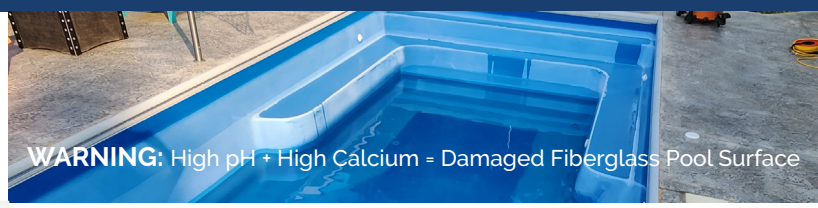
NEW UPDATES

FIBERGLASS POOL CARE GUIDE

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO MAINTAINING YOUR POOL'S FINISH AND HAVING SAFE* WATER

Your sparkling clear water may still be damaging your pool's finish. Pool water needs to be within ranges and balanced to avoid chalking, staining, and discoloration.



TOP 5 TIPS FOR MAINTAINING YOUR POOL FINISH:

1. **Use a Scale & Stain Control Product**

   Regularly use a stain/metal and scale control product to prevent discoloration and maintain your pool's finish. These products contain chelating and sequestering agents that can effectively shield your pool from calcium. We've found that SC-1000 by Orenda and Scale & Stain Eliminator by Pool Stain Removers work well.

2. **Avoid Calcium Hypochlorite (A Form of Chlorine That Contains Calcium)**

   Calcium hypochlorite (cal-hypo) is a common ingredient in some shock treatments. It is important to avoid using it in fiberglass pools. Instead, choose better options like liquid chlorine or non-chlorine shock treatments to protect your pool's surface.

3. **Maintain pH Between 7.2 - 7.4**

   pH is key to preserving your fiberglass pool finish. We recommend keeping your pH between 7.2 and 7.4 to protect your pool surface.

   SALT | Saltwater pools, in particular, tend to raise pH levels, so it's important to monitor and maintain a pH below 7.8 to avoid any damage.

4. **Maintain Calcium Hardness Levels Below 120 ppm**

   Fiberglass pool owners should not add calcium or products that use calcium to their pools. Low calcium levels are beneficial to fiberglass pools! If your water is above 120 ppm, use a water softener or stain and scale control product to prevent scaling and discoloration.

5. **Maintain Chlorine Levels Between 1 - 3 ppm**

   Keep chlorine between 1-3 ppm by using liquid chlorine, trichlor tablets, or dichlor tablets. For chlorine to work, pH must be in the correct range. If you need to increase chlorine levels temporarily, make sure your pH stays below 7.8 to avoid damage.

FIBERGLASS POOL RECOMMENDED CHEMISTRY

RANGES

pH: 7.2 - 7.4
Calcium Hardness: Less than 120 ppm
- (If above 120 ppm, must use chelating stain/metal and scale control product)

Total Alkalinity: 80 - 120 ppm
Total Chlorine: 1 - 3 ppm
CYA: 30 - 50 ppm
Metals: 0
TDS: less than 1500 ppm*

SALT | *For salt water pools - The maximum TDS can be 1,000 ppm above the safe salt levels, which typically range from 2,700 to 3,400 ppm, depending on the manufacturer.

BALANCE:

Langelier Saturation Index (LSI): -0.30 - +0.30

Note: Under no conditions should LSI go above +0.30. In winter months, LSI may go below -0.30.

NEED MORE HELP?
Visit our online owner's manual for all updated guidelines.

River Pools®

This guide provides key tips for fiberglass pool care and maintaining the surface finish. However, it does not cover all aspects of pool maintenance. For complete care, including specific instructions for additional equipment, please consult the recommended guidelines from your equipment manufacturer.

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *Operating and Managing Public Pools, Hot Tubs and Splash Pads.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-swimming/toolkit/operating-public-pools-hot-tubs-and-splash-pads.html

DON'T BE STANDARD. YOUR POOL ISN'T.

STANDARD POOL CHEMISTRY GUIDELINES FOR THE PAST CENTURY

Concrete pools, which inherently contain calcium, have been the standard model for water chemistry guidelines and testing for nearly a century. Fiberglass pools, by contrast, are calcium-free in their structure. They do not react the same to calcium. Excess calcium combined with high pH and chlorine can result in discoloration to the gel coat surface.

CALCIUM EFFECT ON FIBERGLASS POOL SURFACE

Calcium is the root cause of most of the discoloration on fiberglass pools. **At zero calcium levels, the gel coat surface will tolerate a wider range of pH and chlorine. As calcium is added, the gel coat surface is more likely to discolor with high levels of pH and chlorine.** The gel coat surface of a fiberglass pool shell should last a very long time if the pH, chlorine and hardness (calcium) are maintained at the required levels. If pH and chlorine are raised above the recommended ranges, then the possibility of discoloration increases based on how much calcium is in the water.

EFFECT ON FIBERGLASS POOL SURFACE CAUSED BY HIGH RANGES OF BOTH pH & CHLORINE WITH & WITHOUT CALCIUM

	pH & CHLORINE RANGES	
	BOTH IN RANGE	BOTH HIGH
NO CALCIUM	GOOD	GOOD
ANY CALCIUM	GOOD	DISCOLORATION*

*discoloration can be avoided with proper use of a stain and scale control product

SOLUTIONS TO AVOID DAMAGE DUE TO CALCIUM

Use a chelating stain/metal and scale control product. This is extremely easy, very economical, and requires very little maintenance, depending on the agents you use. Chelating agents bind to the metal ion (calcium) and effectively trap and isolate the metal ion (calcium) so that they do not initiate any oxidizing reaction. We've found that SC-1000 by Orenda and Scale & Stain Eliminator by Pool Stain Removers work well.

THE BOTTOM LINE

- Use a **chelating stain/metal and scale control product** in fiberglass pools.
- Make certain you (or your pool professional) are routinely checking your pool's water chemistry and that you are **following recommended ranges specfic to fiberglass pools**, which differs from industry standards.
- Follow the **5 Tips for Maintaining Your Pool Finish** on the front of this guide.

This guide provides key tips for fiberglass pool care and maintaining the surface finish. However, it does not cover all aspects of pool maintenance. For complete care, including specific instructions for additional equipment, please consult the recommended guidelines from your equipment manufacturer.

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