

Pools and spas require ongoing protection from their major pollutant – swimmers.

Bacteria will grow in any untreated body of water. Swimmers are the primary source along with top-up water, leaves, grass, dust etc - be aware that a large dog contributes twenty times as much as a human.

Bacteria is a serious health risk and needs to be killed quickly and effectively. Adding a sanitiser [usually a chlorine] to the water regularly will do just that.

Dead bacteria are removed by the filter and the “residual sanitiser” left in the water will kill any new bacteria immediately. Most bacteria will be killed when exposed to a “free chlorine residual” as low as one milligram per litre or one part per million (ppm).

Regularly water testing and adding the required amount of chlorine will maintain a residual level of 1.0 or 2.0 ppm easily.

TYPES OF CHLORINE

Chlorine is available in granular, liquid, or tablet form and can be stabilised or unstabilised. It can also be generated by a salt-water chlorinator. Each form has its features and benefits.

Granular chlorine is convenient, easy to store and relatively cheap, but cannot be dosed automatically. Liquid chlorine can be dosed automatically, but is bulky, and has a limited shelf life due to loss of strength over time. All work effectively, so consult your authorised SPASA pool shop for expert advice.

Safety Note: Never mix chemicals – even different types of chlorine - fire and/or explosion may result.

SALT CHLORINATORS

Salt chlorinators make chlorine, and come in different sizes to suit different pools so select one that is able to produce sufficient chlorine for your needs. Even then, you may still need to add extra chlorine from time to time to maintain a satisfactory residual level.

STABILISER

Stabiliser (Isocyanuric acid) is a chemical added to the pool water to reduce the loss of chlorine due to the sun's UV rays. Stabiliser can also be added manually to the pool, or in stabilized chlorine. Check the level of stabiliser in the water periodically. Stabiliser is not consumed like other chemicals in the pool, so it can build up to levels high enough to inhibit the effectiveness of the chlorine.

CHLORINE ODOUR

A strong chlorine smell doesn't mean too much chlorine, it may mean too little. Ammonia can produce chloramines and these produce odour, sore eyes and itchy skin. To remove them, add a boost of “superchlorination”, but always consult your authorised SPASA pool shop first.

HEATED POOLS

Heated pools require more chlorine than non-heated pools because chlorine is consumed more quickly in hot water. Stabilised chlorine products should not be used in indoor heated pools as the sanitizer effectiveness is greatly reduced.

Alternative methods of sanitising pools and spas are available and are covered in Fact Sheets 8 and 9. Always consult your local SPASA members for expert advice on all pool chemicals.

