

pH Control

pH is a measure of the activity of hydrogen (H^+) in a solution and, therefore, its acidity or alkalinity. In aqueous systems, the hydrogen ion activity is dictated by the dissociation constant of water and interaction with other ions in solution. Due to this dissociation constant a neutral solution (hydrogen ion activity equals hydroxide ion activity) has a pH of approximately 7. Aqueous solutions with pH values lower than 7 are considered acidic, while pH values higher than 7 are considered alkaline.

pH, which is a measure of acidity or alkalinity of water, is determined by your test kit. Proper pH maintenance is extremely important as it is responsible for the correct bacterial action of the chlorine, swimmer comfort, and prevents deterioration of the equipment and the pool itself. A proper pH reading is 7.4 to 7.6. Ideally, your pool should be maintained at the higher of 7.6.

After testing the water, if the pH is too high (above 7.6) chlorine efficiency is reduced, scaling of surfaces and equipment may occur, and water may become cloudy. To correct this condition, you should add either; liquid muriatic acid or granular sodium bisulfate directly to the water. The granular form is the one recommended for your pool. Never add more than one pound of sodium bisulfate or one pint muriatic acid per 10,000 gallons of pool water without professional guidance.

If pH is too low (below 7.4), chlorine dissipates more rapidly, water may be irritating to swimmers, and corrosion of equipment and surfaces may occur. To correct this condition you should add either; soda ash or baking soda directly to the water. Never add more than one pound of either without professional guidance.