



# Saratoga

POOLS



## MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS



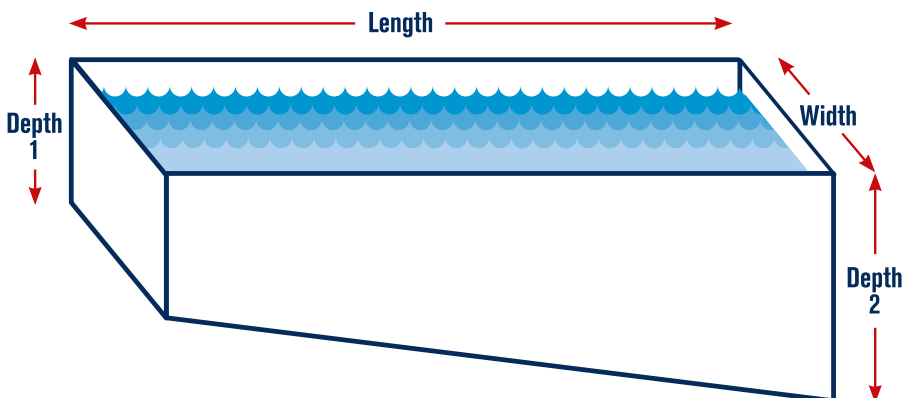
*...Aquatic superiority!!!*

The most important information you need to have to be able to take proper care of your pool is its capacity. To calculate the total volume of water that is in your pool use the following formula:

$$\text{Length} \times \text{Width} \times \text{Average Depth} = \text{Total Volume}$$

**Use the diagram below to obtain the necessary information.**

Every distinct liquid or powder chemical used for pool maintenance purposes has clear instructions on dosage based on the water volume of your pool. You should always follow those instructions unless you are advised otherwise by Saratoga Pools LTD. Saratoga Pools will not be responsible for any damage caused by chemicals not provided by the company or at least of the same standard.





## Pump room diagram

1. Filter
2. Pressure Gauge
3. Multiport Valve
4. Pump
5. Electrical Panel
6. Salt System
7. Ball Valves

## Multiport Valve operation options

**FILTRATION:** This is the normal setting for filtering your pool water and it's where the pool will be operating most of the time. Water is passing through the filter removing any contaminants and then pushed back to the pool.

**BACKWASH:** This setting is used to clear out the filter. After a while, the contaminants that are left in your filter start to pile up clogging the sand to the point where water flow is significantly diminished. To clean out contaminants, you have to backwash the filter. The backwash setting works the same way as the filter setting. The only difference between the two is that in the filter the water is pushed back in the pool whereas in backwash the water is pushed to an external drain.

**RINSE:** After backwashing, the sand is loose and needs to be reset. Also any dirty water from backwashing has to be rinsed out of the filter to waste to prevent it from returning to the pool. With the valve in rinse mode, water is directed from the "PUMP" port to the top of the tank to compress the sand and then diverted out the "WASTE" port.

**WASTE:** This setting is used when you want to vacuum the pool after an algae treatment or to lower the pool level for any reason. The water enters the valve though the "PUMP", bypassing the filter port and exits though the "WASTE" port.



**RECIRCULATE:** This setting is used to bypass the filter during certain pool cleanups and liquid chemical treatments when you don't want the water contaminating the sand. Water enters the valve through the "PUMP" port, again bypassing the filter, and exits back to the pool through the "RETURN" port.

**CLOSED:** This setting is used for shutting off all flow to the filter and pool. Water flow is stopped at the "PUMP" port.



**\*\*\*Always shut the pump off before using the valve\*\*\***

## When to backwash

The filter should be backwashed at least once a week. As mentioned above backwashing and rinsing the filter will remove all the waste that is trapped in the filter's sand/glass. When backwashing notices the small glass container on the side of the multiport valve and observe dirty water leaving the filter. You should backwash for about 1-2 minutes followed by 30 seconds of rinsing.

Keep an eye out for the **pressure gauge**. The ideal pressure you need to have in your filter is between 8 and 12 psi. If you notice your filter raising more pressure please proceed with backwashing as the waste in the filter is probably raising the pressure and needs to be relieved.



## Testing the chlorine and PH levels of your pool

- Fill the test kit tubes with water from your pool
- Add 5 drops of each liquid into the respective tube. The yellow chart line corresponds to the yellow liquid which tests the chlorine and the red chart line corresponds to the red liquid which tests PH values.
- Plug the tubes and invert several times to mix.
- The water in the tube will take a certain colour. Compare the colour of the water to the chart readings next to the tube.
- Depending on the results you should do one of the following:
  - If the chlorine levels are between 1 and 1.5 then the chlorine is at normal levels. If it is lower you should add more chlorine. If the value is above 1.5 do not take any measure, leave the chlorine to dissolve.
  - If the PH levels are between 7.2 and 7.6 your water is ideal. If the value is higher than the ideal you should add Acid to lower the PH level. If the PH level is lower than the ideal you should add Soda to raise the PH.

**Important Notes:** Please keep in mind that there is no specific amount of Acid or Soda that you need to add. Start with small amounts and test the pool 2 hours after the initial application. Keep adding to reach the desired value.

In addition, please be aware if your PH is not between the ideal values (7.2-7.6), then any chemical added to the water, will not have any effect.





# Weekly Vacuuming Procedure

1. Attach the one end of the vacuum hose to the vacuum head and drop it into the water as shown in the picture. Wait for 2 minutes for the hose to be filled with water.



2. Attach the other end of the vacuum hose to the skimmer by lifting the skimmer basket. Alternatively, you can attach the vacuum hose to the vacuum plate above the skimmer basket. If the pool is overflow and we have no skimmers, use the vacuum point instead.



3. Move into the pump room and shut all the valves off except the skimmer/ vacuum point you are using and the inlets. This will allow for the best possible result when vacuuming due to the increased suction from the particular skimmer.



4. Now you are ready to begin vacuuming. Move the vacuum slowly and make sure the whole vacuum touches the bottom/wall of the pool for better results.
5. Once you are done with vacuuming the pool, move into the pump room open all valves as before and proceed with a backwash/rinse of the pool following the backwash instructions above.



## Information for Salt Chlorinated Pools

If you are an owner of a salt chlorinated pool you should have in mind the following in addition to the normal maintenance:

1. Your free chlorine levels will be measured using test strips or an alternative test kit which will be provided by Saratoga Pools.
2. Your PH levels will be measured in the same way as chlorinated pools.
3. You should check your salt chlorinator's cell at least twice a month. Your salt system's control panel will alert you if there is a problem with the cell but you should check it regularly to avoid such issues. Firstly shut the pool off. Then close the two bypasses that connect to the salt system and open the main one to avoid any air getting into the system (this will be demonstrated by our team on the initial demonstration and startup of the pool). Remove the salt system and inspect the cell for any visible scale or debris. Carefully remove those with pressured water or plastic equipment to avoid scratching the plates' surface. If this is unsuccessful you will need to fill the cell with a mix of hydrochloric acid and water and let it soak for a few minutes. After that clean it up with water and reinstall it.



## Important Maintenance Information

1. You should vacuum your pool at least once a week. In periods of heavy usage, it is advised that the maintenance is conducted twice a week.
2. Test PH and chlorine levels regularly. Remember to balance your PH before adding any chlorine.
3. There is no exact quantity of chlorine you need to add to each pool. Exact quantities can be determined by pool owners and their experience.
4. Clean the pump basket at least once a week.
5. Remember to backwash and rinse the filter after vacuuming or/and when the pressure rises too high. It is suggested to add when chemicals after you backwash to avoid wasting them.
6. In order to ensure lasting quality for your PVC, proper maintenance is a must. Our warranty requires that proper maintenance methods are used. This is the owner's responsibility. If not properly maintained, the PVC's colour and texture can fail prematurely. Some of the reasons are:
  - Pollutants such as suntan lotions, body oils, cosmetics, acid rain or other wind and rain bore compounds which remain in the pool for an extended amount of time, all serve to reduce the quality of the colour and the texture. With weekly maintenance, this will never be an issue
  - Long term periods of improper PH can also be harmful to your PVC. High PH can cause cloudiness in the water and scaling throughout the pool. It will also keep your chlorine from acting which increases the danger of bacteria remaining into your water. Long periods of Low PH mean that your water is acidic and cause skin irritations and burning eyes whilst swimming. It can damage the colour of your PVC and create wrinkles on your PVC.

7. You should also brush the pool as part of your weekly maintenance to remove particles that remain on the bottom and walls of the pool. This will also serve for more effective vacuuming.
8. Do not allow glass or any type of sharp object to fall into your pool. If this happens please remove very carefully as to avoid any damage to the PVC.



## Important Pool Chemicals and their usage

### Chlorine

The most important pool sanitizer, chlorine, sanitizes your pool by oxidizing contaminants. It enters molecules and destroys them from the inside out. Chlorine is effective at killing viruses, bacteria, and algae, and will also help prevent algae from growing in the first place.

### PH Increaser (Soda)

PH is a measurement of whether a substance is basic or acidic. If the pH value is lower than normal it means that the water is acidic which can cause skin irritation or burning eyes. Also, your chlorine will not be as effective as it should be. ***Soda will increase your Ph.*** Remember that the ideal value is between 7.2 and 7.6 so start adding slowly to an operating pool. Check regularly (every 2 hours) and repeat until you reach the ideal value.

### PH Reducer (Acid)

PH is a measurement of whether a substance is basic or acidic. If the pH value is higher than normal it means that the water is harder, the scale will be created and chlorine will not be as effective. The ***Acid will reduce your Ph.*** Remember that the ideal value is between 7.2 and 7.6 so start adding slowly to an operating pool. Check regularly (every 2 hours) and repeat until you reach the ideal value.

## Algaecide

Your best defence against algae is sanitizer, especially chlorine. But as we said before, anything from tans lotions, body oils, sweat to acidic rain or external particles can unbalance the water and let the algae sneak in. Using algaecide during your monthly maintenance will add an extra layer of protection to your pool and prevent algae from growing and spreading.

In cases of extreme algae, you will need to follow shock treatments. Please ask for advice and for the necessary chemicals from **Saratoga Pools**.



## Clarifier and Flocculant

Flocculant causes all the water-clouding and dusty particles to become heavier and sink to the bottom of the pool. Then you can easily get rid of them by vacuuming the pool. **When using a flocculant please keep the pool shut off for 2-3 hours after using it. If the pool is operating when you add the flocculant you can damage the sand in your filter.** An alternative to flocculant is the coagulant which makes all these particles lighter and forces them to float at the water surface. During the normal filtration mode of the pool, these particles will be passing from the skimmers, into the filter and removed. Clarifiers are only temporary solutions that will last for a few days and can be used to quickly clean up the water. Once their effect fades, the cloudiness will return. They can be used in times you need an instant solution, for example, if you are hosting a party and you do not have time for any other treatment.





## Winterizing Chemicals

Winterizing chemicals are added when you decide that you are not going to use the pool for a considerable amount of time. Firstly you need to thoroughly vacuum and clean your pool, removing any leaves, branches and other objects or material. You can shock the pool with large amounts of chlorine a few days before you decide to close the pools for better sanitization. Then you need to adjust your pH levels at the ideal values (7.2-7.6). This is the most important step, as the winterizing chemical will not have the same effect if you don't. The only thing that remains now is to pour the winterizing chemical at the instructed quantities. You can now cover your pool with your pool cover and not be stressed for the next three months!







# Saratoga

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