OWNER'S REFERENCE GUIDE

Swimming Pool Care Guide

Everything you need to keep your pool sparkling — simplified into daily, weekly, and monthly routines.

Target Water Chemistry

Keep these values in range at all times. Adjust chemistry in this order: 1) Total Alkalinity → 2) pH → 3) Calcium Hardness. Wait at least 4 hours between adjustments.

Parameter	Target Range	Unit
Free Chlorine	**1 – 3**	ppm
pH Level	**7.4 – 7.6**	scale
Total Alkalinity	**80 – 120**	ppm
Calcium Hardness	**200 – 400**	ppm
Cyanuric Acid (Stabilizer)	**50 – 80**	ppm
Salt Level (if applicable)	**~3,000**	ppm

Daily Checklist

Every Day

- ☐ Run the pump long enough to circulate all pool water through the filter once.
  Most pools need 6–12 hours daily. In summer, run 8–12 hrs. Ask us if you're unsure about your specific setup.
- ☐ Confirm chlorine is being delivered to the pool — via auto-chlorinator or manually.
  Target: 1–3 ppm free chlorine at all times.
- ☐ Do a quick visual check — look for cloudy water, algae, floating debris, or discoloration.
  Catching problems early prevents costly treatments.

2–3 Times Per Week Checklist

At Minimum Every Other Day

Water Testing

- □ Test chlorine (free chlorine: 1–3 ppm)
- □ Test pH level (target: 7.4–7.6)
- □ Test total alkalinity (target: 80–120 ppm)

Equipment & Cleaning

- □ Skim the surface — remove leaves, bugs, and floating debris
- □ Vacuum pool floor and walls
  First 30 days: 1–2x daily. After 30 days: once per week is sufficient.
- □ Confirm pump is running with no visible leaks
- □ Check filter pressure gauge — elevated pressure means a dirty filter
  Clean filter when pressure rises 7–10 psi above your baseline reading.

Every 7–10 Days

Weekly Shock Treatment & Algae Prevention

- □ Brush pool walls, steps, and floor (work shallow-to-deep)
  Brushing polishes plaster, prevents stain formation, and discourages algae growth.
- □ Clean pool tile line — use an enzyme product to remove organic deposits

Monthly Checklist

Once Per Month + At Season Open / Close

Water Sampling & Chemistry

- □ Full water sample test: chlorine, pH, alkalinity, calcium hardness, cyanuric acid, metals, phosphates
- □ Treat with stain control if metals are detected
  Well water sources are especially prone to iron and manganese.
- □ Check cyanuric acid (stabilizer) level — maintain 50–80 ppm
  Stabilizer protects chlorine from UV degradation.
- □ Add stain and scale preventer every 6 months
  Use Metal Magic, Sequa Sol, or equivalent — 1 quart per 10,000 gallons.

Filter & Equipment

- □ Backwash or clean the filter when pressure rises 7–10 psi above baseline
- □ Cartridge filter: soak in 10% acid solution to remove minerals
  On a separate day, soak in trisodium phosphate (TSP) solution to remove body oils and sunscreen.
- □ Salt pool: check salt level and clean salt cell if calcium buildup is visible
  Target ~3,000 ppm. Refer to your Salt Chlorinator Owner's Manual for cleaning procedure.
- □ Inspect pump O-rings, strainer basket, and all fittings for wear

Quick Reference

Pump Run Time

Winter	**6–8 hours per day**
Summer	**8–12 hours per day**

Filter Cleaning Schedule

Cartridge Filter — Clean	**Every 1–2 weeks (1-2 Months for Quad filter)**
Cartridge Filter — Replace	**Every 1–2 years**
D.E. Filter — Backwash	**Every 4–6 weeks**
D.E. Filter — Annual deep clean	**Disassemble and wash grids manually**

Common Problems & Solutions

Problem	Signs	Solution
Green Algae	Murky green water	Shock + Algaecide + Clean Filter
Black Algae	Rough black spots on pool floor	Brush vigorously + Algaecide + Clean Filter
Mustard Algae	Yellow growth that brushes off easily	Brush + Algaecide
Cloudy Water	Hazy, can't see pool floor	Check Filter + Shock + Balance Chemistry
Chlorine Odor / Eye Sting	Strong smell, red eyes — too little free chlorine	Superchlorinate immediately
Water Loss > 1"/day	Noticeable drop in water level	Call for professional leak detection
High Filter Pressure	PSI elevated 8–10 above normal	Backwash or clean filter
Green Hair (Swimmers)	Blonde hair turns green after swimming	Metal Out + lemon juice or vinegar on hair
Staining (Spots)	Black, brown, or turquoise spots that don't brush off	Metal Out or Stain Out + Shock
Foaming	Bubbles on surface	Defoamer; check for excess algaecide or foreign substance