

MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR REINFORCED
POOL MEMBRANES



THE WATER	4
PH VALUE	5
ACID CAPACITY	6
CHLORINE VALUE	8
WATER TEMPERATURE	9
WATER TREATMENT	10
WATER CONTAMINATION	11
CLEANING PRODUCTS	12
POOL COVERING	14
HEAT WARNING	15
WINTER PREPARATION	16
CONTACT REACTIONS	17





Water from your city water system or drinking water is perfectly suitable for filling your pool.

If you use well water, you should ensure that it does not contain heavy metals such as iron, copper and manganese. These metals can cause discolouration of the membrane.

In areas where there is a high calcium concentration and hard water, you should use chemicals to reduce lime and calcium in the pool water. Otherwise, deposits may form and damage the surface of the membrane.

Recommended pH value: 7.0 to 7.6

If the pH value is less than 7.0:

- metal parts of the pool system may corrode
- the membrane will age faster
- wrinkles may form on the surface of the membrane

If the pH value is above 7.6:

- the chlorine will break down faster
- disinfectant effectiveness is reduced
- calcium deposits will occur on the membrane





Acid capacity / Alkalinity

One of the parameters that must be monitored to maintain good pool water quality is total alkalinity. Alkalinity is closely linked to the pH value. If it is not monitored, problems may arise when adjusting the pH value.

Acid capacity, alkalinity, total alkalinity and bicarbonate hardness are equivalent terms.

Acid capacity is primarily determined by the hydrogen carbonate ions (HCO_3^-) dissolved in the pool water. Alkalinity plays an important role in regulating changes in the pH value by providing a buffering effect. Properly adjusted total alkalinity is essential for maintaining clear and properly disinfected water. Therefore, a minimum acid capacity is necessary for pool water.

Water with a low acid capacity is prone to significant pH fluctuations.

Adjusting the pH value by adding acids or alkalis is difficult or even impossible. Conversely, if the acid capacity is too high, it may also be difficult to achieve the desired pH value because the water is “over-buffered”.

The recommended alkalinity is between 80 and 120 ppm.

Incorrect pH values, whether too high or too low, usually lead to faster ageing of the product. Possible signs include:

- bleaching or fading
- a rough surface
- wrinkling due to expansion (caused by increased water absorption)

If the alkalinity is **below 80 ppm**, skin and eye irritation for bathers can occur as well as corrosion of the metal parts of the pool, and excessive consumption of disinfectant due to water imbalance.

If the alkalinity is too high, it can cause limescale deposits.

**Recommended chlorine level:**

1 to 3 ppm (mg/l) for stabilised chlorine, such as powder or tablets

0.3 to 1.5 ppm (mg/l) for non-stabilised chlorine, such as a salt chlorinator or liquid chlorine

If the chlorine level is too low:

- disinfection is ineffective
- water quality deteriorates
- biofilm growth on the membrane increases, eventually leading to discolouration

If the chlorine level is too high:

- wrinkles may form on the surface of the membrane
- the membrane may fade or bleach
- the membrane may age prematurely

Water temperature

Please observe the maximum permitted water temperature for your fabric-reinforced swimming pool membrane as specified in the relevant data sheet.

If the water temperature is too high:

- the effectiveness of the disinfectant will be significantly reduced
- the resulting need for a higher chlorine level will increase the risk of membrane bleaching
- the risk of bubbles and wrinkles forming will increase





Water Treatment and Disinfectant Equipment

Do not use copper or silver ionizers. These systems are not suitable for the pool membrane and can cause discolouration.

If copper or silver is present in the water, it must be removed using a suitable metal sequestrant.

Water contamination

Avoid contamination of the water by showering before swimming and using approved, mild cleaning agents on the pool edge regularly.

NOTE: Sunscreens, lotions and tanning oils may react with metal ions present in the water, such as iron and copper, and contribute to discolouration and staining along the waterline. It is important to keep the pool membrane clean along the waterline using a product specifically designed for cleaning vinyl pool linings. Consult your local pool dealer.





Only use non-abrasive cleaners designed specifically and approved for swimming pools.

Standard industrial or household cleaning products, such as multi-purpose cleaners or liquid grease removers, are not approved for use in swimming pools and must not be used. They will damage the swimming pool membrane.

Use only soft cloths, brushes and sponges for cleaning. Scouring powders, wire brushes and high-pressure cleaners may scratch or otherwise damage the membrane surface.



Regular cleaning preserves your pool membrane and keeps the waterline clean.

Pool membrane shown: SOLID Amber



Covering the Swimming Pool in Summer

Covering the swimming pool has a significant effect on water quality. The water temperature can quickly exceed the maximum permitted level and damage the pool membrane. Furthermore, if the pool water is not circulated, the concentration and reactivity of the chemicals in the water may increase rapidly and reach levels that can damage the pool membrane.

When the swimming pool is covered, it is important to:

- check the water temperature
- check the chlorine level in the water: 1 to 3 ppm (mg/l) for stabilised chlorine and a maximum of 0.3 to 1.5 ppm (mg/l) for non-stabilised chlorine
- ensure that the water is not left without circulation for more than one hour, in order to prevent stagnant water and the accumulation of heat and chemicals in certain areas, such as around the skimmers, main drains and corners

Warning!

Accumulation of heat in the air and water will damage the membrane.

Insufficient circulation of pool water will cause extreme heat to build up beneath the cover and will permanently damage the membrane. The air temperature can exceed 60°C, and the water temperature can exceed 40°C.





Preparing the Pool for Winter*

- lower the water level to just below the skimmer
- winterise the return-line inlets by closing them tightly
- empty all plumbing lines and drain the filter
- add floats to the water to protect the membrane from ice damage
- if the pool system is to be shut down, cover the pool with a UV-resistant cover

Winterising the swimming pool helps protect the membrane against:

- pollutants and contaminants present in the air
- the effects of UV radiation

By following these steps, you can help prevent damage to the membrane.

*Applies only to regions where winter water temperatures fall below 15 °C. In warmer climates, active winter maintenance is recommended, including regular water testing, balanced water treatment, and reduced filtration.

Avoid contact with certain materials

Some materials may cause stains or discolouration if they come into contact with the pool membrane.

Remove organic and inorganic debris from the pool early.

Avoid direct contact with polystyrene, bitumen, tar, industrial oils and greases, solvents, coating materials, paints and rubber, including shoe or boot soles, cables and pipes.



Consulting

Please consult your swimming pool installer if you have any questions about these maintenance topics. Inadequate maintenance and care of the pool can lead to permanent damage to the pool membrane, such as wrinkling, discolouration, bleaching, fading, scratching or accelerated ageing.

Pool maintenance always includes caring for your swimming pool membrane!



Elbtal Plastics GmbH & Co. KG +49 3523 5330-0
Cowaplast 2 | 01640 Coswig info@elbtal-plastics.de
Germany www.elbepools.com

Date / Installer's Stamp and Signature