



Date Issued	Aug 24
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INFO SHEET

*Performance Through
Technology and Service*

Effects of High Levels of Chlorine in Swimming Pools

It is very important that you still regularly balance the water in your salt pool. Just like a regular chlorine pool, a salt pool should maintain proper pH, Total Alkalinity, Calcium Hardness and Stabilizer levels (and Chlorine) in order to prevent scale formations on your salt pool system and maximise sanitising effectiveness. Test pool water on a weekly basis and use standard pool chemical procedures to adjust the levels.

What others say about saltwater pools and chlorine etc.

<https://www.thefibreglasspoolcompany.com.au>

Too much chlorine in your fibreglass pool can cause numerous issues. It causes corrosion of pool equipment, metal piping, and other nearby structures. It can cause damage to the fibreglass liners. Exposure to too much chlorine can cause health issues like skin, eye, and lung irritation and asthma.

<https://poolpartstogo.com/blogs/articles/can-too-much-chlorine-damage-your-pool>

Yes, too much chlorine can cause damage. Let's start with the bathers. They can get irritated skin, eyes, and even lungs from too high of a chlorine level. Too much chlorine is also corrosive to a swimming pool's plumbing. It can eat away at the vessel itself, damaging the plaster or pebble tech. It can bleach out vinyl liners. It can eat away at your equipment too. Especially if you own a heater.

<https://builderconnect.co.nz/blog/will-the-chlorine-from-my-pool-damage-the-concrete/>

Chlorine from pool water can potentially damage concrete surfaces over time. High concentrations of chlorine can lead to discoloration, surface erosion, and weakening of the concrete structure. To prevent damage, it's essential to use sealants on concrete surfaces around the pool, maintain proper chlorine levels, and consider alternative pool sanitising methods. Regular maintenance and prompt addressing of any signs of damage can help preserve the integrity and appearance of your pool's concrete areas.

<https://www.challengerpools.com/pool-care/is-too-much-chlorine-bad-for-your-pool/>

Chlorine poisoning is very rare, however pay attention to possible symptoms of itchy eyes, difficulty breathing, skin redness, quick onset of nausea and vomiting, throat feels like it's burning, and/or dull chest pain. Though these symptoms are not life threatening and will go away after 24 hours, for most cases, they can be very uncomfortable and cause a lot of pain.

Now that we know the causes of too much chlorine on our bodies, let's learn about the damage it can cause your pool. High amounts of chlorine in your pool can lower the pH level of the water, making it acidic. This could damage pool equipment, concrete and even metal piping. If the pH level in your pool is 8 or higher, you are more than likely to have too much chlorine in your water. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a pH reading between 7.2 and 7.8 is ideal for an at-home swimming pool

Summary

To keep on top of your chlorine levels at home, invest in a few testing strips so that you can check the chlorine levels in your pool, daily in high usage summer periods, weekly otherwise in summer and at least monthly in the off season. You can buy these at your local pool store or online.

Keeping an eye on your chlorine levels helps maintain a healthy and fun environment for you, your family and friends, so be sure to keep an eye on it or ask your pool maintenance professional to let you know when it's getting high.

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An example of surface bleaching - oxidation below the water line, Fibreglass pool.



There is no exact level for a high level of chlorine, but a prolonged period above 5ppm would be deemed a cause for a chlorine bleached pool. Other factors such as pH and CYA can make it worse.

Notes:

1 We have seen examples of pools which had a blanket on during the winter, and the chlorine generator was left set as if it was summer. The measured chlorine was between 8 – 11 ppm and not only destroyed the blanket but bleached the pool surface just above the water line as the excess chlorine gas escaped. Turn the chlorinator down to keep chlorine at 1 ppm. (when a blanket being used)

2 Another few examples where owners have been overseas for a month or two and upon return (in the swimming season) pool tests showed chlorine at 12 ppm and a similar result as per #1.

3 Some Australian pool epoxy manufacturers recommend CH level at 1 – 2 ppm and anything above 3ppm is likely to shorten the life of the (epoxy) coating. Excessively high chlorine levels will degrade your coating. Quote: "Poor pool chemistry maintenance will accelerate chalking and degradation of the epoxy coating" Colormaker

