

Unless you've hired Moonlight to perform periodic maintenance and cleaning, normal swimming pool operation involves a few basic tasks for best success. These include **maintaining water circulation, cleaning debris, and vacuuming, and 'balancing' the body of water.** This includes regularly running the pump and filter, cleaning the skimmer and pump baskets, vacuuming the pool, and testing and adjusting water chemistry. Below, we've outlined some basic pool care tasks and routines. If you have specific questions, don't hesitate to contact Moonlight Pool Service, we'll be glad to help!

To keep your pool safe and your swimmers happy, it is often necessary to clean the pool vessel and the surface of the waster. This can be accomplished with a few tools widely available.



Skimming - While normally a suction inlet called a "skimmer" takes care of most debris on the pool, soft sided pools often lack these devices. Debris may be removed from the surface using a "skimmer net" attached to a normal pool pole.



Brushing - A soft plastic-bristled brush may be employed that also connects to the end of the pool pole used for skimming, this is used to brush the pool walls and floor to loosen dirt and debris. When dirt and debris are freely floating in the water instead of clinging to the walls, they can be pulled into the filtration system and removed from the water.



Vacuuming - occasionally, it will be necessary to remove debris from the bottom of the pool such as leaves or sand, etc. Using the same pole you've been able to use with the skimmer and brush, attach a vac head and vacuum hose to the end of the pole, prime the vacuum hose off the return fitting, secure the hose to the suction fitting and start vacuuming. The vac head and hose re-direct the location of the suction for the filter pump, and thus create a way to remove big debris from the floor of the pool that may not remain suspended in the water.



Check Yer Baskets! Se



Typical AG Skimmer Basket



Typical IG Skimmer Basket



Water Chemistry

Maintaining balanced, filtered water in your swimming pool is essential not only for bather safety but for longevity of expensive filtration and treatment equipment. Calcium hardness, for example is a measure of the calcium ions present in the water – and must be maintained at a level of 200 – 400 ppm in a typical vinyl liner pool. If the hardness is low in the water, it will begin pulling calcium from the vinyl liner – thus making it brittle. pH is also important – over corrosive water attacks the equipment as well as the swimmers – and renders chlorine sanitization ineffective.

A pool owner can test the water as many or as few times as they so desire, however the better handle they have on the water chemistry the better their pool experience as a whole will be. Below are target water test result values for a normal chlorine swimming pool.



Water Dosing and Testing

While methods vary from test to test, the target values remain the same. Whatever method you use to test your water, remain consistent between tests. Most of the time, dosing instructions and values will be displayed or printed on the container of the chemicals used for balancing and sanitization. It is important to follow these instructions as closely as possible when adding chemicals to your pool to prevent chemical reactions of many types. What is most important is that you know the approximate volume of your pool and take note that most chemical instructions are based on 10,000 gallons (10K) of water. This seemingly simple fact makes it relatively easy to convert should your pool contain more or less water than 10k gallons. For example; if your pool was 8,000 gallons, you'd multiply the dosing for any given chemical's 10k dose by 0.8, an 18,000 gal pool, conversely, would be correctly calculated using dose x 1.8. Below is a table of the common chemicals used to balance a swimming pool or spa; this is merely a quick reference, as different chemicals may have different concentrations and therefore require different calculations. Always refer to the instructions on the chemicals for the most accurate dosing.

Common Pool Chemicals and their Uses

Chemical Name	Use	Rate of Change	@ 10k Gallons
Sodium Carbonate (Soda Ash)	pH ▲	▲ 0.2	0.5 lb
Sodium Bicarbonate (Baking Soda)	TA ▲,	▲ 10ppm	1.5 lb
Calcium Chloride	CH ▲	▲ 10ppm	1.0 lb
Muriatic Acid (20% Concentrated)	PH ▼	0.1	10 fl. oz
Sodium Bisulfate	PH ▼	10ppm	1lb



Additional Tips:

- ✓ **Got Water?** Maintain the water level halfway up the skimmer opening.
- ✓ **Watch that Gauge!:** A high pressure reading from the multiport pressure gauge indicates the filter needs to be cleaned.



Pool Startup

1. Fill the pool with water over the suction inlets and return outlet. Open the valve to allow water into the pump as well as the valve to allow water back into the pool.
2. Prime the pump by either opening the air relief valves until water comes out, or by pouring water into the pump basket so it fills the pipe connecting the suction outlets in the pool. Usually about 1 – 1.5 5 gallon buckets full of water and the pump will catch prime relatively quickly.
3. Allow the pump to circulate the water through the filtration equipment for 12-24 hours (48 if using a salt chlorinator and after adding salt to the water).
4. Test using your test kit of choice. Test strips and a reagent kit are pictured below.



5. Adjust alkalinity, then pH, then stabilizer (CYA) and finally shock the pool using some cal hypo shock. Frequent testing is recommended until you become familiar with testing and dosing procedures.