



50 Narrows Road, Westminster MA • 978.874.2333 • snyderpools.com

Aboveground Pool School

Why do you need to balance your swimming pool? A balanced pool means a clear, healthy swimming pool. The chances of algae growth, skin irritation and corrosion of swimming pool equipment are eliminated when your swimming pool is balanced and sanitized properly.

Chemicals:

Metal Magnet- Inhibits and prevents scale formation from excessive calcium and staining from iron, copper and manganese. This product should be added when the pool is first filled, or at the beginning of the swimming pool season. For the initial treatment, add 1 quart of this product per 10,000 gallons of water.

Shock-It: Fast acting calcium hypochlorite granules. Shock it restores sparkle and sheen to pool water as it kills germs, destroys algae and organic contaminants. Add 1Lb per 10,000 gallons directly into the swimming pool's skimmer to help kill algae or use on a weekly basis with Big Tabs.

Algaecide- Non-foaming, non-metallic 30%/ 60% strength polyquat algaecide that helps prevent the growth of green, black and mustard algae. Algaecide should be used at the time of opening and closing your swimming pool, along with on a regular basis.

Alkalinity Up- Designed to increase your total alkalinity. Active ingredient is Sodium Bicarbonate. Alkalinity is a granular product that raises the total alkalinity in a swimming pool and acts as a buffer to prevent pH bounce, staining and corrosion. Ideal level Alkalinity level is 80-120ppm.

pH Up- This granular product increases the water's pH effectively. The active ingredient is sodium carbonate. Ideal pH level is 7.2-7.6ppm. Often low pH is a result of acid rain and occurs after periods of heavy precipitation. The most common cause of consistently low pH is low total alkalinity, which should always be adjusted (with Alkalinity Up) before trying to increase the pH.

Stabilizer- 100% cyanuric acid- chlorine stabilizer/ conditioner. Stabilizer helps retain your chlorine level longer, it is designed to act as the sunglasses to the pool to protect from the breakdown effects of sunlight. Ideal stabilizer level is 30-80ppm.

Calcium Elevator- You can increase the calcium hardness level by adding calcium chloride. If the swimming pool suffers low hardness due to the low quality of the fill water, calcium hypochlorite should be added. The measure of all the dissolved minerals such as calcium, magnesium and sodium are known as total hardness. Regarding pool water chemistry, it's known as calcium hardness. High or low levels of calcium hardness can result in issues, so the recommended level for calcium hardness is 200 - 400 ppm.



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Sanitizing Methods

The most common chemical used in the treatment of swimming pool water is chlorine. It not only eliminates bacteria and algae by disinfecting, but it also oxidizes (chemically destroys) other materials such as dirt and chloramines. Ideal range 1-3ppm in season.

Sustain: Sustain 3-part system is super easy from day one, and so effective at keeping your water clean that it comes with an algae-free limited warranty.

Sustain Summer Shield Chlorine Extender: provides water with an extra level of protection against algae. It does this by creating a reserve, or backup, of chlorine fighting power that is released on-demand when routine sanitizing levels drop (below 1ppm), such as after a rainstorm or pool party. Sustain Summer Shield chlorine extender also contains a clarifier to gather suspended particles that can cloud your water, making them easier to be removed by the pool filter.

Sustain® Chlorinating Tablets: Sustain 3-inch blue chlorinating tablets, when used according to label directions, will keep your swimming pool looking great by providing routine sanitizing power all week long. These tablets contain a proprietary erosion modifier that allows them to deliver chlorine more consistently than conventional white tablets (Trichlor). Sustain Tablets don't contain cyanuric acid (CYA) which can inhibit chlorine effectiveness. The skimmer dispenser cup packed inside every bucket allows you to control just the right amount of chlorine for your pool with an easy-to-use adjustable lid.

Sustain® Shield Energizer Tablets: Sustain ¾-inch blue, Shield Energizer Tablets make the shocking process simple, quick, and effective. Every time you use Shield Energizer Tablets, you replenish your Summer Shield reserve bank of chlorine protection. Use the measuring cup that comes inside each package to fill your skimmer basket with the required energizer tablets for your pool size.

Salt Generators: Salt is converted to sodium chloride by a salt cell. The cell is comprised of iridium-coated metal plates, which are connected to the control board. As water passes over the plates, the control board electrically charges the plates, which in turn allows electrolysis to convert the salt into chlorine. The salt level should be 2700-3500 ppm. For a brand-new pool, add 50 lb. of salt for every 2,000 gallons of water.

Granular Chlorine: It is a granular calcium hypochlorite also widely known as shock. Granular chlorine effectly kills bacteria, destroys organic contaminants and controls algae. It is not recommended as a main source of sanitization. We recommend granular chlorine be used in combination with Big Tabs on a weekly basis. Add 1lb per 10,000 gallons.

Big Tabs: Compressed 3-inch (8 oz.) slow dissolving chlorine tablets have the sanitizing power of 90% available chlorine and built-in chlorine stabilizer to maintain proper chlorine levels in sunlight. One 3" slow-release tab per 10,000 gallons combined with 1lbs per 10,000 gallons of granular chlorine per week into skimmer to rid the water of contaminants.

Why use Granular over Liquid Chlorine? Liquid is very high pH level, short shelf life, it has a 5%-12.5% Sodium Hypochlorite, also known as Bleach or Liquid Shock. Most store brand Bleach sold in 1 gal jugs is 5% sodium hypochlorite and contains more water. Granular chlorine(shock-it) contains 65-73% calcium hypochlorite.

*Proper chemical balance and pool filtration will keep your pool clean and clear. Please allow our store to test your water with our free computerized water analysis once a month.



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Operating a Sand Filtration System

Sand Filters: A sand filter main media is silica sand or Activate, a glass filter media designed to keep the pool cleaner, cleaner, and healthier water. A sand filter can capture particles in the 20–40-micron range and as the sand becomes more compact it becomes increasingly more efficient. Sand filters will need to be backwashed when the gauge shows 8-10 psi over the starting value. Sand filters have the reputation of being the lowest maintenance of all the different pool filter types as it takes roughly 7-10 years before your first time replacing the sand.

Dreamline S190t Sand Filter (175lbs of silica sand). Hayward PowerFlo 1.5hp pump

Multiport Valve Setting:

- Filter: For normal filtration and vacuuming pool through the filter.
- Backwash: For cleaning filter.
- Rinse: For initial start-up and clearing valve of debris after backwashing.
- Waste pump: For vacuuming directly to waste, lowering pool level and/or draining the pool.
- Closed: For shutting off all flow to filter and pool.
- Recirculate Pump: For bypassing filter but circulating pool water.
- Winterizing: Leave here once the filter and pump are winterized.

Backwashing: The process of thoroughly cleaning the filter by reversing the flow of water and rinsing the dirty water out of the backwash hose. Typically, you will want to backwash when the pressure is 8-10 psi higher than your starting pressure.

1. Turn the pump off.
2. Turn the multiport valve clockwise to “Backwash.”
3. Turn the pump back on and allow the water to flow out of the blue collapsible hose (backwash hose) for 60-90 seconds. Check the **sight glass** if needed. Backwash until the water runs clear.
4. Turn the pump off again.
5. Turn the multiport handle clockwise to “Rinse” and allow the water to flow out of the backwash hose for no more than 30 seconds.
6. Repeat steps 1-5 a total of 3 times.
7. Be sure to replenish water as needed; backwashing will lower the water level.

Vacuuming Instructions

1. Leave the multiport in the “Filter” position.
2. Take out your Vacuum equipment; vacuum hose, vacuum head, skim vac plate, and vacuum pole, then assemble. Be sure the swivel end of the vacuum hose is attached to the vacuum head.
3. Take the assembled vacuum equipment to the return that is closest to the skimmer.
4. Place the vacuum head into the water, put the skim vac plate over the return and hold it until all the air is out of the hose/vacuum head (do not see any more air bubbles coming out the vacuum head underwater).
5. Once the hose is filled with water, attach it to the skimmer basket in the skimmer. You will feel it get pulled down taut to the basket which means you are now ready to vacuum.
6. When you are done vacuuming, backwash the filter as directed in the backwashing instructions.



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Glossary of Swimming Pool Terms:

Sight Glass: A small clear plastic container located on the upper side of the filter tank, a convenient place to view backwash water allowing you to know when backwashing is complete.

Water Level: The water should always remain approximately 2/3 of the way up the skimmer. Never allow the water to go below halfway down the skimmer. This can damage the pump and force air into the lines.

Motor: Located at the “dry end” of the pump, the motor powers the impeller which moves water into and through the pump.

Multiport: The handle on top of the filter tank that changes the function of the filter. **Always** be sure to turn the pump off before switching functions.

Pressure Gauge: The dial mounted on the filter that measures the pressure (PSI) building in the filter tank. Normal operating pressure is ideally the starting number upon installation or start-up or cleaning of the filter. Please note that this number may change with each new season as your filter equipment ages.

Pump: A mechanical device powered by the motor which forces water to flow and pressure to build for the sole purpose of filtration and circulation of pool water.

Pump Basket: The basket or strainer in the pump housing is used to catch debris that gets past the skimmer basket. Empty as needed. Always turn the pump off, put your winter plug into the skimmer and turn the multiport valve to “Closed” before removing the pump cover. Be sure to remove the winter plug and turn the multiport back to “Filter” before turning the pump back on!

Return Fitting: Located on the side of the pool wall, this part most referred to as the jet, eyelet, or inlet, forces the water through an opening allowing water to circulate. All return fittings have an “eyeball” that can be adjusted to point returning water in the desired direction to change the current.

Skimmer: A device installed through the wall of the pool that is connected to the suction line of the pump. It draws water and floating debris from the surface of the pool.

Skimmer Basket: A removable slotted basket or strainer placed in the skimmer which is designed to trap floating debris in the water. This needs to be checked and emptied daily.

Skim-Vac Plate: A fitting that attaches to the vacuum hose and suctions to the rim of the skimmer basket.

Weir Door: The small floating “door” inside of the skimmer that faces the water. The weir prevents the debris from floating back into the pool after the pump shuts off. Make sure that the weir door does not get stuck “up”, otherwise it will block the flow of water to the pump.

Winter Plug: The threaded plug that is inserted into both the return **and** the skimmer to stop the flow of water. Winter plugs are typically used in the return for winterizing and in the skimmer before emptying the pump basket.



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Troubleshooting

Having little to no pressure or suction?

1. Make sure that the water is $\frac{3}{4}$ way up the skimmer.
2. If you have a lot of air bubbles, you need to check all O-rings, gaskets, or unions where air could be getting into the system. Lube with Jack's or Magic Lube. Do not use Vaseline as it will corrode the O-rings. The most common place for air leaks is the pump lid gasket, housing, and/or pump plugs.
3. If it is only happening while vacuuming, it may be the vacuum equipment.
4. If none of these apply, please call the retail store for additional troubleshooting advice or to schedule a service call through our retail store. (978) 874-2333.

How to Destroy algae growth. Once algae have started to bloom, it is quite tiresome to destroy. The common steps to get rid of an algae problem are:

- Shock the pool with 1lbs of shock per 10,000 gallons and add 8oz per 10,000 gallons of EZ-Clor Mustard Algaecide. The chlorine level should be at least 10ppm free of chlorine (10 times the recommended minimum level). Daily till the pool is clear or is holding a 1-3ppm chlorine level after 24hrs.
- Keep the filter and pump running 24hrs till clear.
- Brush the pool and vacuum (to waste if possible) repeat daily.
- Backwash your filter regularly.
- Bring a water sample to be tested at our retail store.

Why does my pool water have a strong smell of chlorine? It is a result of chlorine being burned off which is caused by insufficient free chlorine and usually results in a strong chlorine odor in and around the swimming pool. Add 1lb per 10,000 gallons of granular chlorine and let the swimming pool filter and pump run for 24hrs. Bring a water sample to our retail store to be tested.

Ideal chemicals level:

Free Chlorine: 1-3ppm (Low chlorine- algae growth and results in a strong chlorine odor. High chlorine- causes corrosion in metallic pool equipment and skin irritation.)

Total Alkalinity (TA): 80-100ppm (Low TA- eye irritation, pH bounce, staining, and metal corrosion. High TA-difficulty in maintaining pH and contributed to scale formation or cloudy water.)

pH: 7.2-7.6ppm (Low pH- equipment corrosion, eye/skin irritation, rapid chlorine consumption. High pH scaling, cloudy water, eye/skin irritation, poor chlorine effectiveness.)

Cyanuric Acid/Stabilizer (CYA): 60-100ppm (Low CYA- the destruction of chlorine by the U rays of the sun. High CYA requires more chlorine.)

Calcium Hardness (CH): 200-400ppm (Low CH equipment corrosion. High CH scaling, cloudy water.)

Salt: 2700-3500ppm (Low salt causes cell failure and reduces chlorine production. High salt- causes corrosion of metallic fixtures and water will taste salty.)

Fun fact: The pH of our eyes is typically 7.2 - 7.4. In our experience, if the pH is kept at the same level as that in our eyes, the side effects of burning red eyes are kept to a minimum.