



# CARING FOR YOUR SWIMMING POOL

## FILLING YOUR POOL

When the plastering crew has completed the finish of your swimming pool, they will start to fill it with water. The hose must be in the deep area and should not touch the plaster.

During the course of filling, DO NOT remove the hose, allow anyone in the pool, or touch the plaster until the pool is full. The pool is full when the water has reached the middle of the skimmer. **Under no circumstances stop the water while pool is filling.**

If water is being delivered to fill the pool, a cushion of two to three feet of water must be in the deep end of the pool before the delivered water can be added. It is important that whoever delivers the water take precautions to not mar the surface as water is added.

**Attention Spa Owners:** If your spa is attached to your pool, special care should be taken during the initial filling. If the spa is being filled separately or in conjunction with the pool, it is very important the water is turned off before it spills over the dam wall. Failure to heed this precaution could possibly lead to streaking on the plaster in the pool.

## INDOCTRINATION

Please call BBCP to set up a convenient date and time for the indoctrination of your pool. The pool must be completely filled for the indoctrination to take place. We will be happy to assist you in all your pool needs including chemicals, equipment, parts, accessories, and maintenance.

## PROCEDURES FOR THE FIRST TWO WEEKS

• **BRUSHING**—For the next two weeks, brush your pool and/or spa **at least** twice daily to remove the calcium flakes coming out of the plaster. If you do not brush, the flakes will build up leaving a rough finish on the floor and walls of your pool. To brush or groom your pool:

1. Start by brushing the sides and tops of the steps getting rid of the flakes.
  2. Next, begin to brush the walls starting at the shallow end next to the steps. Brush from the tile down to the cove (that is where the wall meets the floor), going around the entire pool.
  3. Then starting at the shallow end, brush the floor from the shallow end to the deep end into the bottom drains (don't forget the swimout and spa if you have them).
- **pH**—Keep pH level between 7.4–7.8; add muriatic acid to pool and then brush pool.
  - **VACUUMING**—Your pool should not be vacuumed during the first two weeks after plastering to prevent blemishes from the vacuum wheels.
  - **HEATER**—If your pool has a heater, do not use it for the first two weeks.
  - **AUTOMATIC POOL CLEANER**—If you have an automatic pool cleaner, do not use it for the first four weeks. The pool cleaner does not replace brushing.
  - **TIME CLOCK**—It is required to run the filter for 24 hours during the brushing period. Remove the timer pins until ready to program.

## PLASTER CHARACTERISTICS

Every effort has been made by our plaster crew to provide you with the finest interior pool finish possible. However, there are certain characteristics of pool plaster of which you should be aware.

1. Plaster is not a slick, "tile-like" finish. It is hand-troweled as smooth as possible.
2. Plaster is not perfect or flawless. The finish is as flawless as hand-troweling will permit.
3. Your pool is plastered with raw mined materials and is not totally or completely white. As plaster is a cement product, some normal characteristics are inherent in the materials. Therefore, it is not unusual to

have small black, gold, brown, etc., flecks throughout the interior finish. There is no reason for concern as these flecks are normal and will not affect the physical durability of the plaster.

4. The pool interior may look blotchy and/or streaked for an extended period of time. This is normal and generally caused by the curing process and the reaction of the chemicals in the filling water and/or the normal chemicals added to the water for sanitation. This is the natural curing process of plaster. A year or two may go by before the plaster cures to a fairly even shade.
5. Keep in mind that discoloration and stains are largely due to water conditions, chemical imbalance, and weather conditions. It is imperative you take maximum care and caution concerning the maintenance of your pool.
6. The underwater light and the water in the pool will magnify small objects and flaws in the pool interior and make them appear many times larger and may give the pool interior a "wavy" effect. This is normal in all hand-troweled surfaces.

## CHEMICALS

- **SOLID CHLORINE**—large tablets or sticks added to your chlorinator
- **GRANULAR CHLORINE**—used to help boost chlorine in pool
- **ALGAECIDE**—4 to 6 ounces weekly for preventative maintenance
- **DE**—used to recoat your filter grid after you backwash **every time**
- **pH MINUS OR PLUS**—used to either raise or lower the pH in your water (pH MINUS is usually used at first)
- **CONDITIONER**—should be added after initial water analysis, never added before testing levels

## TESTING YOUR WATER

You should test your water at least three times a week—Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Our retail store also offers computerized water analysis.

Three things take chlorine out of the water—sun, rain, and swimmers (including dogs). People and/or dogs swimming in your pool will reduce the amount of free chlorine available in the pool. Dog hair, body oil, sunscreen lotions, and other impurities will take up free chlorine thereby reducing the amount of effective chlorine available. Dogs bring into the pool more contaminants than do humans. Make sure to test your water after heavy rain or bather load. Super chlorination may be necessary. Follow these guidelines:

## IDEAL RANGES CHART\*

pH	7.4 – 7.8
Total Alkalinity	80 – 120 ppm
Calcium/Hardness	250 – 350 ppm
Chlorine	2 – 4 ppm
Bromine	3 – 5 ppm

\*If you have a salt pool, please refer to our *Understanding Your New Salt Chlorine Generator* guide.

## AUTO CHLORINATOR

Your chlorinator will keep chlorine in your pool without too much worry. During the first couple of weeks you will get to know your pool. After the initial super chlorination of your pool, add chlorine to your chlorinator (large tablets). Put in 1 tablet or stick per 6,000 gallons every week. To control the amount of chlorine that is put in your pool, set the control on the chlorinator from 1 to 8. To start, put the control on 6 or 7 and work from there.

## BACKWASHING

When the pressure is 10 lbs. over start-up, you have to backwash your pool. When moving the vari-flow handle, **you must always turn the pump off.** Procedures are Backwash / Filter, **three times.**

1. Turn pump OFF
2. Roll out backwash hose

3. Rotate handle clockwise to backwash
4. Turn pump on and watch sight glass until water turns a lighter shade (approximately 20 to 25 seconds)
5. Turn pump off and rotate handle clockwise to filter
6. Turn pump back on for 20-25 seconds

### REPEAT STEPS 3 TO 6 THREE TIMES

7. Turn pump on and add recommended lbs. of DE to skimmer located closest to filter pad and make sure valve is open full at filter pad.



## HAND VACUUM

You probably have an automatic pool cleaner, but sometime along the way you will have to hand vacuum. Here's how:

- Remove your brush from the pole and attach the vacuum attachment.
- Attach the swivel end of the hose to the vacuum attachment.
- While holding the pole and the hose, lower the attachment into the water until it's on the floor.
- Push the hose down the wall to get all the air out and attach the end of the hose to the skimmer attachment (it is the cone-shaped fitting that is in either your shallow or deep skimmer). The pool tech sent to indoctrinate the pool will tell you which skimmer it is in.
- After you attach the hose to the skimmer attachment, vacuum the bottom just like vacuuming in your house. If you do not get enough suction, you may close one of the other suction lines. Remember, two lines

must be open, the one you are vacuuming from and one other line. So, if you are vacuuming out of the deep skimmer, you may close the pool drain off and keep the shallow skimmer half open.

## VALET SERVICE

Contact us for information on our weekly and bi-weekly valet service which includes water testing, skimming, brushing, emptying basket, and vacuuming.

## SPRING OPENING

Make sure your pool cover is clean and dry. Raise the water level prior to your opening day. We cannot start your pump unless the water level is halfway up the skimmer. If a return call is necessary due to low water level, an additional service call will be charged.

## WINTER CLOSING

Before your pool is scheduled to be closed, be sure to have the pool clean. We will close the pool in the condition it is in at time of closing. Make sure your cover, hardware, plugs, and gizmos are all out for our service technician upon arrival. If you have a cover pump, we will need access to your hose and an extension cord to connect.

If you have a solid cover, make sure the pump is located where the water pools on the cover and remove it before water freezes. If you have a mesh cover, the pump will be on your top step but remove it before water freezes.

## WINTER WATCH

Contact us for more information on our Winter Checkup Program.

## HEADS UP

If at any time you notice the pump is making abnormal loud noise, turn it off and call us for service. If you smell gas from your heater, turn off the heater and the gas valve at the supply, if possible. Call us or your gas company immediately.