

How to Balance your Pool Water

It may surprise you, but the water you drink may not be suitable for your pool. Tap water can have a high or low pH and mineral levels that can harm your pool. Improper levels of pH and minerals can also prevent pool chemicals from doing their job effectively, not to mention damaging your pool and its equipment with stains, scale and corrosion. So, even if you fill your pool from the tap, it may need to be chemically balanced.

In addition to balancing your pool water after the initial fill, it is a good idea to have your water balanced at the beginning of each swimming season.

pH

This is the most important water balance test that can be carried out. A low pH reading indicates that the water is too acidic, which causes chlorine to be used up too quickly and leads to corrosion of equipment and damage to pool surfaces. Use a pH increaser to raise the pH level. A high pH reduces chlorines effectiveness, and can cause cloudy water and scale formation on equipment and surfaces. Use a pH de-creaser to lower the pH level.

Total Alkalinity

The correct total alkalinity will make your water's pH level much easier to maintain. If the total alkalinity is low the pH will fluctuate and the water could become corrosive. Use an alkalinity increaser to raise the total alkalinity level. If the total alkalinity is high the pH will be difficult to change and a bicarbonate scale could appear on the heater, within pipe work and on pool surfaces. Use an alkalinity reducer to lower the total alkalinity level.

Calcium Hardness

This is the term used to describe the amount of dissolved calcium in pool water. The idea level is approximately 175-275mg/l depending on the pool finish. High calcium hardness can cause cloudy water and scale formation. Use a stain & scale inhibitor where calcium hardness levels are high to prevent scale deposits appearing. Low levels of calcium hardness can harm the pool and its equipment.

Minimise chlorine loss to sunlight

The sun's rays can act like a magnet and draw chlorine from your pool water. This can be reduced by using stabilised chlorine. As Poolmarket offers stabilised chlorine a separate stabiliser is only necessary when the pool has been drained and refilled.

Please check out our other guides for more help and advice for your swimming pool or spa or if you have any questions then feel free to contact us.

Tel: 0117 230 9660

sales@poolmarket.co.uk