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POOLS & GAMES

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Why Test Your Pool Water?

Pool and spa water should be tested weekly by the homeowner and at least once a month by a professional such as Landi Pools & Games. Frequently testing your water will help ensure safe, healthy water for you and your equipment.

Everyone knows a pool needs shock and chlorine (or other sanitizer such as bromine), but what about the water balancers such as pH, Alkalinity and Calcium Hardness? These water balancers are just as important as chlorine and shock for maintaining clear and healthy water. But, what are they really?

pH

In simple terms, pH is a scale used to measure whether something is acidic (low pH) or alkaline (high pH). Pool and spa water should be maintained at a pH of between 7.4 – 7.6. This ideal range helps protect equipment and allows chemical products such as chlorine to work more efficiently. Low pH will cause faster chlorine loss, skin and eye irritation, and will etch plaster, wrinkle vinyl liners and corrode equipment. Too high of a pH will form scale build-up and cloud water.

Alkalinity

Alkalinity works together with pH. It acts as a buffer against pH change. Alkalinity helps protect equipment and pool surfaces and makes water more comfortable. Pool and spa water should maintain an Alkalinity level of 125 – 150. Too low of an Alkalinity level will make it hard to control the pH which could lead to corrosive water and damage to equipment. Very high Alkalinity can cause cloudy water.

Calcium Hardness

By nature, water is corrosive. Maintaining proper calcium hardness levels in pool and spa water reduces the natural corrosiveness of water. Pool and spa water should maintain a Calcium Hardness level of 180 – 275 ppm depending on the pool surface (vinyl liners 180-225 ppm, plaster 200 – 275 ppm). Too low a calcium hardness level can cause pool water to become corrosive, resulting in damaged equipment and surfaces. Too high a level can contribute to scale formation on pool surfaces causing surface damage.

So, as you can see there is more to maintaining safe and healthy pool and spa water than perhaps you first thought. Landi Pools & Games makes it easy and clear for you! Bring in a water sample today and let us help you maintain a clear and safe pool!