

Pool Care Guide



Caribbean
Blue[®]

Caribbean Blue chemicals and your authorized dealer can help you keep your pool the way you want it – clean, safe and FUN! This guide breaks down basic water care in 5 easy to understand sections. Perform the steps listed in this guide and you're virtually home free! To make these steps easier, each of our Caribbean Blue products are coded with a unique color. So, when it's time to check on your pool, you can associate any product to the pool step that needs to be performed.

CIRCULATE AND FILTER THE WATER

Pool water needs to circulate 12 hours or more in order for the pool to be clear and free from contaminants. When water is moving, it is harder for bacteria, algae, and other contaminants to cause issues in your pool. Circulation allows your filter to trap visible and invisible materials that have entered the pool water. Periodically, your filter will need to be cleaned according to the manufacturer's instructions. One of their recommendations to help keep the filter media working in peak condition is to use **All-In-1 Filter Cleaner**.



CLEAN YOUR POOL

One of the easiest and most important things you can do to your pool is to brush or vacuum pool surfaces at least once a week. Cleaning is important regardless of how large the pool is, what shape the pool is, what type of surface it has, or how often the pool is swam in. Brushing and vacuuming pool surfaces not only lifts up visible and invisible materials from the pool surface, but it also helps circulate water into "dead spots" of the pool. These "dead spots" are where you will first notice unfavorable changes in water appearance.

OPTIMAL WATER FACTORS

Maintaining pH, Total Alkalinity, Calcium Hardness, and Stabilizer levels are vital in achieving the best water quality possible. Our chart on the back cover indicates how often to test, the range each factor should be at, and the repercussions of allowing these levels to fall outside of their ideal ranges.



pH

pH is the most important factor in water balance as it measures water quality. pH is a number scale between 0 and 14 and in a swimming pool the water should be maintained between 7.2 – 7.6.

- If pH is below 7.2, apply **Aqua Prep 20** according to label instructions
- If pH is above 7.6, apply **Aqua Prep 25** according to label instructions.

Total Alkalinity (TA)

Total alkalinity's function in water is to be a pH buffer. In other words, alkalinity will help keep pH at ideal levels. Proper TA should be maintained in the range of 80 – 120 ppm.

- If TA is low add **Aqua Prep 10** according to label instructions.
- If TA is high (not typical) consult your Caribbean Blue authorized dealer.

Calcium Hardness (CH)

There needs to be enough minerals in the water to prevent damage to pool surfaces. Calcium is the best type of mineral to have in pool water. These levels should be maintained between 200 - 400 ppm.

- If calcium hardness is low in your swimming pool, add **Aqua Prep 30** according to label instructions.
- If CH is high (not typical) consult your authorized Caribbean Blue dealer.

For Chlorine Users: Stabilizer (CYA)

The biggest user of chlorine in a swimming pool is the sun. When chlorine is added to the water, the sun's ultraviolet rays (UV) can rapidly deplete the established levels of chlorine in the pool. Adding **Sunblock** to your pool will increase the life expectancy of chlorine in the water. More importantly, this simple step will save you money! Proper Stabilizer levels (tested as cyanuric acid) should be between 30 – 50 ppm and tested monthly.

STEP 1 Sanitize – Add Daily



SANITIZING YOUR POOL

Properly sanitized water looks good, feels great, and has no odors. However, if not properly sanitized, bacteria, algae, and organic wastes can build up in the pool water. If this happens, pool water can turn cloudy, uncomfortable and an unpleasant odor can even occur. Besides, water that has not been dosed with a sanitizer is, well ... unsanitary.

Caribbean Blue offers many options for chlorinating and brominating your water. Your local Caribbean Blue dealer can help you decide which sanitizer method is best for you and your pool. Regardless of which one you choose, there are several ways to add these products to your pool water. In any application, apply any one sanitizer daily and follow the instructions for proper use.

OPTIONS FOR SANITIZING YOUR POOL DAILY

Forever Clear Tabs - A concentrated formula for continuous chlorination to control bacteria and algae in swimming pools.

- Cutting edge technology
- High compression tablets
- Increased chlorine efficiency

Chlor-Guard Tabs and Sticks - Protects against bacteria, algae and contaminants for clean and clear water.

Chlor-Guard Granules - Kills bacteria for clean, ready-to-swim water. Ultra fast dissolving granular particles that can be broadcast over the pool.

Bromine Tabs - Delivers a consistent and reliable sanitizer to the water. Ideal for indoor pools.

STEP 2 Shock – Add Weekly

MAINTAINING THE BEAUTIFUL

Pool water collects a number of contaminants. Some of these contaminants include dirt, body oils, cosmetics and suntan lotion. Build-up of these contaminants can make your water cloudy and cause unpleasant odors. These contaminants can interfere with the sanitizer, resulting in slower water disinfection and algae growth.

“Shock” treatments should be added at least once a week, after a heavy rain or when the pool has been heavily used. Conversely, colder water doesn’t need these products added as often.

OPTIONS FOR SHOCKING YOUR POOL WEEKLY



Forever Clear Shock
Exclusive Technology -
Kills algae



Microfloc Shock
Non-Chlorine Shock -
Restores Clarity



Tidal Wave 73
Low Residue - Fast
Dissolving



**Simply Shock &
Swim Extra**
Buffered Shock Treatment.



Quick Shock
Quick Dissolving - Fast Acting



Complete Oxidizing Shock
Chlorine Free Shock -
Clarifiers and Buffers

POTENT WATER CLARIFIER

Some particles are so small that they pass right through the filter.

Micro Clean is a unique product that will bind microscopic particles in pool water together into larger ones. When this occurs, the filter removes these particles with ease. Once the filter has trapped these particles they can be removed from the pool’s system by backwashing or cleaning the media.

Micro Clean doesn't discriminate against any physical material in the pool. Its powerful, pH neutral formula will help to remove any of these microscopic particles from the pool water. It will prevent many common pool water issues.



STEP 3 Prevent Algae – Add Weekly

NO ALGAE, NO PROBLEM

Algae is among the top concerns for any pool owner or operator. These microscopic plants come into your pool from rain, wind, and animals. Algae can turn your pool into a slimy green mess overnight. This mess does not necessarily have to be green. Algae comes in many colors such as black, brown, or yellow.

What most pool owners do not know is that their pool water is almost always infested with algae. Usually, only when pool owners see algae in the water do they think they have a problem. Fortunately, Caribbean Blue has several ways to control algae and potential outbreaks. Regardless of which one you use, these preventatives must be added weekly to the pool.

OPTIONS FOR PREVENTING ALGAE WEEKLY

Forever Clear Algaecide - Compatible with all kinds of sanitizers. Effective protection against all types of pool algae.

Algae Defense 60 - This formula is non-foaming and is compatible with pools that are sanitized with chlorine or bromine.



STEP 4 Forever Clear Advantage – Save Time!

EASIER POOL CARE STARTS HERE

Forever Clear Advantage is specially formulated to enhance water quality by improving filtration and controlling algae. Use of this product promotes sparkling, clear water and reduces eye and skin irritation for swimmers. It provides long-lasting algae suppression, controlling all types of algae found in swimming pools as well as aiding in the removal of existing stains.

Forever Clear Advantage will:

- Reduce filter maintenance
- Prevent algae growth
- Time balancing water is reduced

Not only will caring for the pool be easier, but the look and feel of the water will be second to none. Forever Clear Advantage is a product that solves problems before they start with an easy initial treatment. In many pools it only needs to be added at the beginning of the season.



POOL PROBLEMS? CARIBBEAN BLUE HAS SOLUTIONS!

What should I use if I have metals in the water?

Scale & Metal Solution effectively removes metals from pool water by crystallizing the metal particles so it can be filtered out by the pool equipment. Scale & Metal Solution will also remove unsightly metal stains and scale deposits from pool surfaces and equipment. Scale & Metal Solution, when used on a maintenance schedule, will prevent these issues from reoccurring in your pool.

What should I use if I can't get rid of a cloud in my pool?

Super Drop Out is a highly concentrated clarifier that drops cloud-causing particles down to the bottom of the swimming pool. This allows you to vacuum out the settled particles directly from the bottom of the pool.

What should I use if I have a film around the surface of my fiberglass pool?

Surface Clean is a professional strength cleaner for removing scale, oily film, and other undesirable things. It can be used on all surface types and leaves a microscopic protective layer after use.

How often should I clean my filter?

Every six to eight weeks you should clean your filter using **All-in-1 Filter Cleaner**. This product does an excellent job in removing oily film, organic buildup, and grime from all filter types and brands.

What should I use if I have a bad case of algae?

Algae in swimming pool water is a concern for anyone who takes care of a pool. Millions of algae spores are carried by the wind daily and in addition, some source water may already have algae present in it. Fortunately, algae in pool water is typically not harmful to pool users. However, water with algae is not very inviting.

ALGAE TYPES ARE CATEGORIZED BY COLOR

- **GREEN:** This algae is the most common algae seen in pool water and typically the easiest to control and eliminate.
- **YELLOW/BROWN:** This algae, has a wispy appearance and is often referred to as Mustard algae. Chlorine alone typically does not rid a pool of yellow algae. Instead, a specialty algacide must be used for successful removal.
- **BLACK:** Typically appearing as spots, black algae is one of the more difficult algae to remove. A coating forms over the algae to protect it from treatment products. Vigorous brushing of the trouble area must occur to help remove black algae.

Some options your Caribbean Blue dealer might recommend are:

Mustard Out – For fast treatment of yellow and mustard algae in swimming pools.

Kill & Clear – A concentrated formula for use against severe outbreaks of blue-green, black and mustard algae.

Knock Out – Not only does this product rid pools of algae, our unique formula contains a special clarifying agent to help clear water fast.



Preparing for summer or winter, Caribbean Blue will make it easier

OPENING THE POOL

These are the essential steps to starting up any swimming pool for the season. Depending on your geography, you may need to perform some additional steps to ensure you start off on the right foot. See your local pool dealer if you have any questions.

If needed, add water to the pool to raise it to the proper operating level. Once the water level is up, start circulating the pool water. Circulate pool water for 24 hours before the first test of the season.

Have the water tested by your local dealer. Balance the pool water and make any necessary adjustments to the Stabilizer levels. Water balance factors are pH, Total Alkalinity, and Calcium Hardness.

- Add **Quick Shock** to start the pool off fresh
- Apply **Micro Clean** or **Algae Defense 60** to keep pool clear all year
- When high levels of metals or calcium are present add **Scale & Metal Solution** to prevent issues from forming
- Add **Forever Clear Advantage** to the pool in at least two separate dosages. This step will make water care a breeze for the rest of the year!

CLOSING THE POOL

These are the essential steps to closing up most swimming pools for the season. Depending on your geography, you may need to perform some additional steps to ensure you get the pool set for the off-season. See your local pool dealer if you have any questions.

- Have the water tested by your local dealer.
- Resolve any current water problems, such as algae or cloudy water, before closing the pool.
- Balance the pool water's pH, Total Alkalinity, and Calcium Hardness. In other words, get the water balance factors in their ideal ranges.
- Add 2 pounds of **Quick Shock** per 10,000 gallons of water.
- For an extra layer of protection, add **Open & Close** to the pool.
- If the pool is equipped with a sand filter, clean it with **All-In-1 Filter Cleaner** before you lower the water level.
- If applicable, lower the water level of your pool. See your local pool dealer if you have any questions.
- If the pool is equipped with a cartridge or DE filter, clean the filter pleats or grids with **All-In-1 Filter Cleaner**.

VERY IMPORTANT!

At any time during the pool closing, brush, vacuum, and clean the pool. Keeping the pool tidy prior to closing is essential. Any remaining debris on the pool could cause staining or lead to other pool issues during the off-season.

OPTIMAL WATER FACTORS

	Test Frequency	Ideal Range	Too Low	Too High
pH	2-3 times weekly	7.2-7.6	Damages equipment and surfaces	Cloudy water
			Rapid loss of chlorine	Ineffective sanitizer
			Eye and skin irritation	Forms scale
			Corrosive water	Eye and skin irritation
Total Alkalinity	Once weekly	80-120 ppm	Low or high alkalinity will cause fluctuations in pH and has the same detrimental effects as low or high pH.	
Calcium Hardness	Once monthly	200-400 ppm	Damages equipment and surfaces	Damages equipment and surfaces
			Corrosive water	Forms scale
Cyanuric Acid (Stabilizer)	Once monthly	30-50 ppm	Rapid loss of chlorine	See your dealer

FOR BEST RESULTS

Sanitize **DAILY** with **Forever Clear Tabs**

Shock **WEEKLY** with **Forever Clear Shock** or **Simply Shock & Swim Extra**

Clear pool **WEEKLY** with **Micro Clean** or **Algae Defense 60**



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