



Date Issued	April 25
Replaces	

## INFO SHEET

*Performance Through  
Technology and Service*

### **Granular Chlorine - Side effects and white films**

A white film or powder in a swimming pool is often caused by using granular chlorine, which is made from calcium hypochlorite. The calcium in the granules doesn't always dissolve completely and settles at the bottom as a white sediment, but other causes include high pH, calcium hardness buildup, or biofilm.

Causes of white film.

- **Calcium hypochlorite:**  
Granular chlorine contains calcium, which can settle at the bottom of the pool as a white, powdery residue, especially if not fully dissolved.
- **High pH:**  
When the pool's pH is too high, the water becomes more alkaline. This can lead to a cloudy appearance and decrease the effectiveness of chlorine, potentially contributing to a surface film.
- **Calcium hardness:**  
High levels of calcium hardness in the water, especially if already high in the fill water, can contribute to white, flaky deposits forming on surfaces.
- **Biofilm:**  
A sticky layer of biofilm can form on pool surfaces. While it can appear as a white film, it is a colony of bacteria and often requires brushing to remove.
- **Saltwater pools:**  
In saltwater pools, high calcium or phosphate levels can cause white flakes to form, which are often a byproduct of the salt chlorine generator.

NOTE: high and continuous levels of Chlorine can bleach pool surfaces inc Fibreglass, Vinyl and Paint. The normal range is 1 – 3 ppm for good sanitation. Anything above 5 ppm is a concerning and about 6 -7 can bleach the surfaces. Super chlorination (shock) up to 10 ppm for 24 hrs max, is generally ok