

Long Island Swim-Pool Service *Generic Pool Water Maintenance Tips*

BALANCING THE TOTAL ALKALINITY (TA)

- A. Total Alkalinity is a measure of the total levels of carbonates, bicarbonates, hydroxides and other alkaline substances in the water. TA is referred to as the water's 'pH buffer'. In other words, it's a measure of the ability of the water to resist changes in pH level.
- B. The recommended Total Alkalinity (TA) for your pool water is 80 – 120 ppm.
- C. If the TA is too low, the pH level will fluctuate widely from high to low. Fluctuations in pH can cause corrosion or scaling. **Low TA can be corrected by Alkalinity UP (sodium hydrogen carbonate).**
- D. If the TA is too high, the pH level will tend to be high and may be difficult to bring down. **High TA can be corrected by adding Alkalinity Down (sodium bisulfate).**
- E. Once the TA is balanced, it normally remains stable, although the addition of more water with a high or low alkalinity will raise or lower the TA reading of the water.
- F. When the Total Alkalinity is within the recommended range, proceed to the next step.

BALANCING THE pH

- A. The ideal pH level for your pool water is 7.2 – 7.6
- B. The pH level is the measure of acidity and alkalinity. Values **below 7** are acidic and those **above 7** are alkaline. Maintaining the proper pH level is extremely important for:
 - Optimizing the effectiveness of the sanitizer.
 - Maintaining water that is comfortable for the user.
 - Preventing equipment deterioration.
- C. If the pH level is too low, the following may result:
 - The sanitizer will dissipate rapidly.
 - The water may become irritating to pool users.
 - The pool's equipment may corrode.**If the pH is too low, it can be increased by adding pH INCREASE to the pool water.**
- D. If the pH level is too high, the following may result:
 - The sanitizer is less effective.
 - The water may become cloudy
 - Scaling may form on the pool surface and equipment.**If the pH is too high, it can be decreased by adding pH MINUS to the pool water.**

After adding pH Increase / Alkalinity Up or pH Minus / Alkalinity Down, wait two hours before retesting for pH. Measurements taken too soon may not be accurate.

When the pH is within the recommended range, please refer to the next step.

MAINTAINING THE SANITIZER LEVEL

- A. Sanitizer is extremely important for killing algae, bacteria and viruses, and preventing unwanted organisms from growing in the pool. At the same time, you don't want sanitizer levels too high because that can cause irritation of your skin and eyes.
- B. Always maintain the sanitizer level in your pool at the recommended level for each type of sanitizer.