



What is Bromine?

Bromine

Bromine is a popular pool and spa sanitizer often used instead of chlorine — but it is distinctly different from chlorine in the following ways:

- Bromine works better than chlorine for spas and hot tubs (with hotter water and lower water volume).
- It is sensitive to sunlight, and deteriorates more rapidly than chlorine.
- Bromine is also typically more expensive than chlorine.

For these reasons, bromine is less popular than chlorine for use in outdoor pools.

Types of bromine

There are two forms of bromine: free and combined. Together, these two are called total bromine. Both types are sanitizers, meaning that they can kill bacteria, algae or other living organisms in the water. Be sure to use a test kit that measures total bromine, since that is the best indicator of the level of sanitizer in your water. The ideal concentration of total bromine in a swimming pool is 3 to 5 ppm. The ideal in a hot tub or spa is 4 to 6 ppm. (In spas the level should be slightly higher due to the smaller volume and the higher temperature of the water.)

Ongoing maintenance

Bromine should be monitored continually — almost daily — as it fluctuates often. Environmental conditions (like debris and rain) and usage (how many people are using the pool or spa) will add contaminants to the water, thereby reducing the bromine level. Always test bromine before entering the water. Even if the system is not in use, test the bromine level at least weekly to prevent build-up of bacteria or algae.