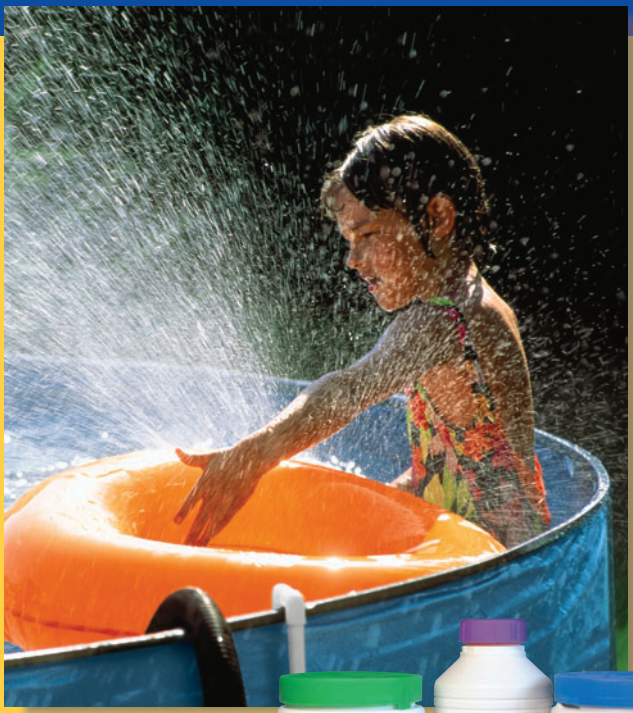
OWNERS HANDBOOK

FOR SMALL ABOVE GROUND POOLS

Fi-CLOR®



www.fi-clor.co.uk

UK POOL STORE
ukps

A guide to keeping your pool water clear and healthy

Fi-CLOR SMALL ABOVE GROUND POOL GUIDE

Small above ground 'splasher' pools are an excellent entry level to swimming pool ownership. They are relatively inexpensive to purchase, easy to erect and if a few simple guidelines are followed will give many hours of enjoyment.

Do I need to be a chemist to look after my splasher pool?

No, but you do need to gain a little knowledge and understanding of the chemicals you need to use and why you need them.
By following a few simple guidelines and carrying out a couple of simple tests you can:

- Ensure the pool water is safe and bacteria free
- Ensure the pool water is always clear and sparkling

PICTURE COURTESY OF SCP

Warning **NEVER MIX CHEMICALS (except in the pool by dosing separately in the recommended quantities).**

Taking care of your pool water

Water is the most important part of your pool, indeed all of the equipment is designed to either hold water, move it or filter it.

Care of your pool water can be divided into two parts:

- The circulation and filtration system
- The chemical treatment regime

The circulation and filtration system

Basically, this consists of a circulating pump and a filter. *The pump* moves water around the system and the instructions supplied with your pool should give guidelines as to how long the pump should run each day.
The filter removes the small, suspended particles which if left in the water would turn it cloudy. The filter will usually be a cartridge filter rather than a sand filter and it will require periodic cleaning to remove the small particles it has trapped, and the suntan lotions and cosmetics etc deposited by bathers.

This is best carried out using Fi-Clor Spa Cartridge Cleaner.
(N.B. Follow back of pack instructions carefully and keep out of the reach of children).

The chemical treatment

Unwelcome visitors

Your pool has been filled with fresh water straight from the tap. This water is good enough to drink, so why should it require further treatment? The simple answer is that water provides a very good environment for breeding bugs which if left unchecked could pose a threat to your family's health. When you get into the pool, you bring into the water numerous small particles, including bacteria. Bacteria are so small they're invisible to the naked eye, but that doesn't mean they can be ignored.

You must, therefore, treat the water to kill off these bacteria, and this is where our chemicals come into the picture.

Don't underestimate the size of the potential problem. Bacteria multiply rapidly and, if left untreated, their numbers could increase to 20 million in just eight hours and 160 million in nine hours! By the time the water looks cloudy, there could be many millions of bacteria in every five litres of water. So it makes sense to control them in the early stages rather than when the numbers are up in the billions. It is, therefore, crucial to treat the water correctly using Fi-Clor Chlorine Granules. These granules will sanitise the water, killing any living micro-organisms. They will also act as an oxidiser – chemically burning out the dead micro-organisms and removing other organic material present in the water.

This may sound very daunting, but do not worry - with the help of this booklet and Fi-Clor chemicals the task is made simple and will take up very little time. Remember:

Effective chemical treatment + Effective filtration = Clean, inviting, safe water.

Before looking at the chemical treatment in a little more detail, there is one piece of vital information required; the volume of water in the pool. To know how much chemical to put in the water you need to know how much water there is to be treated.

To calculate the pool volume using measurements in feet:

Pool capacity in UK gallons = 4.89 x (diameter x diameter) x depth

Here is the volume of water in the more popular sizes of pools.

12ft diameter x 3ft deep = 2,112 gallons rounded to 2,000 gallons or 9.1 cubic metres
12ft diameter x 4ft deep = 2,817 gallons rounded to 3,000 gallons or 13.6 cubic metres
15ft diameter x 3ft deep = 3,301 gallons rounded to 3,500 gallons or 15.9 cubic metres
15ft diameter x 4ft deep = 4,401 gallons rounded to 4,500 gallons or 20.5 cubic metres

PICTURE COURTESY OF SCP

How does the chlorine work?

When you dissolve Fi-Clor Granules in your pool they produce hypochlorous acid commonly known as 'free chlorine'. This is the active disinfectant that will kill the bacteria and other unwanted pollution introduced into your pool. As the free chlorine does its job killing the bacteria it can form other compounds called 'combined chlorine'. These compounds have negligible killing power and are, in fact a nuisance causing an unpleasant type of chlorine smell and discomfort to bathers. They will need to be removed periodically by 'super-chlorinating' the pool using Fi-Clor Superchlorinator.

You should bear in mind that there are two things that can have an adverse effect on the efficiency of the chlorine. The first is if the pH is not within recommended limits – this will be explained in a little more detail later. Secondly, the effectiveness of the chlorine can be impaired by sunlight; the ultra violet in sunlight can destroy free chlorine. Fortunately, that is not likely to be a significant concern if you are using Fi-Clor Granules as they contain an inbuilt stabiliser to prevent wastage of chlorine to sunlight. However, be prepared for the possibility of having to use slightly more chlorine in the first few weeks of opening the pool until the stabiliser becomes fully effective.

The dose rates for Fi-Clor Granules and Fi-Clor Superchlorinator are:

Pool Capacity		Dose of Fi-Clor Granules to raise the chlorine by 1–5mg/l (ppm)		Dose of Fi-Clor Superchlorinator to raise the chlorine by 1–5mg/l (ppm)	
Gallons	Cubic metres	1mg/l	5mg/l	1mg/l	5mg/l
2,000	9.1	17g	87g	12g	62g
3,000	13.6	23g	117g	16g	82g
3,500	15.9	27g	137g	19g	96g
4,500	20.5	36g	182g	26g	128g

CAUTION: *Do not mix these two products together prior to dosing*
Dose them into the pool separately and in different locations.

Normal recommended chlorine levels for small above-ground splasher pools are:

- Free Chlorine 2 – 4mg/l (ppm).
- To keep the pool water in tip-top condition, superchlorinate once a week to raise the chlorine to around 5mg/l(ppm), preferably with Fi-Clor Superchlorinator.

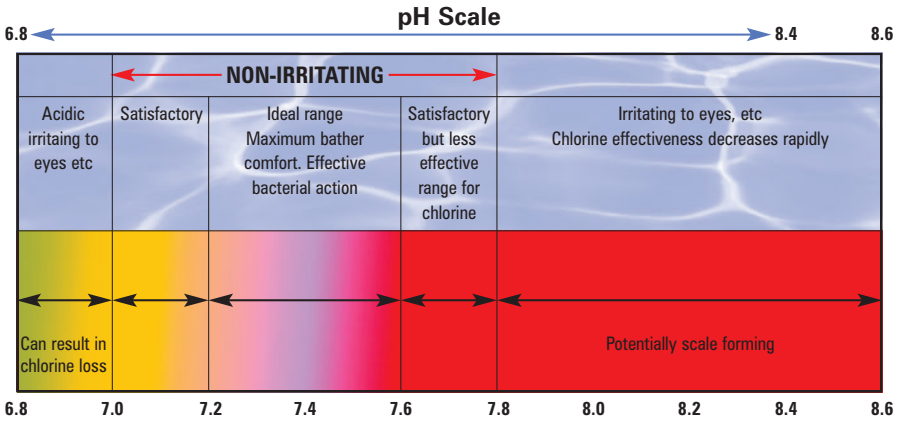
Additional superchlorinations may be required following rainfall and periods of heavy use, e.g. pool parties. Wait for the chlorine level to fall within the normal range before using the pool again.

PICTURE COURTESY OF SIP

pH

As mentioned previously, the other thing you must keep an eye on to ensure comfortable bathing and to prolong the life of your pool is the pH of the water. The pH scale tells us how acid or alkaline the water is – the lower the pH reading the more acidic the water; the higher the pH reading the more alkaline (or base) the water. The pH needs to be kept between 7.2 – 7.6 for a number of reasons, the most important being:

- The pH can seriously affect the efficiency of the chlorine; the higher the pH is above 7.6 the less effective the chlorine is.
- The pH of your mucous membranes (eyes, nose, throat) is about 7.4 so the closer we can keep the pH to this level the more comfortable it will be.
- A high pH will also promote cloudy water and excessive scaling.



To Keep the pH between 7.2 – 7.6

If the pH rises above 7.6 we can reduce it by adding Fi-Clor pH & Alkalinity Reducer (Dry Acid). The rates shown below are the recommended maximum per application – it may require several applications to correct the pH.

How to dose Fi-Clor pH & Alkalinity Reducer (Dry acid) to reduce pH

- From the table below see how much Fi-Clor pH & Alkalinity Reducer (Dry Acid) is required.
- Mix the required amount with 5 litres of fresh water in a clean plastic bucket uncontaminated by any other chemical.
- Always add the chemical slowly to the water **NEVER** add the water to the chemical.
- Mix thoroughly until all the chemical has dissolved.
- Carefully pour the solution around the pool (do not add the solution in one spot).
- After 1 hour retest the pH and make further additions as necessary.

Dose rates for reducing the pH using Fi-Clor pH & Alkalinity Reducer (Dry Acid)		
Gallons	Cubic metres	
2,000	9.1	100g
3,000	13.6	150g
3,500	15.9	175g
4,500	20.5	225g

If the pH falls below 7.2 we can increase it by adding Fi-Clor pH Increaser (Soda Ash). Available from your local Fi-Clor Pool Dealer. (www.fi-clor.co.uk)

How to dose Fi-Clor pH Increaser (Soda Ash)

- From the table on the next page see how much Fi-Clor pH Increaser (Soda Ash) is required.
- Mix the required amount with 5 litres of fresh water in a clean plastic bucket.
- Always add the chemical slowly to the water **NEVER** add the water to the chemical.
- Mix thoroughly until all the chemical has dissolved.
- Carefully pour the solution around the pool; it may require several applications to correct the pH.
- After 1 hour retest the pH and make further additions as necessary.

Dose rates for increasing the pH using Fi-Clor pH Increaser (Soda Ash)		
Gallons	Cubic metres	
2,000	9.1	100g
3,000	13.6	150g
3,500	15.9	175g
4,500	20.5	225g

What else do I need to do?

Keeping algae at bay

There is always a chance that at some stage during the swimming season algae will arrive in your pool, especially if the chlorine level is allowed to drop for a few days. Dosing Fi-Clor Algicide on a regular basis will help prevent algae in your above-ground Splasher pool or, by increasing the dose rate, it can help kill algae when the water has already turned green. It is non-foaming and also acts as a water clarifier. It can be used with all types of filtration and with a wide range of pool sanitisers. Fi-Clor Algicide has no effect on pH.

To use as a preventative:

Although algae exists in many forms, the most common found in our pools in this country is green algae (Chlorella). The chlorine, which is normally an effective algicide may not have been maintained at recommended levels or not be acting as efficiently as it should. This can happen if for instance the pH of the pool water is outside the levels recommended above or the stabiliser (cyanuric acid) level is too high. For these reasons, we strongly recommend regular use of Fi-Clor Algicide to help prevent problems with algae.

- On refilling an above-ground Splasher pool, dose directly into the pool at the rate shown in the table below.
- Thereafter, treat once weekly at a reduced rate.
- Increase the weekly dose rate by up to 50% in the event of heavy bathing load, high temperature or heavy rain.

To treat water that has already turned green:

- Dose directly into the pool at the remedial rate shown in the table below.
- In cases of serious algae infestation, you are strongly recommended to shock dose the pool with an unstabilised chlorine such as Fi-Clor Superchlorinator as well as using Fi-Clor Algicide. (When one product is used in conjunction with the other, the performance of each is enhanced). 10 x 20ml measures of Fi-Clor Superchlorinator (approx. 170g) will be sufficient to shock dose an average 2000 gallon above-ground Splasher pool. Use proportionately more to treat larger pools. Check the pH a day or so later and correct if necessary.

***CAUTION**: Do not mix these two products together prior to dosing. Dose them into the pool separately and in different locations.*

- Backwash and/or clean the filter after 24 hours to ensure it does not become clogged with dead algae.

Dose rates of Fi-Clor Algicide (doses are in millilitres):				
Water volume in gallons	Water volume cubic metres	Start-up dose rate	Routine weekly dose rate	Remedial dose
2000	9.1	200ml	100ml	400ml
3000	13.6	250ml	125ml	500ml
3500	15.9	300ml	150ml	600ml
4500	20.5	400ml	200ml	800ml

Keeping the pool clean

Just like the bath in your home, grease and other deposits can collect at the water line; it not only looks unsightly but it can prove to be a breeding ground for bacteria. It is good practice to clean this off regularly using Fi-Clor Tile & Liner Cleaner - this is specially formulated to clean away greasy deposits quickly. It is not a good idea to use an abrasive type of cleaner as this could damage your liner.

Dirt and leaves that have fallen to the bottom of the pool can easily be removed using a small pool venturi vacuum that fits onto your garden tap and sucks up any debris. Your Recommended Fi-Clor Dealer will be happy to advise you.

PICTURE COURTESY OF SCP

Testing your pool water

Test strips are provided in your Above Ground Pool Starter Kit and following the directions on the pack will give a good indication of the chemical levels in your pool with reasonable accuracy. When you need more test strips, your Fi-Clor dealer may stock a different make to those supplied in the starter kit. Please follow pack instructions carefully as techniques for use may vary slightly between different brands

Pooltester Kits

An alternative is to purchase a pooltester kit from your Fi-Clor Pool Dealer. It is important to ensure the kit purchased is for chlorine as similar kits are available for bromine. The kit will probably include:

- A Pooltester comparator.
- Free chlorine (DPD No. 1) test tablets (these should be in green print foil).
- pH test tablets (sometimes called phenol red).

Test procedure for Pooltester Kit

- Remove the cap from the pooltester comparator.
- Rinse the pooltester several times in pool water.
- Fill the pooltester with pool water from at least 300mm (12 inches) below the surface.
- Carefully drop a free chlorine (DPD No. 1) tablet into the chlorine side and a pH (phenol red) tablet into the pH side of the comparator. *It is important not to touch the test tablets with your fingers as this could affect the accuracy of the tests.*
- Replace the cap and shake the comparator to ensure the tablets have completely dissolved.
- Compare the colours on the comparator and note the results.
- Add chemicals as required.

Should you obtain results that you do not understand, take a sample of pool water to your Recommended Fi-Clor Pool Dealer. He will test the sample and explain the results.

Safety

Handled correctly and with respect, your pool chemicals are perfectly safe. However, if you misuse the chemicals or fail to follow instructions, the consequences can be potentially serious. So here are a few rules that you should follow:

- Keep pool chemicals in their original containers. All Fi-Clor Pool Chemicals are supplied in UN approved containers.
- Keep all pool chemical containers sealed when not in use.
- Keep all pool chemicals out of the reach of children and pets.
- Read all labels to ensure you understand what the chemical is, how it is to be used and what it will do.
- **NEVER MIX CHEMICALS** (except in the pool by dosing separately in the recommended quantities).
- When mixing chemicals with water **ALWAYS** add **chemicals** to **water** **NEVER** water to chemicals.
- Store your Fi-Clor pool chemicals in a secure, cool, dry place.
- Never store your Fi-Clor pool chemicals in direct sunlight.
- Always handle your Fi-Clor pool chemicals with care.
- Always measure your Fi-Clor pool chemicals carefully. Your Recommended Fi-Clor Dealer can supply you with a small measuring cup if required.
- Should you spill any pool chemicals, clean up the spill immediately. If the spilled chemicals are dry and not reacting (fizzing or bubbling) use a clean dustpan and brush, put the chemical in a clean bucket and add to the pool in small amounts. **NEVER** put spilled chemicals back into the original container; do not use a domestic vacuum cleaner. If you are in any doubt contact your local Fi-Clor Dealer who will be happy to advise.
- Never inhale chemical fumes.
- If any chemicals come into contact with your skin wash off immediately with copious amounts of fresh water.
- If any chemicals come into contact with your eyes, nose or mouth wash off with fresh water and seek medical attention immediately. Give medical staff full details of the chemical involved.
- On some very rare occasions, bathers may find they are sensitive to chlorinated water. If this is the case, consider using an alternative pool disinfectant. Your Fi-Clor dealer should be able to advise you.

PICTURE COURTESY OF SCP. FOR PRODUCT ENQUIRIES TELEPHONE SCP ON 01293 546126

Be safe and have fun!

TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

Problem	Cause	Solution
Eye and/or skin irritation	High levels of combined chlorine	Shock dose with Fi-Clor Superchlorinator
	The pH is outside acceptable range	pH over 7.8. Reduce with Fi-Clor pH & Alkalinity Reducer (Dry Acid)
		pH below 7.2. Raise with Fi-Clor pH Increaser (Soda Ash)
Smells	High levels of combined chlorine	Shock dose with Fi-Clor Superchlorinator
Staining on the liner	High concentration of metals in the water	Treat with Fi-Clor Stain & Scale Inhibitor or take a sample to your local Recommended Fi-Clor Dealer for analysis
Coloured water	As above	As above
Cloudy water	Low sanitiser level	Test regularly and maintain chlorine between 2 – 4mg/l
	Ineffective filtration Build up of suspended solids	Backwash sand filter regularly. Check cartridge filter and either clean using Fi-Clor Spa Cartridge Cleaner or replace
		Treat with Fi-Clor Rapid Clarifier (Do not overdose)
Excessive scaling	Water out of balance	Take a sample to your local Recommended Fi-Clor Dealer for analysis

SPATA

Fi-CLOR® POOL CARE PRODUCTS

BISHTA PROMOTING SAFE SPA WATER

Arch Water Products. Wheldon Road, Castleford, West Yorkshire WF10 2JT
Tel: 01977 714100 Fax: 01977 714006 watersales@archchemicals.com Website: www.fi-clor.co.uk