

# WATER MAINTENANCE

## FREQUENCY OF TESTING

Testing frequency will vary for individual pool environments, but testing should be undertaken at least once per week at home and monthly at a pool shop.

Testing frequency should increase depending on how often the pool/spa is being used along with the weather conditions, regular testing will also ensure warranty standards are compliant.

All pool/spa water tests should be recorded in a logbook:

- indicating date & time
- parameters tested
- results of tests
- action taken
- relevant notes

Getting a pool/spa water tested at a pool shop or by a service technician means that they can track and record results of your pools history and requirements. However, you may still need to keep you own logbook if professional pool testing is undertaken less frequently than every week.

## TESTING WATER QUALITY

What testing method should you use? Keeping your pool and spa clean has never been easier. There are two basic types of testing methods used by most consumers: liquid kits and test strips.

**LIQUID KITS:** Liquid Test Kits require that you put a sample of water into a specific testing plastic container and then carefully add drops of chemical reagents, watching for a change in the colour of the sample. Colour changes caused by the reagents within the water can then be compared to the colour indicators on the plastic container and add chemicals as needed.

**TEST STRIPS:** Test Strip Kits are the easiest method for pool and spa water testing. They are fast and simple to use because they eliminate the need to measure samples and count drops. Typically, you would simply dip a strip in the water for 5-10 seconds and then remove it. You then compare the colours on the strip to the colour chart on the label and add chemicals as needed.

**Pool Shop & Service Technicians:** Whilst home pool test kits test the most essential indicators, they don't test everything and are not as accurate as having a professional do it for you. Normally, pool shops and service technicians offer a free water testing service. They can test for things that you don't normally or can't test at home such as copper, total dissolved solids and water hardness. Getting pool/spa water testing by a professional means that they can create a pool/spa profile, track and record history as well as any requirements. They will also advise you of what chemicals are needed to get your pool/spa in tip top shape.



## SPASA'S WINTER MAINTENANCE GUIDE

1. Thoroughly backwash the filter and clean it with a recognised filter cleaner and degreaser
2. Ensure that the skimmer basket and hair and lint-pot are free from debris
3. Lubricate all O-rings with a silicone-based lubricant
4. Adjust the total alkalinity level with a buffer (sodium bicarbonate) if the level is below 80 and 120 ppm
5. Adjust the pH between 7.2 to 7.6 by adding acid if the level is too high or soda ash if it's too low
6. Mix all chemicals in a full bucket of water before adding to the pool
7. Mix correct amount of sanitiser in a bucket of water and add to the pool
8. Mix correct amount of a long-life algaecide that is specifically designed for winter. Add this to the pool
9. Adjust the timer to allow the filter to operate for two to four hours each day, ideally outside of peak periods
10. Automatic Chlorinators (or similar) need the cells cleaned and controller can be adjusted to the half-production setting

## SPASA'S SUMMER MAINTENANCE GUIDE

1. Check and clean the skimmer basket and hair and lint-pot basket weekly. Do this more often if the pool is used frequently or when leaves and debris blow into the pool
2. Backwash any sand or DE filters and clean cartridge filters. The frequency of filter maintenance also depends on how often the pool is used
3. Check sanitiser levels, ideally daily and add sanitiser to maintain minimum levels
4. Check the operation of salt chlorinators or automatic systems. The more people that use the pool, the more sanitiser is required to kill algae and bacteria
5. Check the pH every two or three days. It is a good idea to mix all chemicals with a full bucket of water before adding to the pool
6. Check the Total Alkalinity (TA) weekly. Adjust the total alkalinity level with a buffer (sodium bicarbonate)
7. Check and adjust the timer to allow the filtration system to operate for six hours each day. Most people run their filtration system for three periods of two hours daily
8. Take a sample of pool water to the local pool shop every two to four weeks during swimming season to make sure the water balance is correct
9. Salt-chlorinated pools may need additional salt. The production control on the salt chlorinator may have to be adjusted to increase or decrease its output
10. Maintain the water level at least halfway up the skimmer box opening
11. Inspect plumbing for leaks
12. Vacuum the walls and floor regularly

