Balancing Swimming Pool Chemicals: Keeping Your Chlorine Pool's Water Chemistry in Balance

There are 5 major aspects to balance the chemical composition of swimming pool chemicals in the chlorine pool. These 5 aspects are key to keeping your chlorine swimming pool's chemical balance and must be checked on a weekly basis in order to minimize the likelihood of unwelcome algae and bacteria growing. Algae and bacteria will make a pool turn green, attract insects and mosquitoes, and can make the pool less healthy or even dangerous to swim in. Here's a rundown of the crucial things to be aware of to ensure that your pool is safe and clean to swim in.

1) Water Hardness Level

The water hardness level is the initial step in controlling the chemicals used in swimming pools and is composed of two elements: Direct Hardness Level and Indirect hardness level.

Direct Hardness Level: The degree of hardness of your pool water can be a direct result of where your water is drawn from. When the water hardness is too high this makes the balance of the chemicals in your swimming pool difficult. The most significant factors that cause water hard are dirt and particulates (Magnesium or calcium taken from the atmosphere and dirt to be precise) that are in your water when it is brought to your home no matter where it came from. If you get your water from a well it will have a different hardness amount than if it comes from it from the city that you reside in. Some communities have harder water than other communities. It all depends on the source.

Indirect Hardness Level - Hardness in a pool is indirectly dependent on the various chemical compounds that dissolve in the water in your pool. As you add chemicals to your pool and they perform their job, they get consumed and then increase the level of harness of the pool's water's chemistry.

When the water becomes too hard it is unable to allow the chemicals which balance a pool dissolve and function to balance it, and has an tendency to form deposits of minerals or deposits on the floor of your pool, walls as well as pool equipment because of the large levels of minerals that are present within the water. When the water's hardness is too low (this isn't the norm all the time) the water will become corrosive, and begins to eat away at your surfaces. In this instance, you could apply a chemical named Calcium Chloride to raise the level of the harness up.

The ideal level of water hardness must be between 200 and 400 ppm of minerals in order to be beneficial and safe. If water in your pool becomes too hard the only solution is to drain the pool either completely or partially, and then refill it with clean water.

2) Chlorine Level

The amount of chlorine present inside the swimming area is the second crucial factor to balance swimming pool chemicals. In terms of sanitizing a chlorine pool and killing undesirable bacteria and algae, chlorine is the primary chemical you can possess. It is crucial to maintain this chemical in equilibrium as you're using too much, it could cause irritation to swimmers' skin and eyes and lead to health issues If you have less than the recommended amount, bacteria and algae may grow.

There are two forms of chlorine takes when it is in your swimming pool. I call the two forms "Useable Chlorine" and "Used Chlorine". Combined (Useable and Used) make up"Total

Chlorine" or "Total Chlorine" in your pool.

1) The Useable Chlorine (AKA Free Chlorine) is the chlorine that is currently working, sanitizing and killing unwanted algae and bacteria in your swimming pool. This usable, or free chlorine level is the most crucial chemical to maintain balance. The minimum level of useable chlorine that should be in your pool is 1 ppm. Anything less than that and it will not be sufficient to disinfect and kill. The highest amount of chlorine that should be in your pool is 10ppm. If you exceed this, it can be irritating and dangerous for swimmers to be swimming around in. The ideal range for perfect pool chemistry is to have 1-3 ppm of free, suitable chlorine in your swimming pool.

2.) The used chlorine refers to the chlorine present in your pool that has already completed its work and is no longer effective. It's the chlorine that is just floating around, adding more hardness your water and it's not doing anything to kill any of the things listed above. Sometimes when people check levels of chlorine in swimming pools, they notice that there is a good amount of "Total Chlorine", but it isn't a guarantee that there is enough useable chlorine that kills things, because the chlorine that is used up is gone and is used up.

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This is the place "Shocking" a pool comes into the game. Shock provides a huge amount of usable or free chlorine. When your pool is shocked, the chlorine used to clean it, is able to kill and destroy the chlorine being used. This allows the hardness of the pool , allowing the chlorine that is usable to move around and accomplish its job in keeping your pool safe and clean.

3) PH Balance

PH balance is the third key to balancing the chemicals used in swimming pools. PH is the index to determine the degree of acidity or alkaline (basic) pool water is. The ideal water for a swimming pools is to stay on the simple side. Every PH test has numbers that will show you how acidic or basic the pool water can be. Water that reads lower than seven is considered to be acidic and water that is higher than 7 is basic. The ideal range to swim in can be found in the range of 7.2 between 7.8 and 7.8.

Low PH - If a pool is too acidic or has a low pH, the water could damage equipment and fixtures, or even the surface of your pool. This also causes chlorine to be destroyed and reduces its efficiency. If the PH level is too low swimmers' skin and eyes can become irritated as well. If the PH is inadequate, Sodium Bicarbonate (Soda Ash) needs to be added to the pool.

A high PH pool is not sufficiently basic or has a high PH the water may be uncomfortable to swim in, and the water can become cloudy. A high PH may also cause metals and calcium to be released from your pool's surface, causing stains and deposits on wall surfaces and equipment in the pool. It is also known as muriatic Acid is the substance added to a pool in order to lower the pH level in the event that it becomes too basic.