AQUABRITE®

Pool Care
Guide

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AQUABRITE® POOL CARE

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POOL CARE MADE EASY

Welcome to the world of Aquabrite™ Products. Use this guide for information on the proper product usage, care, and testing to maintain clear and sparkling water. Please take a few minutes to review this information and call your professional Aquabrite™ dealer if you have any questions or problems.

Enjoy your swimming season and thank you for choosing Aquabrite™ Products.

EASY 4 STEP PROCESS

1. Sanitize your pool with stabilized chlorine tabs. Available in 99% Stabilized Tablets 1", 99% Stabilized Tablets 3" or 99% Stabilized Sticks. Aquabrite™ has the products you need.

2. Effectively shock your pool on a routine basis with calcium hypochloride granules to kill bacteria, destroy algae, and eliminate organic contaminants.

3. Maintain your pool with Aquabrite™ Algaecide and Stainsol to provide a preventative back-up system and protect your pool against the threat of troublesome algae.

4. Run your pump and filter as directed by an Aquabrite™ dealer.

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CIRCULATION

Caring for your pool is easy. All you need to know is some basic information about the circulation and filtration system and their roles in pool care. With that information you are prepared to discuss sanitation.

THE ROLE OF THE PUMP

The heart of the circulation system is the pump. It moves water from the pool and sends it through the filter for removal of any dust, dirt, and debris prior to sending it back to the pool.

Piping size, pool size, swimmer load and the actual pump size all play a role in determining how long you should run your pump. Your Aquabrite™ dealer can assist you on how long to run your pump. They can determine, based upon all the variables, the proper amount of time required to keep your pool clear and clean.

NOTE: If your pump is not running, the water from your pool is not being properly circulated or filtered. Running the pump and circulating the water is the best way to help prevent problems.

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THE FILTRATION SYSTEM

The job of the filtration system is to remove any undissolved dirt and debris from the pool water. While the skimmer basket, the hair and lint basket in the pump all play a role in the filtering of the pool water, the primary element of the system is the filter itself.

Consult your Aquabrite™ dealer for assistance in understanding the role that the skimmer and pump basket play in keeping your pool clean. Always consult your owner's manual for specifics related to the type of filter you have.

FILTER TYPES

There are three types of filters that are used in swimming pools to remove dirt and debris that enter the water through swimmers and the environment.

1. Sand
2. Diatomaceous Earth (DE)
3. Cartridge

If you don't know your filter type, your Aquabrite™ pool dealer or pool builder can assist you in determining which filter you have. The following pages describe these three different types of filters.

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SAND FILTERS

Dirt is removed from a sand filter by "backwashing" or reversing the water flow. The filter should be backwashed when the pressure gauge indicates a 8-10 lbs. increase over normal operating pressure. (This is the pressure indicated on the pressure gauge when the filter is completely clean).

Sand filters should be cleaned at least every season with Aquabrite™ Sandscrubber Filter Cleaner. Consult your Aquabrite™ dealer for the frequency requirements for changing the sand.

DIATOMACEOUS EARTH (DE) FILTERS

Like sand, the DE filter is cleaned by backwashing the filter when pressure increases 8-10 lbs. However, once the filter has been backwashed, new DE must be added to coat the grids in the filter. This is accomplished by pouring DE through the skimmer. Your Aquabrite™ dealer can tell you how much DE is required to "recharge" your filter.

To cut oils and other natural oil build-up, DE filter grids should be cleaned at least once every season using Aquabrite™ Sandscrubber Filter Cleaner.

CARTRIDGE FILTERS

Dirt needs to be removed from a cartridge filter when the pressure gauge indicates an increase of 8-10 lbs. over normal operation pressure. Remove the cartridge(s) from the filter and hose off all loose dirt and debris. Then soak the element(s) in Aquabrite™ Sandscrubber Filter Cleaner for at least 12 hours. This will remove all oils and greases imbedded in the filter element. After soaking, remove the cartridge(s) and rinse thoroughly with fresh water.

Peak filter efficiency is achieved if you allow the filter element(s) to dry prior to reinstalling in the filter. To avoid any "down time" for the circulation or filtration systems, it is advisable to purchase a second set of cartridge elements so they may be interchanged on a regular basis.

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TESTING YOUR POOL

Your pool should be tested at least 3 times a week. It is important to maintain adequate water balance and sanitizer levels and to insure swimmer comfort. Test strips or test kits are a quick (30 second) means to test the pool for adequate sanitizer levels as well as pH and total alkalinity.

Proper testing also ensures that calcium levels are maintained and that there are no metals present in the pool water.

In order to prevent scaling or corrosive action and to achieve maximum swimmer comfort, the pool water should be balanced to the following levels.

See the chart below for recommended levels:

TEST	RANGE
pH	7.2 – 7.8
Total Alkalinity	80 - 120 ppm (concrete/unpainted plaster)
Total Alkalinity	100 - 140 ppm (vinyl/fiberglass/painted plaster)
Calcium Hardness	200 – 400 ppm
Free Chlorine	1 – 3 ppm
Combined Chlorine	below 0.2 ppm
Cyanuric Acid	30 – 125 ppm (when using chlorine)
Cyanuric Acid	60 – 80 ppm (when using salt)
Free Bromine	3 – 5 ppm
Metals: Copper, iron	0.2 ppm Maximum
Salt (salt chlorinator)	2,700 – 3,400 ppm
Total Dissolved Solids/TDS	2500 ppm Maximum

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BALANCING pH

pH is the measure of acid and base in the pool water. The pH of the pool should be tested and adjusted, if necessary, on a weekly basis.

If the pH of the pool water drifts to the acid side of the scale, corrosion of pool surfaces and equipment can occur. If the pH of the pool water drifts to the base side, scaling, deposits, and cloudy water can occur.

Use Aquabrite™ pH Plus to increase the pH of the pool. To lower the pH of the pool, use Aquabrite™ pH Minus. Follow the label directions for the proper amount of the products to add based upon test results and pool size.

NOTE: Always follow label directions when adding any pool maintenance products to the pool. Never mix products together. If unsure how products are to be used, contact your Aquabrite™ dealer.

CALCIUM HARDNESS

Calcium Hardness is the amount of dissolved calcium in the pool water. Low calcium hardness levels can cause plaster finish etching and shorten the life of vinyl liners. High calcium levels can result in calcium deposits on the pool surfaces as well as equipment.

The proper range for calcium hardness in pool water is 200 – 400 ppm (parts per million). Your Aquabrite™ dealer can test for calcium hardness on a regular basis when you take a sample of your pool water in for analysis.

To increase calcium hardness, use Aquabrite™ Calcium Plus. Follow the label directions for dosage rates based upon pool volume and test results.

If calcium hardness levels are high, Aquabrite™ Metal Out Plus should be used to prevent any deposits or scaling on the pool surface or equipment along with preventing metal stains.

If the calcium levels are exceedingly high, (in excess of 450 ppm) partial drainage of the pool may be required. Your Aquabrite™ dealer can advise you of the best method for treating your pool if you encounter high calcium hardness.

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TOTAL ALKALINITY

To prevent the pH from "drifting" or "bouncing" up and down, the proper amount of acid buffers, or total alkalinity must be maintained in the pool. The pool should be tested weekly with a total alkalinity of 80 – 120 ppm (parts per million) for concrete and unpainted plaster pools, and between 100 – 140 ppm for vinyl, fiberglass, and painted plaster.

Low total alkalinity can not only result in pH bounce and fluctuations, but corrosiveness and the possibility of staining increase. High total alkalinity also can cause the pH to fluctuate as well as cause cloudy pools along with possible scaling.

To raise total alkalinity, follow the label directions on Aquabrite™ Alkalinity Plus.

METALS

There should not be any metals present in the pool water. Metals can cause staining in the pool and cause the pool to turn colors. The most common types of metals that appear in pool water are copper, iron, and manganese. Your Aquabrite™ dealer can test your pool water for the presence of any type of metals.

If tests indicate that metals are present in the pool, Aquabrite™ Metal Out plus should be used. Aquabrite™ Stainsol should be used bi-monthly to prevent staining. You should determine the source of the metals and remove if possible.

SANITIZE WITH CHLORINE

Aquabrite™ stabilized chlorine products sanitize your pool water and kill bacteria. Stabilized chlorine products are protected from sunlight degradation and are an ideal means to keep your pool clear and clean.

Aquabrite™ stabilized chlorine products are available in a variety of forms:
Chlorinating Tablets 3" 99%, Chlorinating Tablets 1" 99%, Skimmer Sticks 99%, and Di-Chlor.

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SANITIZE WITH BROMINE

You may want to use bromine instead of chlorine to sanitize your pool. Aquabrite™ Ultra Bromine Tablets provide a reliable method for killing bacteria and keeping your pool clear and clean.

To utilize bromine effectively, an automatic brominator must be installed in your pool. Check with your Aquabrite™ dealer for the complete bromine story to see if it fits your needs.

SHOCK

Shocking the pool on a regular basis is an important element in keeping the pool water clear and clean. Swimmers and the environment add waste to the pool that must be eliminated on a regular basis in order to prevent problems such as algae and cloudy water.

Aquabrite™ offers a variety of products to shock your pool. Your Aquabrite™ dealer can recommend the Aquabrite™ product best suited for your shocking needs.

ALGAECIDE

Preventing algae is the key to maintaining your pool. Algaecides act as a backup to your normal sanitization program and prevent algae from starting and growing in the pool.

Algaecide should be added after every shock treatment. Aquabrite™ has an algaecide for every need and budget. Your Aquabrite™ dealer can recommend an algaecide for your needs.

AQUABRITE™ STAINSOL

To help prevent stains on pool walls and fixtures use Aquabrite™ Stainsol every other week. Aquabrite™ Stainsol keeps metals in solution so they don't deposit and form stains.

AQUABRITE™ METAL OUT

When metal stains deposit on pool walls and fixtures, use Aquabrite™ Metal Out to remove existing metal stains. Aquabrite™ Metal Out is a powerful solution that pulls the metal deposits off surfaces so they can be removed via the filter system

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YOUR POOL PROGRAM

Name _____

Pool Capacity _____

Filter _____

Pump _____

Heater _____

Pool Finish _____

REMEMBER: *Test the pool water weekly. Bring your Aquabrite™ dealer a sample of pool water every 2-3 weeks to be tested for calcium hardness and metals. Maintain your pool balance within the following ranges:*

TEST	RANGE
pH	7.2 – 7.8
Total Alkalinity: (unpainted plaster) (painted plaster/vinyl/fiberglass)	 80 – 120 ppm 100 – 140 ppm
Free Chlorine	1 – 3 ppm
Free Bromine	3 – 5 ppm

INITIAL TREATMENT

Add_____ to shock the pool.

Add _____Chlorinating Tablets 3", Chlorinating Tablets 1",

Skimmer Sticks or Di-Chlor.

Add _____ Aquabrite™ Algaecide.

WEEKLY TREATMENT

Add Aquabrite™ sanitizer every _____.

Shock the pool with_____.

(Pump should be running when adding shock.)

Add_____Aquabrite™ Algaecide weekly.

Add_____Aquabrite™ Stainsol weekly.

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SAFETY TIPS

- ALWAYS follow label directions when adding any pool chemicals to the pool.
- NEVER mix different types of chlorine.
- NEVER mix chemicals together.
- DO NOT use quantities in excess of the recommended dosage on the label.
- After shock treating, you MUST wait until the free available chlorine residual is at the level recommended by the label instructions.
- KEEP ALL CHEMICALS OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN. Containers should always be kept closed when not in use.
- NEVER add water to chemicals. Always add chemicals to water.
- PROPERLY DISPOSE of all containers.
- NEVER reuse any container.
- WASH YOUR HANDS THOROUGHLY after handling the chemicals.
- USE A SEPARATE, CLEAN PLASTIC MEASURING CUP for each chemical.

If you encounter any problems, take a water sample for a complete test and analysis to your Aquabrite™ dealer. They can meet your pool care needs quickly and cost effectively.

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DETERMINE POOL CAPACITY

Average Approximate Volume of Water in Pool
16′ x 32′ – 18,000 gal.
18′ x 36′ – 24,000 gal.
20′ x 40′ – 30,000 gal.
25′ x 50′ – 50,000 gal.
30′ x 60′ – 75,000 gal.
24′ Round – 14,000 gal.

For all other pools these formulas can be applied to find the approximate volume:

Rectangle:
Length x Width x Average Depth x 7.5 = Approx. gal.

Oval/Free-form:
Length x Width x Average Depth x 5.9 = Approx. gal.

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