

Fresh Water Start Up Procedures for Plaster Pools

ALWAYS ADD A CHEMICAL TO THE WATER - NEVER ADD WATER TO THE CHEMICAL

The source water used to fill the pool is not balanced or sanitary for safe swimming or to preserve the equipment and the cementitious materials used for tile, coping/rock or plaster. Therefore, it is very important to follow recommended start-up procedures, such as the one provided in this Fact Sheet.

These instructions are for a basic 28-day process for prevention of plaster problems and safe swimming. Swimming can only begin after the water is balanced and the proper level of sanitizer has been achieved.

Note: The manufacturers of many plaster products have specific instructions for their high-performance finishes that may vary from these procedures.

POOL FILLING DAY

- Make sure the equipment is set and has power.
- Test the fill water for pH, total alkalinity, calcium hardness and metals. Record results.
- Remove all in-floor cleaning heads for the first 14x days if applicable
- Fill the pool with clean, potable water as quickly as possible, without interruption, to the appropriate level. If a water truck is required, test the water from each truck. A water cushion of at least 500mm should be in place before discharging water into the pool. At no time should any person or pet be in the pool prior to the pool being filled.

DAY 1

1. Test pool water for pH, total alkalinity and calcium hardness and record results.
2. High total alkalinity should be adjusted to 80-100 ppm using pre-diluted muriatic acid (always pre-dilute the acid by adding to a 20-litre bucket of water).
3. Low alkalinity should be adjusted upward to 80 ppm using sodium bi-carbonate, pre-dissolved in a 20 litre bucket of water.
4. pH should be reduced to 7.2-7.6 by pre-diluting acid in a bucket of water. This is done (if needed) after adjusting total alkalinity.
5. Low calcium hardness should be adjusted to 80-100 ppm. Hardness increaser (calcium chloride) should be dissolved in a bucket of water (bucket will get hot) and adjustments added in 3kg increments and brushed immediately, with each dosage separated by several hours. Never add calcium hardness increaser (calcium chloride) and alkalinity increaser (sodium bicarbonate) at the same time.
6. Brush the entire pool surface thoroughly at least twice daily to remove all plaster dust. Wheeled vacuums or wheeled pool cleaners should not be used until after 28 days (brush vacuums or non-wheeled cleaners are allowed).
7. Add a high quality sequestering agent, following the manufacturer's recommended initial start-up dosage. When using a sequestering agent, it is advised to continue the recommended maintenance dosage thereafter.
8. Continuous operation of the pump and filtration system is mandatory for seven days or until the plaster dust and other debris has been brushed away and filtered out, and the water is no longer cloudy (a minimum of 72 hours).

Fresh Water Start Up Procedures for Plaster Pools Continued

9. DO NOT add chlorine for 48 hours. DO NOT turn on pool heater – read manufacturer's recommendations.

DAY 2

1. Test pH, total alkalinity and calcium hardness and record results. Repeat steps for Day 1 except for Step 7.
2. Once the total alkalinity is adjusted to 80-100 ppm and the pH is between 7.2-7.6, adjust the calcium hardness upward to 100-150 ppm. Dissolve calcium hardness increaser (calcium chloride) in a bucket of water in small doses of approximately 3kgs and brush immediately. Allow several hours between additions. NEVER add hardness increaser (calcium chloride) and alkalinity increaser (sodium bicarbonate) at the same time.

DAY 3

1. Test and adjust pH, total alkalinity and calcium hardness as per Day 2 Step 2, and repeat Steps 6 and 8 of Day 1.
2. Add pre-diluted or pre-dissolved chlorine to raise the Free Chlorine level to between 1.5-3 ppm level. (IMPORTANT: For saltwater pools, do not add salt within the first 30 days.)
3. Brush entire pool surface at least twice daily to remove all plaster dust.

DAYS 4-7

1. Test and adjust pH and total alkalinity maintaining the ranges of Day 2, Step 2, and repeat Steps 6 and 8 of Day 1 for 7 days to help prevent the scaling of the pool surface.
2. In-floor and directional fittings may be added once water chemistry is balanced.

DAY 4

1. Calcium hardness should be a minimum of 200 ppm. Test and confirm level.
2. Begin adjusting the cyanuric acid (CYA) to 30-50 ppm. Add slowly through the skimmer. Do not add directly into the pool as this will damage the plaster colour.

DAY 7

1. If there is any plaster dust remaining, remove it using a brush pool vacuum tool.

DAYS 7-28

1. Continue to test frequently and make adjustments as necessary. Keep records of the test results and the amount of chemical used.
2. Once plaster dust is removed, and with a good cleaning system in place, brushing can be limited to once a week and as needed to remove visually observed material (leaves, dirt) and when adding chemicals.

Recommended Pool Water Balance Thereafter 28 days

Free Chlorine	1.0 to 3.0 ppm
Bromine	3.0 to 5.0 ppm
pH	7.2 to 7.6
Total Alkalinity (TA)	80 to 120 ppm
Calcium Hardness (CH)	200 to 400 ppm
Langelier Saturation Index (SI)	"-0.5 TO +0.5
Pool Stabiliser (Cyanuric acid)	30 to 80 ppm
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	less than 2000 ppm
Copper and Iron	0 ppm
Sequestering Agent: Blue Stuff (Initial Dosage First Month Only)	16-20 ppm
Maintenance Dose	10-12 ppm