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Safety Tips

GENERAL

- Do not leave non swimmers / children unattended
- Do not overload the pool
- Avoid sitting on pool walls
- Do not allow diving in shallow water
- Do not use during thunder storms
- Do not use electrical appliances near water
- Use plastic rather than glass around the pool
- Have a First Aid Kit available for any accidents

CHEMICAL HANDLING

- Read instructions thoroughly on each product/box before use
- When pre dissolving chemicals always add chemicals to water and not vice versa
- Never mix different chemicals in concentrated forms including these kit products but also with other products like bleach or weedkillers – a dangerous reaction may occur
- Always pre dissolve chemicals in a clean, plastic container in a well ventilated area
- Avoid spillages but in event of spillage clean up using clean receptacles and dispose in the pool. Flush cleaned spill areas with water
- Never use unlabelled chemicals
- Wash hands after handling pool chemicals

STORING CHEMICALS

- Store chemicals well away from children and pets
- Store in a secure, cool and dry place

Problem Solving Chart

SYMPTOM	CAUSE	REMEDY
Green/cloudy water/ Slippery sides	Inadequate sanitiser. Algae may be present	Shock dose with chlorine (see start up dose) and add algaecide
Too much chlorine	Overdose	Allow time to naturally dissipate or buy a chlorine reducer
pH hard to control	Alkalinity low	Seek advice on how to raise total alkalinity
Can't maintain chlorine levels	Chlorine demand of water too high at start up, after holidays or due to excess contamination or neglect	Shock dose with chlorine (see start up dose)-repeat after 24 hours if necessary
Cloudy water	Poor chemical control or inadequate filtration	Clean cartridge, check chemical levels and adjust if necessary (chlorine/pH). If problem persists buy a pool clarifier to remove small particles
Rough pool sides/ edges	Scale formation due to high calcium levels in water	Ensure pH levels are correct and use a pool scale inhibitor to stop calcium precipitating out of water
No colour change on test strip dip test	Too high chlorine leading to bleaching of indicator pads (over 15ppm chlorine)	Check expiry date on test strips. Wait for chlorine level to drop and re-test
Foaming	Detergent present from incorrect cleaning products or excessive algaecide use	Reduce water level and top up with fresh water. Avoid domestic household cleaners

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POOL PRODUCTS YOU CAN TRUST

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Pool Treatment Chemicals

Above Ground Pool Guide

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Starter or Shock Dosing

AFTER THE POOL HAS BEEN ERECTED

Use **Blue Horizons dip tests** to test the water supply for pH and Total Alkalinity levels. At this stage the water is unlikely to have much chlorine (if any), so to avoid algae and bacteria from the start add a "shock" or starter dose of **Blue Horizons Stabilised Chlorine Granules** as below.

DOSE	POOL VOLUME
50 grams	1000 gallons (4545 litres)

See page 4 for typical above ground pool volumes.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CIRCULATION AND FILTRATION

Most above ground pools now include a pump and cartridge filter as standard. It is a combination of circulating water through the cartridge to collect suspended particles, together with good chemical water treatment, that helps you maintain clear, clean and healthy water.
As a guide to running circulation, you should aim to "turn" the full volume of pool water through the cartridge once per day. Typically in most splasher pools, using standard equipment, this is 4 hours per day (that the pump should be turned on).

Using **Blue Horizons 3 way dip tests** you are able to quickly and accurately assess the condition of your water and make adjustments to chemical levels with the appropriate chemicals added where necessary. Test daily when the pool is in use and twice weekly when the pool is not is use.

TEST	IDEAL READING
Free Chlorine	1 – 3 ppm *
pH	7.2 – 7.6
Total Alkalinity	80 – 150 ppm *

* ppm = parts per million
* total alkalinity should be learned in time only after mastering chlorine and pH first

Learn chlorine and pH testing first as these are most important, and finally total alkalinity testing for those with **Blue Horizons 3 way dip testers**.

By regular testing of pool water you will soon learn how various activities like refilling, topping up, adding chemicals and general usage can affect various test readings.

Chemical Water Treatments

THE BOAST SYSTEM

Following a programmed approach can be useful and a good reminder of how to approach your pool treatment regime. The BOAST system clearly identifies (via colour coding and product marking) the following:-.

Balancers, Oxidisers, Algaecides, Sanitisers and Testing.

When treating your pool using such an approach will ensure all aspects of water treatment are embraced in a logical order. This brochure explains the stages in greater detail but a summary is outlined below:-

B = Balancing your pool water
O = Oxidising and shock treating contamination or non-filterable wastes regularly
A = Algae control
S = Sanitising pool water
T = Testing

Note: Whilst water testing may appear last on our BOAST list this should be done regularly even when the pool is not in use, and certainly prior to any swimming.

B Balancing pool water

The pH scale of 0 – 14 measures acidic or alkali conditions respectively. The middle reading of 7 is neutral, so pool water with a pH below 7 is acidic and pool water with a pH above 7 is alkaline.

For above ground pools the ideal pH level is slightly alkaline between 7.2 – 7.6, ensuring equipment protection and bather comfort are maintained (the pH level of the eye is consistent with this level).

Above 7.6	RISK OF... skin / eye irritation scale formation reduces chlorine effectiveness
7.2-7.6 →	**IDEAL pH**
Below 7.2	RISK OF... plant corrosion especially metals unpleasant smells and bather discomfort chlorine quickly used up

Adjusting pH

If the pH of your pool water is above 7.6 then use **Blue Horizons pH Minus** to reduce it, using the application instructions on the bottle.
If the pH of your pool water is below 7.2 then use **Blue Horizons pH Plus** to increase it, using the application instructions on the bottle.

O Oxidising/shocking pool water

Applying a double dose of **Blue Horizons Stabilised Chlorine Granules** every week or fortnight will ensure contamination and non-filterable wastes (eg. body oils, greases) are removed.

Chemical Water Treatments

A Algae control

Algae are microscopic forms of plant life that can multiply quickly in untreated water, turning clear water to "pea soup"in a matter of hours. Chlorine used in pools helps prevent algae, but extra protection using **Blue Horizons Algae Controller** really is both prudent and cost effective. Dose as per bottle instructions.

Normal Dosing – **Blue Horizons Algae Controller**

POOL VOLUMES	INITIAL START UP DOSE	WEEKLY DOSE
1000 gallons (4,545 litres)	50 ml	25ml
2500 gallons (11,364 litres)	125ml	62ml

S Sanitisation

Bacteria Control – **Blue Horizons Stabilised Chlorine Granules** are used to disinfect the pool water and keep it free from bacteria, some of which may be hazardous to health. **Blue Horizons Stabilised Chlorine Granules** are quick dissolving and relatively pH neutral.

Normal Dosing – Blue Horizons Stabilised Chlorine Granules

POOL VOLUMES	INCREASE BY 1PPM (ONLY) CHLORINE LEVEL
1000 gallons (4,545 litres)	9 grams
2500 gallons (11,364 litres)	23 grams

To ensure the ideal reading of 1 – 3 ppm free chlorine is maintained it is advised to aim for 3 ppm to provide a useful "buffer" for fluctuating conditions such as bathing loads and hot weather. The rate of chlorine consumption can and does vary depending on different conditions and chlorine will be consumed even when there is no swimming (i.e. by sunlight or by algae). Because of this, the only way to be sure that there is chlorine present in the water is to test regularly.

T Testing

See page 2 under water testing and ideal pool levels.

Cleaning and Maintenance

Periodic cleaning of waterline grease, steps and pool equipment will not only make your pool look good but it will optimise the use of your chemicals during a swimming season.
Use pool preparations when cleaning areas around swimming pools since household cleaners often contain phosphates which nurture algae growth or detergents which cause foam.

Working out pool volumes

TYPICAL POOL SIZE	VOLUME (UK gallons, US gallons* & litres)		
10 ft diameter x 30 inches deep	800 UK gallons	(961 US gallons)	3639 litres
12 ft diameter x 30 inches deep	1183 UK gallons	(1421 US gallons)	5377 litres
15 ft diameter x 36 inches deep	2240 UK gallons	(2689 US gallons)	10,179 litres
15 ft diameter x 42 inches deep	2720 UK gallons	(3266 US gallons)	12,362 litres
15 ft diameter x 48 inches deep	3038 UK gallons	(3648 US gallons)	13,807 litres
18 ft diameter x 42 inches deep	4203 UK gallons	(5046 US gallons)	19,100 litres
18 ft diameter x 48 inches deep	4661 UK gallons	(5596 US gallons)	21,182 litres

*Most pools are originally sized in US gallons