Use and Care Manual

for Fiberglass Swimming Pools

Notice: Failure to read and follow specific instructions contained in this manual will void your pool warranty
Use and Care Manual
for Fiberglass Swimming Pools

The Use and Care Manual for Fiberglass Swimming Pools booklet is primarily concerned with the care and maintenance of your pool. The Latham Inground Pool Owner’s Handbook, which is also included in this package, contains critical safety information. For the safety of you, your family and guests, it is essential that you read and understand this Handbook as well.

Important Safety Information

Like anything new, your fiberglass pool will be “shown off” to your family, friends and neighbors. Why not? You are justifiably proud of your pool and you want them to see it. Yes, you may even want them to swim in it.

If you want to enjoy your own privacy with your pool and not let it become the community “swimming hole” you need to think about establishing certain pool rules and regulations. Please consider the following safety facts before establishing your pool rules.

1) Diving and sliding head first into water causes more paralyzing injuries than all other sports combined.
2) Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death. It is second only to traffic accidents.
3) “Jocks” and children of adult size (5’-2” and weighing more than 120 lbs.) are most likely to be injured in a diving accident. Most paralyzing accidents occur in the shallow part of the pool from a “shallow dive” or head first slide.
4) The responsibility of the pool owner is to:
   a) Warn users of the pool about hazards.
   b) Protect against misuse.
   c) Correct unsafe conditions.
You should realize that many people will be more careless about your pool than one of their own. This does not mean your guests are “bad” people, but simply that they are human.

It is a good idea for you to review your insurance coverage on your house or property where the pool has been installed and decide whether you have sufficient insurance protection against the threat of a lawsuit. Home owner’s insurance is much less expensive than automobile insurance and increasingly greater amounts of insurance can be purchased at minimal rates.

Your responsibility is to protect against misuse whether you are at pool side or not.

1) Whenever you see anyone doing a dangerous activity, you have a responsibility to warn them and to tell them to stop.
2) Never, ever leave a child alone near water, even to answer the phone.
3) Tell every person who will use your pool your rules and regulations. Having the owner tell them is more effective than reading it from a sign.
4) Prohibit glass of any sort in the pool area.
5) Post on your phone the rescue or hospital telephone number. Also display a guide for mouth to mouth resuscitation and CPR.
6) Learn proper removal techniques of injured pool users.

Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death. Drowning usually occurs with one or more of the following “no-no’s” of owning a swimming pool.

1) **Unsupervised swimming.**
   When a child drowns, an adult is responsible. Never leave a child alone, even for as long as it takes to answer the telephone. A child whose lungs are filling with water is unable to scream for help. Don’t assume that you will be able to hear it if something dangerous happens as there may be no sound.

2) **Uncovered pools not in use.**
   *A pool cover serves to conceal the water and discourages a child’s curiosity. Also, a pool cover provides some protection to the child or his parent should an unsupervised entry occur, because it offers a place to hold.*

3) **Unprotected pools, not surrounded by fencing.**
   *A good fence not only provides safety and privacy, it also insures against uninvited “guests” when you are away from home. You should also have a “No Trespassing” sign posted on your fence.*
4) **Unlocked safety gates.**
   *Be sure all fenced pools have self-locking gates. If the pool can be entered from the house, be sure those doors are locked whenever a young child is present.

5) **Unaccompanied Swimming**
   *Good swimmers drown, too. Often it is not the inexperienced or reckless person who is a drowning victim. Rather, it is a person who can swim and is careless about when, how, and where they swim. Never allow anyone (including yourself) to swim alone.

   It is common that alcoholic beverages are served or consumed in close proximity to your swimming pool. Conduct of all persons must be closely supervised in a “party atmosphere” or in an environment where alcohol is consumed. Horseplay or diving and swimming competitions may result in injury.

   Alcohol is not a stimulant, but rather, it is a depressant. The reason people act “silly” after a few drinks is that the part of the brain which exercises restraint and control over their activities is being anesthetized and the controls diminish.

   As the amount of alcohol consumed increases, more of the brain is anesthetized and eventually one can black out or worse. If your guests consume alcohol and then must drive to their own homes, please exercise consideration for their welfare and life as well as the welfare and life of others on the highway. If you or your guests become intoxicated, please do not use your pool or operate an automobile.

6) **Drains and Entrapment Avoidance**

   **WARNING!** The suction force from an unprotected drain can result in serious injury or death from suction, hair or limb entrapment. All drains must be equipped with proper covers. In the event a cover is broken or missing the pool MUST BE SHUT DOWN until the cover is repaired and/or replaced. Under no circumstances should children or adults be allowed to play with or near a drain or drain cover.

   A number of additional products or designs may be available to further protect your pool from entrapment related injuries. Please contact your dealer for more information.

Here are some of our suggestions for pool rules. Please feel free to copy these and distribute them to family, friends and neighbors who will be using your pool.
Pool Rules

The following warnings and rules have been established for you, the responsible owner, with a series of guidelines that when adhered to will reduce the likelihood of severe catastrophic or potentially fatal injury. Pool industry research indicates that most injuries involve one or more of the following: head first entry into shallow water (3’-7’), alcohol or drug use, lack of parental supervision and lack of first aid and/or CPR training.

In addition, most diving injuries occur to first time guests, usually male, ages 15-21, and at social gatherings. Drowning victims are usually small children who reside at the house, and who are left unattended. Based upon this information the following constitutes good pool safety practices:

1) All users should be informed of pool rules prior to entering pool area.
2) **NO DIVING / ALWAYS ENTER POOL “FEET FIRST”**.
3) Prior to entrance of any body of water, survey pool and pool area.
4) Never use a pool when a drain cover is broken or missing. Never allow anyone to play near or with drain covers.
5) Running on the deck, and horseplay of any kind are not tolerated in the pool or pool area.
6) Persons who appear to be intoxicated or under the influence of Medication, Drugs or Alcohol should not be permitted in your pool.
7. Do not presume, always ask the question: “Can you/your child swim?”, when you have guests.
8) Running and then jumping or diving into the water is not allowed.
9) Use the buddy system when using the pool. Do Not Swim Alone.
10) Transition/safety rope used to warn swimmers of changing water depth must be in place at all times when pool is being used and should not be used for games or as a method of flotation or support.
11) No glass in the pool area.
12) No electrical devices/appliances in or around the pool, unless it is protected by a GFCI, GFCI must be checked prior to using.
13) Pool should be lighted when swimming after dark.
14) Pool games that may result in injury should not be permitted in pool or pool area.
15) All social gatherings should be carefully monitored.
16) Inspect pool before and after each use.
17) Post emergency numbers at pool.
18) A First Aid Kit should be kept in the pool vicinity.
19) Basic life saving equipment, including at least one of the following, must be on hand at all times:
   a) A light, strong, rigid pole (shepherd’s hook) not less than 12 feet in length
   b) A minimum 1/4” (one-quarter inch) [6.35mm] diameter rope as long as 1-1/2 times the maximum width of the pool which has been firmly attached to a Coast Guard-approved ring buoy having an outside diameter of approximately 15 inches.

20) Life Preserver must have Coast Guard approved label.

21) Pool toys should be kept to a minimum and should be removed from pool after each use.

22) No sleeping on pool flotation devices in pool.

23) Pool equipment and chemicals are to be handled with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and by adults only.

24) There shall be no protrusions or other obstructions in the swimming area, which may cause entrapment or entanglement by the user of the pool.

25) Barriers are essentially for preventing unsupervised access to the pool or pool area by children. Examples include fences with self latching gates, safety covers and alarms on doors and windows. None of these devices, however, is a substitute for constant adult supervision.

26) Keep pool fence locked when not in use. When working in and around pool keep gate closed.

27) Never allow anyone to sit, stand or play on a solar or safety cover. Infants or small children can drown even in water accumulated on the top of a cover.

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**Welcome to the World of Sparkling Blue Water**

A swimming pool is a source of pleasure and relaxation for the entire family. It provides health-building recreation for everyone in your family, regardless of age or inclination.

Once the “getting acquainted” period is over, you will find that keeping your pool in proper condition is just as easy and pleasant as swimming in it. There are certain simple, basic facts of which you must be aware to assure the utmost pleasure and service from your pool.

This guide, along with information received from your authorized fiberglass pool dealer, will instruct you in the care and use of your pool.

Owning a fiberglass pool is a most rewarding investment. It is one of the finest pools available and the easiest to maintain.
You now have a pleasant spot for healthful relaxation and family fun, an ideal center for outdoor social gatherings, a natural “spa” for mental and physical therapy, a muscle toning and body building area, and an architectural feature that enhances the attractiveness and value of your property.

As with a new baby, you may have a tendency to over-care for your pool when it is new. Our recommendations for maintenance are designed to allow you more time for enjoyment while maintaining sparkling blue water.

Your pool was built for pleasure, and you will enjoy swimming much more in pure, sparkling water – water that has been treated to assure comfort and safety to you, your family, and your guests.

There are two primary systems involved in maintaining water purity: the water chemistry system and the filtration system. Both of these systems must perform properly; one cannot be substituted for the other.

When you fill your pool for the first time, the water may appear cloudy or turbid. Don’t be alarmed. Since your pool is filled with drinking water, the same water you use in your home, you assume it is sparkling clear. Appearances can deceive. In small amounts, such as a glassful, most tap water will indeed appear clear. In much larger amounts, such as a full pool, that clarity often disappears.

Water which is perfectly acceptable for household use may be totally unacceptable for your pool. This is the reason your pool water must be professionally tested and balanced every six to eight weeks.

There are five basic steps of water chemistry to be performed at home. They are as follows:

**Step 1: pH Control**

pH, which is the measure of acidity or alkalinity of the water, is determined by your test kit. Proper pH maintenance is extremely important as it is responsible for the correct bacterial action of the chlorine, swimmer comfort and prevents deterioration of the equipment and the pool itself. A proper pH reading is 7.4 to 7.6. Ideally, your pool should be maintained at the higher level of 7.6.

After testing the water, if the pH is too high (above 7.76), chlorine efficiency is reduced, scaling of the surfaces and equipment may occur, water may become cloudy, and shorter filter runs may occur. To correct this condition, a pH decreaser is added
directly to the water. There are two common forms of pH decreaser: liquid muriatic acid and granular sodium bisulfate (Lo N Slo, pH Down, pH Minus). The granular form is the one recommended for your pool. Never add more than one pound of sodium bisulfate or one pint of muriatic acid per 10,000 gallons of pool water without professional guidance.

If the pH is too low (below 7.4), chlorine dissipates more rapidly, water may be irritating to swimmers, and corrosion of equipment and surfaces may occur. To correct this situation pH increaser is added directly to the water. pH increaser (BalancePak 200, pH Plus, pH Up) is commonly called soda ash. Never add more than one pound of pH increaser per 10,000 gallons of pool water without professional guidance.

**Step 2: Continuous Disinfection**

Chlorine treatment is to maintain water purity. A good average chlorine residual is 1.0 ppm. The pool may be carried as low as 0.6 ppm or as high as 2.0 ppm. The lower level would be more subject to system failure and the higher level would increase operational costs. Therefore, the recommendation of a 1.0 ppm operating level is a good compromise that will assure water purity and low operating costs.

The use of compressed tri-chloro-s-trazine-trione, (Bio Guard Stingy Sticks, TabGard Tablets, Sun Sticks, Sun Tablets, etc.) insures even levels of continuous chlorination. Usage rates will be approximately one half to one pound of chlorine per 10,000 gallons of pool water per week. As with any pool chemical, follow the use directions on the container. Never mix different types of chlorine.

**Step 3: Super Chlorination**

Super chlorinating or shock the pool is a chemical treatment to eliminate non filterable wastes from the pool water. A granular chlorine product such as calcium hypochlorite (Burn Out 65, Shock Out), lithium hypochlorite (Burn Out 35, litho-Shock), or sodium-dichlor-s-trazine-trione-dihydrates (Sun Booster) is used to obtain a chlorine reading of 8.0 to 10.0 ppm. Super chlorinating chemicals are available in convenient one pound packages or in bulk packages of 25 to 75 pounds.

Calcium hypochlorite should always be pre-dissolved before adding it to a fiberglass pool to prevent bleaching or staining of the surfaces. Calcium hypochlorite is used at a rate of one pound per 10,000 gallons of pool water.

Lithium hypochlorite is a quicker dissolving chemical which may be added directly to a fiberglass pool. It is used at a rate of one pound per 6,000 gallons of pool water.
Sodium di-chloro, like lithium hypochlorite, may be added directly to the pool. It is used at a rate of one pound per 10,000 gallons of pool water.

**Step 4: Prevention of Algae**

Contaminants in the rain and wind can quickly deplete the chlorine supplies in the pool. A high quality algaecide (Algae Inhibitor, Algaecide Concentrate) acts as a chemical back up system in the event the chlorine becomes exhausted from the pool.

Following a one time initial treatment (normally one quart per 25,000 gallons of pool water) add a maintenance treatment (normally two ounces per 5,000 gallons of pool water) directly to the pool every other week or every week.

**Step 5: Prevention of Staining**

In order to prevent staining of the interior pool walls, a metal chelation product (Pool Magnet, Metal Hold, Metal Magnet) is used. This product aids in the removal of metals introduced to the pool by fill waters, rain, and corrosion of metal equipment.

Following an initial treatment (normally one quart per 10,000 gallons of pool water) metal chelation products are added on an every other week basis (normally two ounces per 5,000 gallons of pool water). Never add this product with a shock treatment.

**General Chemical Information**

From the very first day you fill your pool, its purity must be guarded (and maintained) by a chemical disinfectant. Enough of it must “reside” there to kill disease carrying bacteria and algae brought into the water by bathers, wind, rain, etc.

The amount of chemical “residual” which must be present in pool water is expressed as so many parts of disinfectant per million parts of water, abbreviated “ppm.” The same quantitative measure us used to express the amount of any other chemical added or present in the water.

Chlorine is the most widely used and accepted disinfectant for swimming pools. When chlorine is used as a disinfectant, at least 0.6 ppm and preferably 1.0 ppm of “free residual chlorine” MUST at all times be present in pool water to kill bacteria and algae and maintain the water’s purity. Critical though this “residual” is for pool purity, it is a very small amount of chemical. Less than one drop of chlorine in every 1,000,000 drops of pool water is enough to disinfect the pool, providing the chemical is 100% active.
Here is a list of the most common factors affecting the in-pool longevity of chlorine.

1) **BATHING LOAD** – The number of swimmers who use your pool. The greater the number of swimmers, the more disinfectant is used up.

2) **SUNLIGHT** – The greater the sun's intensity, the faster the dissipation of disinfectant “residual” unless the pool is stabilized.

3) **WATER TEMPERATURE** – The warmer the pool's water, the shorter the life of chlorine. This process is greatly accelerated when the water temperature exceeds 85 degrees.

4) **WINDS AND RAIN** – Carry dust, bacteria, algae spores and other debris into the pool, over working the chemical disinfectants and reducing their ability to sanitize.

5) **pH BALANCE** – As the pH of the pool water rises, disinfectant action slows down. More disinfectant must then be added to maintain the proper “residual.”

To maintain your pool's bacteria killing residual, disinfectant chemicals may be added by hand or by a chemical feeder. Feeders may be adjusted to increase or decrease the feed rates of disinfectants, depending upon the chemical demand of your particular pool.

Granular disinfectants are simply sprinkled into the pool water. Begin at the deep end. Move completely around the pool, distributing it evenly throughout the pool. Some granular disinfectants must be pre-dissolved before adding them to the pool and may cause the water to become cloudy.

**pH**

The ideal level for pool water pH is 7.4 to 7.6. Water that is neutral – that is neither basic nor acidic – has a pH value of 7.0. This is mid-point on the 1 to 14 pH scale.

Above 7.0 pH, pool water is alkaline. The higher up the pH scale the pool water tests, the more alkaline it is.

Below 7.0 pH, pool water is acidic. The lower down the pH scale the pool water tests, the more acidic it is.

Maintaining your pool slightly on the alkaline side (Note that the recommended 7.4 to 7.6 pH level is above the neutral point, thus alkaline) is important for a number of reasons.

When pool water is too alkaline (above 7.6) disinfecting chemicals work more slowly. They may not do their proper killing job even though tests of the water may indicate
proper residual. Also, scale may form on or in pool equipment and piping, and especially pool heater coils.

On the other hand, if pool water becomes acidic, it irritates the eyes, corrodes the equipment and piping, and can result in pool interior surface stains.

To test for the pH of the pool water, follow the instructions provided in your test kit. Do not add test chemicals directly into the pool and do not put the pool water back into the pool after testing. High chlorine residual in your pool can affect the water’s pH reading. If your test kit does not have a chlorine inhibitor, take the pH reading before adding chlorine. Do not hold your finger over the top of the test tube while mixing; body acid can cause a false test reading.

**Total Alkalinity**

Occasionally, pool water should also be tested for “total alkalinity.” Total alkalinity is a measurement of the total amount of alkaline chemicals in the water. It refers to the degree of resistance to pH change of the pool water or its “buffering capacity.” The proper alkalinity is between 125 ppm and 150 ppm.

Low alkalinity waters make pH control difficult because of lack of buffering capacity (or poor resistance to pH change). Alkalinity must be increased in these waters to offset the possibility of the pool water reverting to acid.

Many waters are of high total alkalinity and high pH. To get these waters into the swimming pool “comfort zone” it is necessary to destroy a portion of the alkalinity so the pH can be lowered. This can by accomplished by the addition of muriatic acid.

Other factors of vital importance are metal contents, calcium hardness, cyanuric acid and total dissolved solids. These factors should be checked by your pool professional at least once every six to eight weeks to be sure they are within proper ranges.

Handling and storing pool chemicals (Most pool chemicals are stable, retaining their effectiveness and strength for a considerable period of time when stored properly).

1) Keep all chemicals out of the reach of children.
2) Date all chemicals on the container.
3) Keep the original lid on all chemical containers and make sure all the lids are tightly sealed. Store chemicals in a cool, dry place.
4) Chlorine chemicals are concentrated chemicals which can be dangerous if not handled properly. Do not mix them with anything except water.
5) Use plastic, glass, china or enamelware scoops, measures and spoons . . . and be sure they are clean and dry.
6) Measure and add pool chemicals separately, according to directions. Do not mix one with another before adding them to the pool.
7) Most pool chemicals are harmful to shrubs, grass and foliage in concentrated form. Keep pool chemicals away from plant life near the pool.
8) Hands should be clean and dry when dispensing pool chemicals. Wash hands thoroughly after treating pool.
9) Read all labels carefully before using pool chemicals and always follow directions exactly.

Testing Swimming Pool Water

Proper testing procedures insure accurate chemical readings.

1) Read and carefully follow testing instructions enclosed with your test kit.
2) Rinse test kit tubes with pool water before filling the tubes for testing.
3) Take water sample for testing 12 to 13 inches deep in pool. Do not take water sample from the surface water in the pool; this will effect the accuracy of the test.
4) Always read the test results against a white background.
5) Always test chlorine first, then test the pH.
6) Keep your test kit in a cool, dry place.
7) Replace test agents each year. The reagents lose their accuracy due to exposure to heat and sunlight.

When to Test

1) Chlorine residual – Every day, if no marked change every other day or twice per week.
2) pH level – Every day, if no marked change every other day or twice per week.
3) Total alkalinity – Every four to six weeks.
4) Calcium hardness – Every two to three months.
5) Metal content – Every two to three months.
6) Cyanuric acid, total dissolved solids – Every six months.

The pool water should be tested for chlorine residual, pH level, total alkalinity, calcium hardness, copper and iron after each rain of consequence or upon addition of more than eight inches of fresh water.
Maintaining Water Level in Your Pool

For best operation, keep the water level in your pool near the center of the skimmer. A lower level can cause damage to the pump and filter by allowing air into the system. A higher level reduces the efficiency of the skimmer.

****DO NOT DRAIN YOUR POOL!****
DRAINING YOUR POOL VOIDS YOUR WARRANTY!

Your fiberglass pool is designed to remain full of water at all times. If it is necessary to drain your pool, contact your authorized fiberglass pool dealer for professional assistance.

If the pool is drained without first relieving hydrostatic pressure on the pool shell, the pool shell will buckle and crack. All damage to the pool shell resulting from draining the pool without professional assistance of your authorized fiberglass pool dealer is the owner’s responsibility.

Pool Surface Care

The surface of your fiberglass pool is the finest available and the easiest to maintain if you follow these simple directions.

**Above the Water Line**

The “bathtub” ring, caused by body oils, suntan lotions, and contaminants from the air, is easily removed with warm water and an approved swimming pool surface cleaner for fiberglass, vinyl liner or painted pools.

Do not use abrasive cleaners, steel wool, metal scrapers, wire brushes, or metal tools as these will permanently damage the gel coat finish.

Dulled spots can be restored by first using a body compound (Dupont #7 or similar) followed by a coat of wax (Fiberglass boat wax or similar).

The gel coat finish on your fiberglass pool can be scratched, just like any other gloss surface. This finish is seven to eight times thicker than a normal coat of paint, so it is not likely that scratches will be more than superficial. Generally you do not need to concern yourself with them.
Hairline cracks in the gel coat finish of your fiberglass pool are not uncommon. Patch and repair kits are available from your authorized fiberglass pool dealer.

**Below the Water Line**

More brushing and circulation is our recommendation, rather than vacuuming. A large percentage of the dirt, dust, soil, etc. that sinks to the bottom can be caught by your skimmer and filter by continually circulating your pool on low speed. If you run your pool on a timer, simply brushing the sediment will often allow the circulation system to remove dirt from your pool. Heavy excesses, after a storm, heavy rain, etc., should be vacuumed out (see below). Use your leaf rake to remove leaves. Vacuuming your pool removes all debris from the pool. The following steps are the recommended method of vacuuming. If you have questions concerning this, contact your authorized fiberglass pool dealer for help.

1) Remove skimmer lid from skimmer.
2) Attach vacuum hose to vacuum head on your pole. Sink vacuum head and pole into pool.
3) Fill vacuum hose with water by holding hose in front of return inlet until all bubbles stop coming out of the vacuum head under water.
4) Vacuum hose must be full of water before plugging it into the skimmer.
5) Insert vacuum hose into the suction outlet of the skimmer or into the vacuum plate.
6) Vacuum pool. Do not remove vacuum head from water until you are finished vacuuming pool. Vacuum from the shallow end to the deep end. Do not vacuum metal caps or large leaves as they may clog the plumbing lines.
7) After vacuuming is complete, disconnect the hose from the skimmer. Remove the vacuum head and pole from the pool. Rinse the vacuum hose with fresh water (not from the pool). Do not hang the vacuum hose in sunlight as this will shorten the life of the hose by about 50%. Coil the vacuum hose and store it in the garage or storage room. A large garbage can makes an ideal outdoor storage container for the vacuum hose and vacuum head.
8) Empty skimmer basket and replace lid on the top of the skimmer.

**Caring For Your Swimming Pool Equipment**

**Pump and Motor**

Your pump is constructed to give you years of trouble-free service. These are some of the basic instructions:

1) Do not run your pump dry. The warranty on your pump and motor is null and void
if the pump has run dry. If the strainer cavity is drained of water during the cleaning of the strainer basket, it must be “primed” prior to starting the system again. This is accomplished by filling the pump pot with water and then quickly sealing the lid. If your pump does not maintain its prime, call your authorized fiberglass pool dealer for instructions.

2) Save all instruction tags and warranties on your pump and motor. It is a good idea to copy all information from the motor in the event a replacement motor or parts are needed.

3) Prevent the motor from getting wet. When hosing down your deck, keep water away from the motor. Rain and/or water off the eaves of the house can also damage the motor. A cover over the motor will insure longer life of the motor. This cover should allow adequate ventilation so the motor does not run hot.

Your circulation system should run for four to six hours per day in the summer months. You can circulate your pool during the day or night depending on personal preference. During the winter months, it is advisable to run your circulation system two to four hours per day. You should circulate the pool at night to help prevent the equipment from freezing during severe weather.

**Strainer (Next to Pump)**

The lint and hair strainer basket collects lint, hair, etc., and prevents it from entering the pump and filter. Clean as required, typically once per week. Before removing lid to strainer basket, be sure to turn the motor off. After cleaning and resecuring the strainer basket, prime the pump and turn the motor on. Open the air relief valve on top of the filter to remove air which may be trapped in the filter. Silicone based grease (Aqua Lube) on the o-ring in the lid will assure you a better seal. Sandy dirt collected in the bottom of the strainer housing can be washed out by removing the plug at the bottom of the strainer housing with a water hose.

**Filter**

Consult your manufacturer’s instructions on operation, maintenance and warranty for your filter. The following are suggestions for operation of the different types of filters.

**Sand Filters**

Sand filters are cleaned by a procedure called “backwashing.” When the water coming through the return inlets reduces, it is time to backwash. If you have a pressure gauge, it
will indicate any pressure change. A change of seven to ten pounds above normal is an indication of the need to backwash.

**Backwash Procedure – For Dial Valve**

1) Turn off pump motor.
2) Set valve on filter to backwash.
3) Turn on pump motor. In 15 to 30 seconds, the water flowing out of the backwash line will turn dirty. Continue backwashing until water is clear again. (Normally three to four minutes.)
4) Turn off pump motor and rotate valve to the rinse position. Turn pump motor on for 30 to 60 seconds.
5) Turn pump motor off and set valve back to filter position. Turn pump motor on.

**Backwash Procedure – For Push-Pull Valve**

1) Turn pump motor off.
2) Set the T-valve in backwash position. Consult your owner’s manual for proper position.
3) Turn pump motor on. In 15 to 30 seconds, the water flowing out of the backwash line will turn dirty. Continue backwashing until this water is clear again. (Normally three to four minutes.)
4) Turn pump motor off and place valve in filter position. Turn pump motor on.

Your sand filter should be backwashed once each week or after vacuuming pool, whichever comes first.

The sand in your filter should be changed every three to five years. Be sure it is changed with a swimming pool filter grade sand to the specifications of your filter manufacturer.

The need for changing the sand in your filter is indicated by one or more of the following:

1) Inability to maintain normal pressure, even after backwashing.
2) Frequent need for backwashing.
3) Pool water will not maintain clarity.

**Cartridge Filters**

Cartridge filters are cleaned by removing the cartridge and cleaning it. This is necessary
when the water flow through the return inlets is reduced or the pressure indicated on your gauge is 10 to 12 pounds above normal operating pressure.

In most cases you can clean the cartridge by using a pressure nozzle on the end of your garden hose and directing the spray on the cartridge at an angle to remove dirt. The cartridge can be taken to the car wash and high pressure spray used. Do not use the detergent or the wax settings as it will permanently damage the cartridge.

Suntan and body oils will coat the cartridge and cause reduced flow. This material may be removed by using a special filter degreaser designed for swimming pool filters. Follow the use directions on the container for this product. Your cartridge filter should be chemically cleaned every three to four months.

Scale will also form on the cartridge. This may be removed by soaking the cartridge in a solution of one part muriatic acid to four parts water. Soak the cartridge until all bubbling action stops.

Always rinse the cartridge thoroughly after chemically cleaning them. Reassemble the cartridge and lubricate the sealing o-ring to assure a proper seal.

**D.E. (Diatomaceous Earth) Filters**

D.E. filters are special tanks consisting of a series of cloth covered grids. Diatomaceous earth, consisting of tiny prehistoric diatom skeletons, is introduced into the filter by the pump and covers the filter element. The D.E. allows water to pass through but collects the smallest of suspended particles. When cleaning is necessary, the water flow is reversed (backwashing) and the dirt and D.E. are sent through a waste line.

**Backwash Procedure – For Dial Valve**

1) Turn off pump motor.
2) Set valve on filter to backwash.
3) Turn on pump motor. In 15 to 30 seconds, the water flowing out of the backwash line will turn dirty. Continue backwashing until water is clear again. (Normally four to six minutes.)
4) Turn off pump motor and rotate valve to the rinse position. Turn pump motor on for approximately 60 seconds.
5) Turn pump motor off and set valve back to filter position. Turn pump motor on.
Backwash Procedure – For Push-Pull Valve

1) Turn pump motor off.
2) Set the T-valve in backwash position. Consult your owner’s manual for proper position.
3) Turn pump motor on. In 15 to 30 seconds, the water flowing out of the backwash line will turn dirty. Continue backwashing until this water is clear again. (Normally four to six minutes.)
4) Turn pump motor off and place valve in filter position. Turn pump motor on.

After the backwashing is complete and the pump motor is running, the grids must be re-coated with D.E. by slowly adding D.E. into the skimmer basket. The following chart is a recommendation as to how much D.E. should be used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Filter Size</th>
<th>Pounds of D.E.</th>
<th>Number of 1-pound coffee cans needed</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 sq. ft.</td>
<td>½</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 sq. ft.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 sq. ft.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3 ½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 sq. ft.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 sq. ft.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 sq. ft.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 sq. ft.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*A clean one pound coffee can is a good measuring device for D.E. You can also purchase measuring devices from your dealer.

At least once each year the grids inside your filter should be taken out and chemically cleaned. This is accomplished by first soaking the grids in an acid solution (1 part muriatic acid to 4 parts water) until all bubbling action stops. The grids are then cleaned with a swimming pool filter cleaner and degreaser. Follow use directions on the container for this product. Rinse grid thoroughly and reassemble filter.

Surface Skimmers

Read your factory instructions on operation, maintenance and warranty. Your surface skimmer is designed to remove all those things that float on the surface of your pool. They are collected in the basket inside the skimmer. This basket should be periodically removed and cleaned.
Replacing Underwater Light bulb

1) Turn off the breaker at the electrical panel.
2) Be sure the light is turned off.
3) There is one screw which holds the light in place. It is located at the top of the light.
   Remove this screw.
4) Pull the light out of the niche.
5) Unwrap the cord from around the light.
6) Place the light on the deck.
7) Remove the light bulb and replace it with a new underwater light bulb.
8) Place the light back in the pool and resecure it to the niche.

Do not test the new light bulb until the light is replaced in the pool. The light bulb will explode and cause the whole light fixture to have to be replaced.

Decks, Walkways, and Patios

Keep all areas adjacent to the pool as clean as possible. All dirt, dust, debris, etc., on these areas are blown or tracked into your pool, increasing the chlorine demand. Hosing off these areas with water is the accepted method of cleaning them. Keep wash water out of the pool as much as possible.

Pool chemicals in concentrate can etch and/or stain your deck area. Be careful not to spill pool chemicals on these surfaces. If you should spill chemicals on the deck be sure to rinse the area with large quantities of fresh water.

Occasionally, in the summer months, you may encounter algae growing on the deck area. Should this occur, wash the area with an algaecide solution (1 part algaecide to 8 parts water). Rinse thoroughly after cleaning.
Pool Specifications
Type of pool _________________________  Capacity in gallons ______________
Model of pool _________________________  Pool depth ____________________
Pool dimensions _______________________  Date completed ________________

Filter Specifications
Filter type ___________________________  Filter brand ____________________
Model no. _____________________________  Serial no. _____________________
Size ________________________________  Valve type_____________________
Cleaning instructions _________________________________________________

Pump Specifications
Pump brand __________________________  Horsepower ___________________
Model no. _____________________________  Serial no. _____________________
Frame no. _____________________________

Automatic Cleaner Specifications
Brand ________________________________  Model _______________________
Serial no. _____________________________  Booster pump brand ___________
Booster pump size _____________________  Booster pump frame ___________

Heater Specifications
Heater brand _________________________  Model _______________________
Size ________________________________  Serial no. _____________________

Automatic Chlorinator Specifications
Brand name __________________________  Model _______________________
Recommended chlorine _______________________________________________

Miscellaneous Specifications
Item ________________________________  Brand name ___________________
Size ________________________________  Model ______________________
Item ________________________________  Brand name ___________________
Size ________________________________  Model ______________________
Item ________________________________  Brand name ___________________
Size ________________________________  Model ______________________
I have read and understood the information contained in the Fiberglass Pools USE AND CARE MANUAL. I will follow the directions contained in this manual and contact my authorized fiberglass pool dealer if I have any questions.

HOMEOWNER’S SIGNATURE: _____________________________________________________________

NAME: (PRINTED) ________________________________________________________________

ADDRESS: ________________________________________________________________

CITY: __________________________ STATE: ___________ ZIP CODE: ________________

AUTHORIZED FIBERGLASS POOL DEALER: __________________________________________

POOL SERIAL NUMBER: _________________________________________________________

FAILURE TO RETURN THIS CARD COULD VOID YOUR WARRANTY!

Please detach and mail to:

Latham Pool Products, Inc.
Fiberglass Division
175 Viking Drive
Jane Lew, WV 26378
FAILURE TO RETURN THIS CARD COULD VOID YOUR WARRANTY!

Please detach and mail to:
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Your Authorized Fiberglass Pool Dealer: