's Safety Features

- **Pool Cover:** If you're not using the pool during the cooler evening or rainy days, ensure the pool cover is clean and properly secured.

- **Pool Equipment:** Ensure pool lights, handrails, ladders, and other safety equipment are in good working condition.
- **Fencing and Gates:** Check the pool fence or barrier regularly to make sure there are no gaps or issues that could compromise safety.

### 11. Inspect the Pool Deck and Surface

- **Surface Condition:** Inspect the pool's surface for any cracks, chips, or damage. Small issues should be addressed immediately to prevent larger problems.
- **Deck:** Check the pool deck for cracks or loose tiles and repair them to avoid accidents.

### 12. Check for Insects and Pests

- **Insect Control:** Keep an eye on the pool for any signs of insects like mosquitoes or wasps. Use safe, non-toxic repellents or traps to control these pests without harming the pool environment.

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## Additional Tips for Saltwater Pools

- **Monitor Salt Levels:** Keep the salt levels between 2700–3400 ppm. Check your saltwater system's salt cell regularly for any scale buildup or damage.
- **Test Chlorine Levels:** Ensure your salt chlorine generator is maintaining the appropriate chlorine levels (1–3 ppm). Adjust the output if necessary.
- **Clean Salt Cell Regularly:** Clean the salt cell every 3–4 weeks to prevent calcium buildup. This is crucial for the efficiency of the saltwater system.
- **CYA Levels:** Maintain stabilizer levels (CYA) between 30–50 ppm for optimal chlorine performance.

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**By following these summer maintenance tips, your pool will stay clean, clear, and ready for swimming all season long. Consistent upkeep ensures a safe and enjoyable swimming experience for you and your family.**