Table of Contents

Chemicals

To keep your pool sparkling over the summer you will need to maintain chemicals. One of the most important chemicals you will use is chlorine. There are two types of chlorine you will use:

a) Chlorine Pucks/Tablets: A slow releasing chlorine that will maintain chlorine levels over the summer, constantly releasing small amounts of chlorine.
b) Chlorine Granules: A fast acting chlorine used weekly to treat the pool. This MUST be used with pucks to maintain chlorine levels for a pristine pool.

What does this mean for you?

You will need to add chlorine granules every week to your pool, and we have two main types for you:

1. Amaze Plus Pouches: Add directly to the pool water surface weekly and swim within 15 minutes of treatment.
2. Shock/Super Shock: Pre-dissolve with water in a large bucket before adding to the pool, do in the evening, swim in the morning.

How much do I need?

Pool Size	Amaze Plus Pouch	Super Shock/Shock
18’	½ Pouch	400 g
21’	1 Pouch	550 g
24’	1 Pouch	700 g
27’	1 + ½ Pouches	900 g
30’	2 Pouches	1000 g
33’	2 Pouches	1400 g
16’x26’	1 Pouch	550 g
16’x32’	1 Pouch	650 g
18’x33’	1 Pouch	750 g

**Note: This chart is only representative of OUR chemicals, if you vary to another chemical brand the amounts will be very different due to high moisture in non-Canadian products.

For the chlorine pucks, you will add these to one of three places:

a. Floating dispenser: Chlorine pucks can be held within a dispenser allowing them to dissolve freely and slowly.
b. Chlorinator: This canister shaped product holds large amounts of chlorine pucks and the output is controlled by the dial on the front. If you have a heater on your pool you should also have a chlorinator.
c. Skimmer basket: if you do not have any dispenser as mentioned above, you can always add your chlorine pucks to the skimmer basket one at a time.

The last item for your weekly care is algaecide. This product is added weekly alongside chlorine to keep bacteria and algae away. We carry 2 main types of algaecide for your pool needs:

1. Algae Resist 50
2. Algon

How much algaecide do I add?

Pool Size	**Algae Resist 50**	**Algon**
18’	30 mL	150 mL
21’	40 mL	200 mL
24’	50 mL	250 mL
27’	60 mL	300 mL
30’	75 mL	400 mL
33’	90 mL	450 mL
16’x26’	35 mL	150 mL
16’x32’	40 mL	200 mL
18’x33’	50 mL	250 mL

What else do I need to watch for?

You will be provided with test strips, and this will be how you can help monitor your pool chemical levels. Your test strips will measure pH, alkalinity, chlorine, and stabilizer. The stabilizer can be disregarded. The ideal levels are as follows:

pH: 7.4-7.6

Alkalinity: 120-150 ppm

Chlorine: 1-3 ppm

If you use a test strip and your levels are not within range, you can always take a water sample into our store location and have us provide you with step-by-step instructions to perfectly balance your water. This means weekly you will be adding chlorine granules and algaecide while ensuring you always have chlorine pucks in your chlorinator, dispenser, or skimmer basket.

I am using a salt-water generator, what do I need to do?

A salt-water generator will convert salt into chlorine and maintain your chlorine levels, this means you will not need to shock weekly or add pucks. But, you will need to continue to use an algaecide weekly. People with salt-water generators will need to treat their pools like a general chlorine pool at the start and end of the season. Once the summer heat arrives and you can run the generator, you will be treating the pool weekly with just algaecide, and shocking only once a month if needed.

Vacuuming

While vacuuming, you can follow the steps listed below:

1. Connect your vacuum head to your vacuum hose (if there is a swivel end, connect that to the vacuum head)
2. Connect the vacuum head to the telescopic pole
3. Place the pool vacuum in the water
4. Blow the air out of the vacuum hose by holding the end not connected to the vacuum head over the return jet
5. Let the air bubble out of the lines – air will push out of the vacuum head
6. Cup your hand over the end of the vacuum hose, while still in water
7. Place vacuum hose into either the skimmer or onto a vacuum plate
8. Check filter pressure to ensure the suction remains, you should feel resistance if you lightly tug on the vacuum hose

Pool Equipment

The first piece of equipment you will find is your skimmer. This is the large white or grey box-like structure coming off the pool. Water starts flowing through the skimmer and large debris are caught within the skimmer basket inside. If the skimmer fills with leaves and bugs you can simply take the basket out and wash it. There is a "door" on the skimmer we call the weir, this regulates the water flow into the skimmer and prevents large items from getting stuck in the skimmer.

Between the skimmer and the pump you will find a valve handle. This handle acts as a shut off for water flow into the equipment. Anytime you close the ball valve handle, turn the pump off first.

Pump

The pump is the next piece of equipment, creating pressure and moving the water through the plumbing lines. The pump can easily be turned on and off with a switch located either on the side or the back of the pump. The pump must be plugged directly into an outlet and NOT into an extension chord. Plugging your pump into an extension chord can cause melting and fire risks as well as voiding your warranty for the pump. Above ground pool pumps can be plugged into a standard outdoor outlet. If the pump is placed too far from the house or is an inground pump, then an electrician will have to specially wire these for you.

The water flows into the front of the pump, through the pump basket, into the motor components and then out the top of the pump. Sometimes the pump canister can look empty due to being completely full which is normal. It is also perfectly normal if you see a few bubbles around the top of the lid.

If you notice large amounts of debris in the pump basket you can simply remove the pump basket to clean it and place it back inside. To remove the pump basket, follow these steps:

1. Turn the pump off by switch
2. Close all ball valves
3. Twist ring around pump cover to open
4. Remove cover (careful to not lose the o-ring)
5. Remove the basket, wash and place back inside.
6. Ensure O-ring is on pump lid
7. Place lid back on and twist tightly
8. Open all ball valves again
9. Turn pump on and continue pool use

Filter

The next piece of equipment would be the sand filter. This large tank is the filter system for your water. Your sand filter will contain a filter sand within that trap small particles in the water to keep the water clean and clear. On you filter head you will find a few items:

1. Pressure gauge: on the side of the sand filter head, should read between 10-20 PSI.
2. Backwash hose: on the filter head, a long usually blue hose that extends out of the filter to carry wastewater out of the filter.
3. Sight Glass: This can be found around the backwash hose and is a clear glass/plastic tube. This shows you the condition of the sand in the filter.
4. Drain Cap: At the bottom of the sand filter to drain the filter in certain circumstances.

On your sand filter there is a dial on top, this dial has many settings. The main setting you will use is filter, this cycles the water through the system to filter water. You will also use the settings backwash and rinse frequently. The "backwash" setting will take all the dirt and material gathered from the water and remove it through a backwash hose. Backwashing stirs up all the sand within the filter to clean so, to settle the sand all back to the bottom of the filter we use the setting "rinse". The steps to backwash will be as follows:

1. Turn off pump
2. Turn dial on sand filter clockwise to backwash setting
3. Turn pump on
4. Run until sight glass starts to become clear
5. Turn pump off
6. Turn dial to rinse (clockwise)
7. Turn pump on
8. Run for 30 seconds to 1 minute
9. Turn pump off
10. Turn dial to filter (clockwise)
11. Turn pump on and continue operations.

You will also find a setting on your sand filter that reads "waste" or "drain". This setting can be used when vacuuming larges amounts of debris and algae from the swimming pool. This will bypass the filter and send the heavy debris directly out of the sand filter and pool. Other setting such as "winterize" would be used during the winter. "Whirlpool/re-criculate" would be to cycle water through without filtering. The sand in your sand filter is good for four years, after which it must be replaced. Sand overtime in the sand filter will become mud-like instead of having a sand like texture, making it harder to collect materials in the water. Every four years you should reach out to Island Hot Tubs and Pools to change the sand in the filter or for directions on how.

Heater Harness

If you do not have a pool heater, the plumbing lines will go from the sand filter to the return jet with a ball valve in between. If you have a heater, you will have what we call a “heater harness” around the entrance of the heater. The heater harness will be an H shape with 3 ball valves, one on each of the vertical lines of the H (l & l) and one along the horizontal line of the H (--). The two on the vertical lines are the in and out ball valves, while the horizontal line is the “by-pass” valve.

If you want your heater to run, you will need the ball valves on the vertical lines to be open (l & l open), and the horizontal line to be closed (--). This would visually have all your ball valve handles pointing towards the heater (perpendicular to the heater).

If you do not want your heater to run, you will need to reverse the ball valve handles. The ball valves on the vertical lines (l & l) would have to be closed. Also, the by-pass valve on the horizontal line (--) would be opened. This would visually have all the ball valve handles pointing away from the heater (parallel to the heater).

Chlorinator

If you have a heater, you will also have a chlorinator, which is a tall grey canister with a black lid. This is a very simple piece of equipment meant to hold the chlorine pucks, to prevent the constant feed of harsh chlorine through the heater. The chlorinator has a dial on the front that reads from 0 to 10. The average number is around a 3-4 but, this heavily depends on how hot the temperature is and how many people are swimming in the pool at the time. To place chlorine pucks into the chlorinator, follow these steps:

1. Turn off Pump
2. Turn all ball valves to the closed position.
3. Press down on the small clip and gently twist the cap off the clip.
4. DO NOT QUCIKLY OPEN THE CHLORINATOR. Due to the chlorinator being an enclosed space with chlorine dissolving, it will emit gasses which can be harmful. Twist the cap until you hear a “sssssssss” of the gasses being released.
5. After all gasses have been released continue twisting the top of the chlorinator until it comes off.
6. Place chlorine pucks inside the chlorinator
7. Place top back onto chlorinator, ensure you hear the clip of the cover locking back into place.
8. Turn ball valves to the open position, continue normal operations.

Salt-water Generator

If you have an above ground salt-water generator, the aquatrol, than you will have a two part system. The two parts include:

T-cell 5: Connected before the return jet, this contains the actual electrodes that convert the salt into chlorine. You will find a long white chord off of this device that plugs into your panel.

Control Panel: This is the control center for the chlorine output. There is a small dial that goes from 0-100, this is the output of chlorine. The output dial usually sits around 30-40% but, this is dependent on how many people are using the pool, or how hot the temperature is outside. There is a small box with a digital reading, this reads your salt level. Your salt level should be between 2700-3400 ppm and if it is not in range, it will not produce chlorine. If the salt levels are too high or too low than the lights on the generator will flash at you. There is a small switch on the left-hand side that reads super-chlorinate, auto and off. You will want the generator to be switched to auto to run.

The salt-water generator will flash an inspect cell light at you every year as an indication to clean the cell. Your salt cell should be cleaned every year when it is removed from your pool. If the salt cell has been cleaned and it still flashing the check cell light, you can push and hold the diagnostic button for 3 seconds to remove the code. You should never play with the diagnostic button and freely click as it can change modes on the system and cause trouble. The salt system can not run when the temperature is below 20 degrees Celsius, and running the system when the temperature outside is too cold can be damaging to the cell.

Circulation End

The last portion of the lines would be the return jet. The return jet is the part of the pool where water re-enters the pool after circulating through the system. The “eyeball” of the jet is movable to position however, the eyeball should be pointing in the opposite direction of your skimmer and not breaking the surface of the water.

Overall, your pool plumbing lines would run as follows: skimmer, ball valve, pump, filter, (heater, chlorinator/salt-water generator – if applicable), ball valve, then return jet. This set up allows for everything to circulate and filter properly with ease.

Winterizing & Pool Openings

For any questions regarding the winterizing and opening process feel free to contact us or drop into our store locations for details. We provide a pool opening and closing service for a fee, if you wanted to see how to do an opening or closing for your first time, we can book your request to schedule.

Insurance and Safety

Insurance

It is important that you talk to your insurance representative regarding insurance on your new pool! Please ensure that you have adequate coverage on your pool for both liability and damage.

Safety

Please ensure that you read all of the safety material provided with your pool kit. Please post all the necessary safety signage that is included with your pool kit. Contact your local town office for further information on by-laws and permits regarding your new pool.

Thank you

Thank you for choosing **Island Hot Tubs and Pools**! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call us and we will assist you any way we can!

This manual is reference for basic troubleshooting and maintenance on your pool. If you should have any questions, concerns or need assistance feel free to stop into one of our locations in Charlottetown or Summerside. We offer water testing for our customers and have knowledgeable friendly staff who will assist you with any issues that may present.

Island Hot Tubs & Pools
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Summerside Location: 902-888-2734

Charlottetown Location: 902-566-2734