

## Weekly Salt Water Pool Maintenance

**Salt concentration ideal range is 2500 - 4500 ppm** - You should monitor the salt concentration regularly and most units show this reading on an LCD display on the generator or display panel so you don't have to do the work.

**Chlorine level ideal range is 1-3ppm** - Chlorine levels should be checked regularly making sure to test from two separate areas of your pool. A slightly higher level should be found near the pool return line, indicating that the generator is working properly.

**pH level ideal range is 7.2-7.8 (7.4 optimal)** - A proper pH is important for allowing the chlorine to work most effectively at removing germs and bacteria.

## Monthly Salt Water Pool Maintenance

- Free Available Chlorine should range from 1-2ppm.
- Alkalinity levels should range from 60-100ppm.
- Stabilizer levels should be tested and remain between 30-60ppm.
- Calcium levels should remain between 150-400ppm.
- Test for Metals to ensure that metals such as copper, iron and manganese are not present.
- Take a Pool Water Sample to a local pool store for testing. (optional)

## Yearly Salt Water Pool Maintenance

The salt cell contained within the [salt chlorine generator](#) is what converts the salt water into low levels of free chlorine. The salt water pool cell should only need to be cleaned once every year or season. The average life span of a cell is roughly 4 - 6 years with average use.

If you want to avoid calling a pool professional you can check out our [salt water pool cell](#) page and learn how to clean it on your own in as little as 10 minutes.

## How to Add Salt

Adding salt to your salt water swimming pool will be necessary when you first convert it from a regular chlorine pool - occasionally you will need to add small amounts of salt to maintain salt levels but this should only occur once per swimming season. Read more about the right kind of [pool salt](#) and use the table provided to determine how much you'll need to get your salt water pool ready to use.

Turn on pump to circulate water in the pool and make sure salt chlorine generator is turned off. Determine correct amount of salt to add to the pool and add around the perimeter or into the shallow end of the pool for even distribution. Don't add salt through the skimmer, main drain or surge tank.

Brush the bottom of the pool and allow water to circulate for 24 hours to allow salt to dissolve completely. After 24 hours, verify correct salt levels. It's important to not exceed the required salt levels. It's difficult to lower the levels and means you will have to empty some water and add fresh unsalted water to dilute the water.

*Swimming pool salt should be at least 99.8% pure NaCl. Preferably evaporated, granulated, food quality, non iodized salt.*

# Opening A Pool

The sun is shining, the birds are chirping, springtime is finally here and the beginning of the swimming pool season! There are a few steps required for opening a pool and we'll go through them all.

It's not something everyone enjoys doing but it's important to do it correctly. Taking the time now could save you time and money during the swimming pool season and help avoid costly repairs and maintenance. If you find that you are uncomfortable with the do-it-yourself approach, you can always contact a local pool professional to help you with your pool opening.

Let's get started, and remember that these steps to opening an inground pool can be done over a couple of weeks so it doesn't seem like such a big task. Take your time and try to enjoy the process.

If you have an above ground pool check out our [above ground pool opening](#) page.



## Opening A Pool Step by Step

### Step 1 Clean and Remove the Pool Cover

This step is potentially the most difficult and if not done correctly, could end up causing a lot of headaches. It depends on the type of cover you are using but the main goal is to ensure there is no debris or water left on the pool cover before you attempt to remove it. If you try to remove the cover with leaves, twigs, or dirt still on the cover, it can end up in your pool water.

If you are using a hard cover you will need to pump or drain the water off before removing. A swimming pool cover pump or sump pump is ideal for this task.

You might want to consider using a [pool leaf cover](#) or net if you notice you have a lot of leaves or similar debris on your cover in the spring. A leaf net can be placed on top of the cover in the fall and makes the process a whole lot easier come springtime.

Take the bit of extra time to spray off the cover with a garden hose or pressure washer before storing it for the pool season.

## Step 2 General Cleaning and Inspection

If you were able to remove the cover and it was installed properly in the fall, you should have a relatively clean pool to work with. If you didn't use a cover or ended up with debris in your pool, this is the time to remove larger debris that may have ended up in your water. A net or leaf rake is useful for this step.

Clean the skimmer basket and make sure it is unobstructed; debris tends to collect here over the winter months. Remove any Gizmos or devices used to help prevent freezing damage.

If your pool is relatively clean at this step, this is a good time to give the liner, walls, and deck a good clean if required.

When opening a pool it's a great idea to do a general inspection of piping and other pool equipment. You want to keep an eye out for anything out of the ordinary including leaks, breakages and general wear and tear.

If you suspect a tear in your liner check out our [pool liner repair](#) page.

## Step 3 Adjust Water Level and Start Filter System

Reattach plumbing and close any valves left open or previously plugged when previously [winterizing a pool](#). If you disconnected electricity, you will need to reconnect this also.

If you are using a [salt chlorine generator](#) for your salt water swimming pool, reinsert the salt cell if it was removed during winterization.

Add water to bring up to the appropriate level for normal pool operation. Once this level is achieved and you've removed all the large debris, it's time to start the pool system. There will be air in the system that needs to be purged as it begins to cycle pool water from your swimming pool.

## Step 4 Final Cleaning and Inspection

Opening a pool can be a bit tedious but every effort made now will be worth it in the long run. With the pool water clean and the filter system operating smoothly it's time to do any final cleaning. You can use a brush or some old fashioned elbow grease for this step to get your pool looking sparkly clean.

Ensure that the filter, pump, heater and most importantly, your salt chlorine generator are working properly.

## **Step 5 Water Chemistry**

It's important to allow the water added to circulate with the existing water before testing. A day should be sufficient or a good 8 hour cycle.

If your salt system doesn't have an automatic chemistry sensor you will have to test the water manually or take a water sample into your local pool professional. Low maintenance and easy chemical balancing is one of the major benefits of owning a salt water swimming pool. Your salt chlorine generator will have detailed instructions on how to operate for best results.

Learn more about proper balancing on our [salt water pool maintenance](#) page.

## **Step 6 Install Hardware**

It's time to install all the things that make your pool functional and fun. If you removed all hardware and stored over the winter they should be in great condition for the coming season but it's a good idea to give them a good inspection when opening a pool.

Handrails and ladders should be free of cracks or obvious damage that could pose a safety risk. Diving boards should be inspected for cracks and if the surface has become smooth it may require a new finishing.