



23285 Mathew Road

Rock Falls, IL 61071

**(815) 625-6900**

[www.ms pools.com](http://www.ms pools.com)

The information stated within this document is for reference only and is not intended to be used as a basis for exact pool and pool water maintenance. Please [contact a pool water specialist](#) in your area for exact maintenance requirements and to set up a schedule for your specific pool.

## Opening Your Pool

- Remove, clean and store the pool cover
- Thoroughly clean and vacuum the pool
- Add water to the desired height at the prescribed rate of 1" (25mm) per hour
- Test water balance, pH, Calcium Hardness and Total Alkalinity levels
- Inspect electrical service, filters, skimmers, drains, ladders, diving boards, plugs, gauges, and other important components of the system
- Lubricate fittings, valves, o-rings, and plugs
- Inspect tile and grout installations, and clean tiles and skimmer with cleanser

- Take a sample of pool water to a pool water expert for analysis
- Clean and inspect pool deck
- Skim pool water surface and vacuum pool bottom
- Backwash filter if necessary
- Shock pool water to breakpoint levels
- Adopt a routine maintenance program for the season
- Add algaecide as required

### **Pool Maintenance 2-3 times a week:**

- Empty skimmer and pump basket (may require more frequent cleaning)
- Vacuum the pool two to three times a week. Brush the sides and bottom of your pool, even if you have an automatic pool cleaner as this will loosen dirt and other particles that may adhere to pool finish.

### **Weekly Pool Maintenance:**

- Remove any large accumulation of debris on the bottom with a leaf scoop.
- Feed the pool with chlorine or other sanitizer to satisfy its requirements either manually or automatically.
- Check that the water level is high enough for the pump to operate correctly.
- Test and adjust sanitizer level (may require more frequent testing depending upon bather load and environmental conditions)
- Visually inspect pool water for clarity, color and visible contaminants

- Remove floating leaves
- Test and adjust pH (may require more frequent testing depending upon bather load and environmental conditions)
  - The pH should be in the range 7.4 – 7.7 if the pool has a vinyl or tile finish. The range should be 7.3 -7.5 if the pool has a fiberglass finish. The range should be 7.4-7.6 for a gunite swimming pool. If the level is too high, then adjust it down using pH decriaser. The correct dosage is located on the label.
  - If the pH is too low, then add pH increaser. Again see labels for dosage. If the pH has dropped possibly so has your total alkalinity.
  - Don't correct your pH more than once a week.
- Test chlorine levels in the pool water:
  - Free chlorine levels should be between 1-3 ppm
  - Free bromine levels should be between 3-5 ppm
- Test and adjust Alkalinity
- Test and adjust Oxidizer and Stabilizer levels
- Clean the tile at the water line
- Check filter pressure and backwash only if required
- Check water level and adjust as necessary at the prescribed rate of 1" (25mm) per hour
- Add a preventative dose of algaecide as necessary

- Shock the pool as per label instructions. This treatment restores the sparkle to the pool water and destroys germs and organic contaminants (can be done once every 2 weeks)

### **Monthly Pool Maintenance:**

- Test and adjust Calcium Hardness
- Test and adjust for Total Dissolved Solids
- Test the total alkalinity, which should be in the range of 120-150 ppm.
- Chemically clean the filter
- Visually inspect tile, grout, sealant, and other exposed elements of pool
- Conduct Langelier Saturation Index evaluation and adjust as necessary
- Test your salt levels if you have a saltwater pool.
- If you have a vinyl liner – check for holes and tears and make any needed repairs as soon as possible.
- If you have a concrete, granite pool or fiberglass pool, check for cracks.
- Check the seals in your motor and pump.
- Check all handrails, steps and other safety equipment to be sure that it's in proper working order.

### **Closing a Pool:**

- Balance the pool water chemistry, typically to the following levels:

- pH: 7.2 – 7.6
  - Total Alkalinity: 80 – 120 parts per million (ppm)
  - Calcium Hardness: 180 – 220 ppm
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- Run the filter continuously for 24 – 48 hours
  - Remove skimmer baskets, cleaners, ladders, wall fittings, and solar blankets from the pool
  - Lower the water level in the pool to 6” (150mm) below the skimmer level at the prescribed rate of 1” (25mm) per hour
  - Drain all pumping, filtering, heating, and sanitizing equipment to prevent damage caused by freezing
  - Lubricate o-rings, valves and plugs to make opening the pool in the spring easier
  - Thoroughly clean and vacuum the pool
  - Winterize the plumbing by blowing out the lines and plug the lines with expansion plugs
  - Add winterizing algaecide
  - Cover the pool with a tight fitting cover

**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 local pool professional.](#)