



# Water Testing



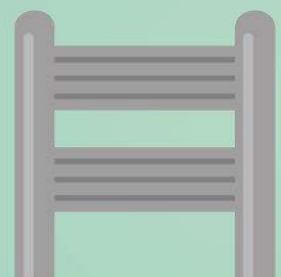
**UV** POOLS

# What Should You Test

The four main tests to perform with a test kit are pH, Free Chlorine, Total Alkalinity and Calcium Hardness.

Cyanuric Acid levels should be tested for on outdoor pools which use chlorine.

Acid or Base Demand tests may also be performed with a pH test sample, to determine the amount of acid or base is needed to make the desired change to pH level.



# How Often Should You Test the Water?

The average pool owner should check their pH and chlorine levels 2-3 times per week.

If your pH level has changed, be sure to check the TA level as well. Total Alkalinity levels tend to fluctuate less, so weekly testing is usually enough.

Calcium Hardness and Cyanuric acid levels are slower to change, so monthly testing is recommended.



# What are the recommended levels?

- ◆ **pH: 7.2 - 7.8**
- ◆ **Chlorine: 1.0 - 2.0 ppm**
- ◆ **Total Alkalinity: 80 - 120 ppm**
- ◆ **Calcium Hardness: 200 - 400 ppm**
- ◆ **Cyanuric Acid: 20 - 50 ppm**
- ◆ **Total Dissolved Solids: under 5000 ppm**



# What Type of Test Kit Do I Need?

There are many different types of test kits commercially available. To get the most accurate test readings you will want to spend more for a quality kit.

You may wish to spend more for a DPD chlorine kit, which measures free, combined and total chlorine levels. Also important is the ability to test total alkalinity and calcium hardness.

A "four-way" test kit will test pH, chlorine, alkalinity and acid demand.



# What type of test kit do I need?

Acid demand and base demand tests will allow you to perform a titration test on your pH sample. Counting the # of drops you add with the help of a chart will determine exactly how much acid or base needs to be added to adjust the pH.

If you want to be self-sufficient and avoid having to take your water sample to the pool store, use the Taylor K2005 test kit. Taylor Kits are the standard for pool operators.



# What About Pool Test Strips?

**Pool water test strips use "Litmus test" technology. These are strips of paper that turn colors once you dip them into the water indicating levels of pH, alkalinity and chlorine in the pool.**

**Specialty pool test strips can test your water for hardness, cyanuric acid minerals and metals, salt levels phosphates or bacteria.**



# What About Pool Test Strips?

**Test strips are fast and convenient; however they have proven to be quite inconsistent and not as accurate as drop style pool test kits.**

**Digital test strip readers improve accuracy by helping those who cannot easily discern between color shading variations. Test strips are most useful for testing pool pH and chlorine levels quickly, but should not be relied upon for complete water balancing. They are suitable as a quick check if you plan to take a pool water sample somewhere monthly to be fully tested.**





# How Do I Know How Much Chemical to Add?

**A quality pool test kit will come with charts to use to find adjustment amounts to add to the pool. If you don't have such information, the label of the chemicals should give dosage recommendations.**

**It's best not to guess at the amounts, you want to be sure so don't hesitate to contact a pool professional for assistance.**



**Keeping your pool chemicals in balance is one of the most important things to maintain in your pool. This is not only for the comfort of the swimmers.**

**Having chemicals out of balance can cause damage to essential pool components such as your pool liner and heater causing potentially costly issues down the road.**

