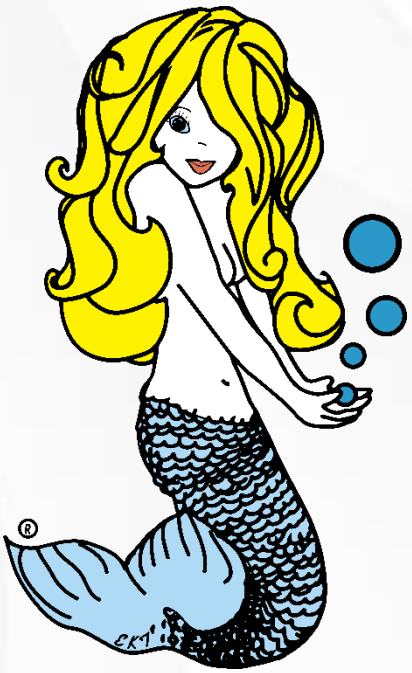
Tallman Pools®

USE & CARE MANUAL



Welcome to the Tallman Pools Family!

Congratulations on your purchase of a Tallman fiberglass swimming pool!

Your new pool is more than a backyard feature; it's an investment in relaxation, connection, and lasting memories. For over 60 years, the Tallman family has been building pools designed to bring people together, and our goal is to help you enjoy your pool for decades to come. This Manual is intended to provide clear guidance on proper care, safe use, and routine maintenance so your pool remains a beautiful, healthy, and safe environment.

This Tallman Pools Use & Care Manual ("Manual") contains important information to help you protect and maintain your Tallman fiberglass swimming pool, spa, and/or tanning ledge ("Pool"). Inside, you'll find guidance on water chemistry, cleaning, seasonal maintenance, and safety practices—everything you need to keep your pool looking and performing its best. We encourage you to download, print, and read this Manual in its entirety, follow the recommendations provided, and contact us or your local authorized Tallman Pools dealer whenever assistance is needed.

Owning a pool is an exciting experience, and with it comes the responsibility of proper care and maintenance. You are responsible for maintaining your Pool in accordance with the guidance outlined in this Manual. When cared for correctly, your Tallman Pool will provide years of enjoyment, reliability, and peace of mind.

A Limited Warranty ("Warranty") is provided by the manufacturer, Discount Fiberglass Pools, Inc., and applies exclusively to the original retail purchaser of the Pool, as defined in the Warranty document. This Warranty is the sole manufacturer's warranty offered for the Pool and is separate from any warranties or guarantees that may be provided by independent dealers. Coverage is limited to the Pool shell as described in the Warranty and does not include installation, pool equipment, accessories, or other non-manufactured components.

We are proud to welcome you to the Tallman Pools family. Every pool we build reflects our commitment to craftsmanship, integrity, and care—values that have guided our family-owned business for generations. If questions arise as you become familiar with your Pool, our team is always here to help. Consider this Manual your foundation, and Tallman Pools your trusted partner in long-term pool enjoyment.

We wish you and your family good health, happiness, and many years of fun and relaxation in your Tallman Pool.

From our family to yours,

Ed Tallman, Owner
The Team at Tallman Pools

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Important Notices and Disclaimers

This Manual provides a general overview of caring for your new Tallman Pool; however, it is not an exhaustive list of pool care or maintenance requirements and has not been prepared with your specific equipment, supplies, or chemicals in mind. Tallman Pools shall not be held liable for damage to pool equipment, accessories, chemicals, or related supplies caused by improper installation, misuse, neglect, improper maintenance, unbalanced water chemistry, environmental conditions, or factors beyond our control. Tallman Pools does not manufacture pool equipment, accessories, or chemical products and is not responsible for the performance, defects, warranties, or failures of any third-party equipment or supplies.

Your Tallman Pool is covered by a Limited Warranty provided by the manufacturer, Discount Fiberglass Pools, Inc. This Warranty is a separate document and applies exclusively to the original retail purchaser. It is non-transferable and does not extend to subsequent owners. While the Limited Warranty does not apply to subsequent owners, this Manual remains a valuable resource for proper care, maintenance, and safe use of the pool, and all owners are encouraged to follow the guidelines provided herein.

In no event shall Tallman Pools be held liable for any damages, including without limitation damage to persons or property, claimed to result from any information contained in this Manual, whether such damages are actual, special, incidental, and/or consequential. Failure to follow safety instructions may result in serious injury or death. Failure to comply with the instructions and requirements outlined in this Manual may void your Limited Warranty. Failure to properly maintain water chemistry in accordance with the guidelines provided may result in surface discoloration or damage.

Tallman Pools products are supplied in the United States primarily through a network of independently owned and operated dealers authorized to sell and install various products under an agreement from Discount Fiberglass Pools Inc. d/b/a Tallman Pools (“Tallman Pools”). Tallman Pools is the product manufacturer. Tallman Pools and its affiliates are completely separate from the independent sellers and installers who act as dealers. These dealers are not owners, employees or agents of Tallman Pools or its affiliates, have no right or authority to bind Tallman Pools or its affiliates, and are not authorized to make any claims regarding Tallman Pools products that are not contained in literature supplied by Tallman Pools or its affiliates. Neither Tallman Pools nor any of its affiliates is responsible or liable in any way for the actions or omissions of these dealers or any related damage to persons, property, or Tallman Pools’ products. Before entering a contract with a dealer of Tallman Pools’ products, retail purchasers are advised to undertake their own research and investigation regarding the dealer and to obtain independent legal advice regarding any proposed contract and or payment plan. Any statements (whether written, oral or electronic) that assert any relationship between Tallman Pools or its affiliates on the one hand and its dealers on the other hand contrary to this Notice are expressly disclaimed by Tallman Pools and its affiliates and should be disregarded. For more information, please visit our Legal Information page.

⚠ Do not drain your pool without prior authorization.
⚠ Do not lower the water level below the skimmer.

Failure to comply with either of these requirements without prior authorization from Tallman Pools will result in the **voiding of the Limited Warranty.**

A Safe Pool Is a Responsible Pool

Serious injury or death can occur from improper or unsafe use of swimming pools, spas, tanning ledges, water features, and related equipment.

Establish clear safety rules for the use of your Tallman Pool and actively enforce them. Taking simple precautions can help protect your family and guests from preventable accidents.

Please review all information carefully.

Safety Guidelines

Drowning

In the United States, nearly 300 children under the age of five drown in pools or spas each year. Most of these incidents occur at a pool or spa located at the child's own home, a relative's home, or a friend's home. Additionally, over 5,000 children in this age group are treated annually for submersion-related injuries in emergency departments. Similar trends are reported in Canada.

Even shallow water poses a risk—accidental drowning can occur in any depth of water.

For the most up-to-date drowning statistics, please visit the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) at www.cpsc.gov.

Drowning Prevention Safety Tips

Below is a list of recommended practices to help reduce drowning risks. Additional safety guidance is available at www.cpsc.gov and www.poolsafely.gov/parents/safety-tips/.

Safety Tips for Using Your Tallman Pools Product

- Always supervise children when they are in or near the pool. Never leave them unattended.
- Do not allow anyone—regardless of age or skill level—to swim alone.
- Even strong swimmers can experience unexpected emergencies in the water.
- Never swim under the influence of alcohol or impairing substances.
- Keep a phone nearby to contact emergency services quickly.
- If a child is missing, always check the pool area first.
- Share pool rules and safety practices with all family members, friends, and guests.
- Ensure everyone in the household learns how to swim.
- Learn CPR for both adults and children.
- Understand basic lifesaving techniques so you can respond in an emergency.
- Install a barrier or fence in compliance with ANSI/APSP/ICC standards that restrict direct access to the pool.
- Use self-closing, self-latching gates.
- Install alarms on doors leading to the pool area.
- Consider using a pool alarm that alerts you to unexpected entry into the water.
- Ensure doors leading from the home to the pool area have self-closing/latching mechanisms positioned at least 60" above the ground.
- Use a safety pool cover that meets ASTM F1346-91 standards.
- Keep pool and spa covers properly maintained.
- Ensure that all drains meet current anti-entrapment requirements.
- Keep children away from drains, suction outlets, and other openings.
- Keep rescue equipment, such as life rings or reaching poles, easily accessible.
- Do not rely on inflatable toys or flotation devices for safety.
- When the pool is not in use, it is the owner's responsibility to secure it.

⚠ These tips are meant as a useful tool. For detailed information and a comprehensive list of pool safety standards and regulations, always defer back to the ANSI/APSP/ICC guidelines.

WARNING

Your pool is equipped with suction drains that pull water from your pool and transport it to the filter. The suction pressure needed to pull the water is strong and therefore care must be taken to be sure swimmers are not harmed. Your pool has covers over these drains designed to prevent injury. However, care must be taken by the pool owner to be sure that the covers are always secure, not broken in any way and working effectively. In addition, the owner should instruct all swimmers to not swim or play near the drains and to be aware of the warnings below.

Never enter or swim in a pool that has a broken or missing drain cover, or if the suction fitting is loose, cracked, broken, or missing. If that happens, you must close your pool immediately and contact a pool professional to make the necessary repairs.

Never swim or play near the suction fittings. Your body, hair, and swimwear may be trapped, causing permanent injury or drowning.

Warn swimmers, and children in particular, never to swim near the suction fittings or stick their fingers, toes, or other body parts into them.

Pool users with long hair should be cautioned not to get their hair near a pool outlet. Hair entrapment may cause entanglement, entrapment, serious injury, drowning and or death. If you have long hair, pin it up or wear a bathing cap.

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS MAY RESULT IN ENTANGLEMENT, ENTRAPMENT, SERIOUS INJURY, DROWNING AND OR DEATH.

Paralysis

Diving, sliding, rough housing, alcohol consumption, or other unsafe behaviors around pools, spas, tanning ledges, or water features can result in serious neck or spinal injuries—including paralysis.

Ensure that all family members and guests understand and follow your safety rules when using any Tallman Pools product.

Fires and Burns

Pool chemicals can be hazardous if improperly stored or mixed. Follow the manufacturer's directions on all product labels, and keep chemicals securely stored and away from children. Incorrect handling can result in fire, chemical burns, or toxic fumes.

Electrical Shock and Electrocution

Water conducts electricity extremely well. Electrical devices near the pool must be protected by a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) to prevent potential shock or electrocution. Never use electrical appliances near the water unless properly protected.

⚠ WARNING

Tallman Pools does not manufacture the pumps and filters that are used with your pool. This electrical equipment is designed to help keep your pool clean and safe. As the pool owner, it is your responsibility to diligently maintain this equipment to avoid possible injury.

Do not allow children to use this product. Use of this product by children could result in serious injury or death.

Water is a conductor of electricity. Electrical shock or electrocution can occur in a pool if live electrical current flowing through electrical appliances and devices (including current from a telephone) comes into contact with the water. Make sure all electrical appliances and devices are protected by a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) and kept away from the pool.

To reduce the risk of electric shock, connect only to a grounding-type receptacle. The pumps and filters should be provided with a ground-fault circuit interrupter. If replacement of the plug or cord is needed, use only identical replacement parts.

Never perform work on your filter equipment without turning off the entire system and bleeding off the internal pressure.

When you restart your filter after maintenance, or when you are turning on your equipment to put your pool in operation, always bleed off the air in your filter tank and then stand back. Serious bodily injury can occur if the top of the filter separates from the bottom with sudden force because of some problem or error on your part. Always securely clamp the top and bottom of a two-piece filter in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Do not bury the electrical cord.

Do not plug in or unplug this product while standing in water or while your hands are wet. Doing so may result in serious injury or death.

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS MAY RESULT IN PROPERTY DAMAGE, ELECTRIC SHOCK, ENTANGLEMENT, ENTRAPMENT, SERIOUS INJURY, OR DEATH.

Diving and Jumping

Most Tallman Pools models are not designed for diving or jumping. Except in very limited circumstances, Tallman Pools should be considered non-diving pools. Built-in steps are provided for safe entry and exit and should always be used in place of jumping.

Tallman Pools does not recommend or endorse diving or jumping into any pool that is not specifically designed for that purpose. Diving or jumping into a pool not intended for diving can result in serious injury, paralysis, or death. If a pool owner or guest chooses to dive despite these warnings, it is critical to follow basic diving safety precautions to reduce the risk of injury.

- Follow all manufacturer recommendations for the installation and use of any diving equipment, in accordance with ANSI/APSP/ICC standards.
- Make sure all swimmers understand the depth and shape of the pool bottom before entering headfirst.
- When diving, keep your head up, arms extended, and use your hands to guide yourself upward after entry.
- Practice any diving maneuvers cautiously before attempting full dives.
- Test the diving board flexibility before use.
- Dive straight forward—never to the side.
- Never dive into the shallow end.
- Only dive from the center of the deep end.
- Always check for underwater obstructions before diving.
- Do not dive or slide headfirst through flotation devices or other objects.
- Do not attempt backward or reverse dives.
- Do not run before diving.
- Do not dive alone.

Pool Slides

Tallman Pools strongly recommends that slides not be installed or used with its pools, given the inherent dangers associated with slides in residential pools. These dangers include brain, spinal cord and other severe permanent injuries, and death. If, despite this warning and recommendation, the owner decides to install or use a slide, the owner assumes all risks inherent with the slide, and Tallman Pools further warns that slides require minimum depths and distances and must be installed and used in strict compliance with the equipment manufacturer's specifications and ISPSC standards, as well as in compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations. The owner is responsible for making sure the pool is appropriate for a slide and otherwise meets all standards and laws for slides, and the owner must consult the slide manufacturer as to the appropriateness of the pool for the slide and that its installation, location and use meet all standards and laws for slide pools.

Other Safety Guidelines

Pool Fencing

Many jurisdictions require a compliant fence before water is added to a pool. Laws vary by location, so it is essential to check local regulations and ensure that all fencing and safety barriers meet applicable codes.

Learn to Swim

Swimming lessons greatly increase water safety. The following organizations offer reputable swim instruction and water-safety guidance:

- American Red Cross
- YMCA
- U.S. Swim School Association
- The Michael Phelps Foundation

Water Chemistry

Why Balanced Water Matters

Maintaining properly balanced water chemistry is one of the most important steps in caring for your Pool. When water is not treated correctly, it can create unsafe swimming conditions, damage your Pool and equipment, and may result in loss of Warranty coverage. While clear water may look clean and inviting, clarity alone does not mean the water is properly balanced or safe for swimming.

When your water is balanced and adequately sanitized, it helps create a safe, clean, and enjoyable environment for you, your family, and your guests. Pool water is constantly exposed to contaminants such as algae, bacteria, and other microorganisms through wind, fill water, and swimmer use. Because of this, maintaining healthy pool water requires ongoing care and attention.

Proper pool water management includes:

- Keeping water chemistry within required ranges so it is safe for swimmers and gentle on the Pool and equipment;
- Sanitizing the water to break down and eliminate organic contaminants;
- Filtering the water to remove the byproducts of sanitization; and
- Frequently testing and adjusting water chemistry to keep all levels within the required ranges.

Proper water chemistry plays such an important role in protecting your Pool, a weekly written record of water chemistry levels is required to maintain Warranty coverage. Each of these topics is explained in more detail throughout this manual, but is by no means an exhaustive list of Pool care practices.

By following the required ranges and maintenance practices outlined in this Manual, you can more easily maintain safe, comfortable water, protect your Pool's surface and equipment, and prevent common issues before they occur. Consistent care using these guidelines helps keep your Pool looking its best and ready to enjoy throughout the season.

Required Chemical Ranges

Chemical	*Required Range*	*Notes*
pH	7.2–7.4	Balanced pH ensures swimmer comfort, equipment protection, and effective sanitation.
Chlorine	1–3 ppm	Disinfects water, kills bacteria and algae, and keeps water clear.
Calcium Hardness	80–120 ppm	Prevents scaling and protects fiberglass surfaces.
Total Alkalinity	80–120 ppm	Stabilizes pH and prevents corrosive or scale-forming conditions.
Cyanuric Acid (Stabilizer)	30–50 ppm	Protects chlorine from UV breakdown in outdoor pools.
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	<1,500 ppm (Salt: 2,700–3,400 ppm depending on system)	Excessive TDS can affect water clarity and sanitizer effectiveness.
Langelier Saturation Index (LSI)	−0.30 to +0.30	Indicates overall water balance; slightly negative is safe for fiberglass pools.
Metal Content	0 ppm	Prevents staining and discoloration.

⚠ **Caution:** Never allow LSI to exceed +0.30. In colder months, it may drop below −0.30 without issue. (LSI was originally designed for concrete pool structures that require calcium to prevent etching. LSI can be a useful reference point but should not be the cornerstone of fiberglass pool care.)

IMPORTANT

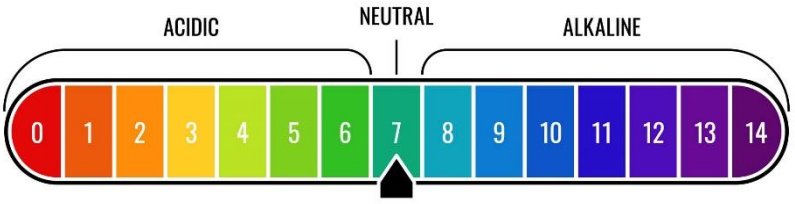
Many water chemistry guidelines used by pool stores, service companies, and mass merchants were designed for concrete or plaster pools and may not be suitable for fiberglass pools. Reliance on such recommendations may result in improper water balance, which can cause surface damage or otherwise affect the performance and longevity of a fiberglass pool. Pool owners are responsible for ensuring that water chemistry is maintained in accordance with the specific guidelines set forth in this Manual.

pH

pH is a measure of how much acid or alkaline exists in the water. The pH scale ranges from 0 to 14, with 7 being neutral. Values below 7 are acidic and values above 7 are alkaline.

High pH Levels Can:

- Create swimmer discomfort;
- Interfere with the sterilization action of your pool sanitizer; and
- Damage your Pool.



We are seeking a pH balance suitable to users, the Pool itself, and the sanitizer used. **Your Pool requires a pH level in the water of between 7.2 and 7.4.**

Topping off the water, heavy rain, heavy bathing loads and chemical additions can all change the pH level of the water in your Pool. The pH level must be kept within the operating range; if the pH is too high or too low, it could cause user discomfort and/or irritation and damage to your Tallman Pool.

Salt generators tend to increase pH levels, requiring close monitoring and adjustment to maintain balance. Excessive chlorine production and elevated pH from salt generators can cause permanent damage to the pool surface, including fading and discoloration. Regardless of the chlorine type or chlorinator process you use, any pH drift above or below the required range of 7.2 to 7.4 will inhibit the sanitizing effect of your chlorine and damage your Pool. To maintain the Warranty on your Pool, you must maintain a pH level within the range of 7.2 to 7.4 and keep a weekly written record of the pH levels in the water.

Total Alkalinity

Total alkalinity is a measure of bicarbonates, carbonates and hydroxides in your water. **The required total alkalinity range is 80 to 120 parts per million, with 100 parts per million being ideal.**

Lower total alkalinity will lead to the water attacking the walls of the Pool shell. Low levels will also cause the pH levels to be very unstable with small additions of chemicals resulting in major shifts in the pH values. Low alkalinity increases corrosion risk, while high alkalinity combined with high pH may contribute to scale formation. To maintain the Warranty on your Pool, you must keep the total alkalinity between 80 to 120 parts per million and maintain a weekly written record of the total alkalinity levels in the water.

The Relationship Between pH and Total Alkalinity
A clear relationship can be seen between pH and total alkalinity in that they are both lowered by acids. Because of the relationship between these two chemical components, they need to be adjusted together.

The levels you are seeking to maintain are:

- pH between 7.2 and 7.4
- Total alkalinity between 80 to 120 parts per million

Calcium

Calcium is naturally present in all water sources, and its concentration varies across different regions. Areas with higher calcium levels—often referred to as hard water—are more prone to issues with calcium leeching. When the pH is properly maintained between 7.2 and 7.4, calcium remains in balance. For fiberglass pools, **calcium hardness should be kept between 80 and 120 parts per million**. Maintaining this range and keeping a monthly written record is a requirement of the Warranty.

When pH levels rise above 7.4, calcium begins to fall out of solution and attach to the Pool surface. The higher and more prolonged the elevated pH, the more visible the resulting scale or whitening. This problem is especially common in areas with naturally high calcium levels. All that is necessary for scale formation is a pH above 7.4 paired with calcium hardness above 120 ppm. The higher these values climb, the more significant the buildup becomes.

pH & Chlorine Ranges

	BOTH IN RANGE	BOTH HIGH
NO CALCIUM	**GOOD**	**GOOD**
ANY CALCIUM	**GOOD**	**DISCOLORATION**

It is also important to understand that many chemical recommendations used in the pool industry are based on concrete pool standards, which do not translate appropriately to fiberglass surfaces. There is rarely, if ever, a reason to add calcium to a fiberglass pool. Similarly, certain shock products contain **calcium hypochlorite (cal-hypo)**, **which should be avoided**. Cal-hypo can introduce unnecessary calcium into the water and contribute to scale formation. To protect the Pool's surface, always opt for liquid chlorine or non-chlorine shock treatments instead. Regularly use a stain/metal and scale control product to prevent discoloration and maintain your pool's finish. These products contain chelating and sequestering agents that can effectively shield your pool from calcium.

If the Pool is exposed to elevated pH levels, you may notice irregular discoloration or whitening below the waterline. This occurs when calcium leeches from the water and adheres to the walls, steps, or floor. The effect can appear as streaks or solid patches and becomes especially noticeable when the water level is lowered and the surface dries.

If discoloration caused by high pH is identified early—typically within 1 to 3 months—it can often be corrected with targeted chemical treatments. However, if high pH persists for longer than 3 months, the issue can become severe and may require professional repair.

Because this condition results from improper pH and calcium balance, it is not related to a manufacturing defect and such repairs are not covered under the Warranty. Properly adhering to the required calcium levels helps prevent surface scaling, etching, and discoloration and ensures the long-term performance of your fiberglass pool.

⚠ **Do not shock or super chlorinate unless absolutely necessary; only use non-chlorine shock (MPS)**

Sanitizer (Chlorine)

Chlorine is the most common pool sanitizer and plays a critical role in keeping pool water safe, clean, and free of harmful contaminants. In fiberglass pools, proper chlorine selection and management are especially important, as certain chlorine products can contribute to surface damage or discoloration if used improperly.

Free chlorine (FC) is the active form of chlorine responsible for sanitizing the water and eliminating bacteria, algae, and other contaminants. Free chlorine must be maintained between **1–3 parts per million (ppm)**. A weekly written record is required for maintaining your Warranty. Levels above **3 ppm** may damage the pool surface, as excessive chlorine can cause surface discoloration and damage. Total chlorine (TC) represents the combined total of free chlorine and chloramines (used-up chlorine that has bonded with contaminants). For effective sanitation, free chlorine should always make up the majority of total chlorine. Free available chlorine should be verified using a DPD test kit.

Supplemental products such as algaecides are not a substitute for proper free chlorine levels and should be used only when necessary, such as during startup or unusual conditions. Copper-based or mineral algaecides are not recommended for fiberglass pools, as they may introduce metals into the water and increase the risk of surface staining or discoloration. If an algaecide is used, select a non-metal product specifically labeled as safe for fiberglass pools and follow manufacturer instructions.

Types of Chlorine

For fiberglass pools, liquid chlorine (sodium hypochlorite) and saltwater chlorinators are approved and recommended methods of chlorination, as they allow for effective sanitation while minimizing the risk of surface damage. **Granular chlorine (calcium hypochlorite) must never be used**, as it introduces calcium into the water, increases calcium hardness, and may cause surface discoloration and damage. Stabilized chlorine products (dichlor or trichlor) should be avoided, as they can raise cyanuric acid (stabilizer) levels and may contribute to surface damage over time.

⚠ If you need to increase chlorine temporarily, make sure your pH stays below 7.8 to avoid surface damage.
⚠ In saltwater systems, indoor pools, or pools that remain covered for extended periods, chlorine levels should generally be maintained near 1 ppm.

Chlorine is essential for sanitation, but its effectiveness is influenced by several factors, including:

- Bathing load – The number of swimmers using the pool. Higher bather loads increase chlorine demand.
- Sunlight – Strong sunlight accelerates chlorine loss unless the pool is properly stabilized.
- Water temperature – Warmer water shortens chlorine lifespan, with rapid loss occurring when temperatures exceed 85°F.
- Wind and rain – Dust, debris, bacteria, and algae spores introduced by weather increase chlorine consumption.
- pH balance – As pH rises, chlorine becomes less effective, requiring higher chlorine levels to maintain proper sanitation.

⚠ Do not shock or super chlorinate unless absolutely necessary, only use non-chlorine shock (MPS)

Stabilizer (Cyanuric Acid-CYA)

Stabilizer, also known as (CYA), plays a vital role in pool water chemistry by protecting the chlorine from ultraviolet (UV) light, allowing it to work more efficiently. UV rapidly degrades chlorine, with up to 5 ppm lost within three hours of strong sunlight. Stabilizer slows this process and reduces chemical consumption. **The required stabilizer level for your Pool is 30–50 ppm.**

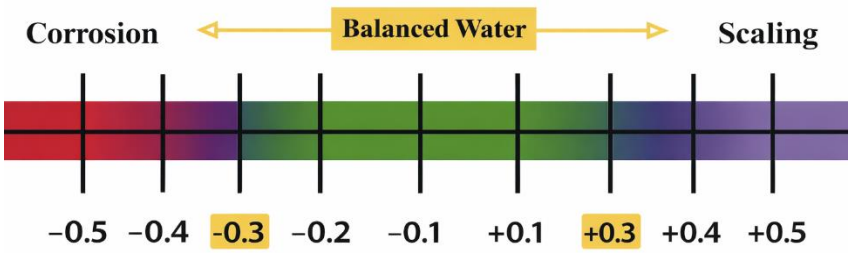
Stabilizer is lost due to splash-out, backwashing, and water replacement, so it needs to be replenished as necessary. Be sure to test stabilizer levels monthly and before adding more. For salt systems, remember to add stabilizer each time salt is introduced.

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) refers to the combined amount of dissolved substances in pool water, including minerals, salts, and residual chemicals. Elevated TDS levels can reduce overall water quality, contributing to cloudy water, scale formation, and reduced sanitizer efficiency. Maintaining proper TDS levels (below **1,500 ppm, or 2,700–3,400 ppm** for saltwater pools) is essential for clean, healthy, and easy-to-maintain pool water. Test TDS levels monthly, and after heavy rain or major water replacement. A written record is required to maintain your Warranty.

LSI (Langelier Saturation Index)

The Langelier Saturation Index (LSI) is a calculation used to determine whether pool water is balanced, corrosive, or prone to forming scale by assessing its saturation with calcium carbonate. It considers factors such as pH, temperature, calcium hardness, alkalinity, cyanuric acid, and total dissolved solids. LSI can be a helpful reference, though it was originally developed for concrete pool structures that rely on calcium to prevent etching. For fiberglass pools, LSI should be viewed as a supplemental guideline rather than the primary basis for water care. **The required LSI range for fiberglass pools is –0.30 to +0.30, though 0 is ideal.**



Metals

Metals in pool water can create a range of problems if not controlled and may be introduced through fill water, environmental exposure, corrosion of pool equipment or plumbing, or certain chemical products. Corrosive water conditions increase metal leaching and the risk of surface staining. Metal content must remain at **0 ppm** to prevent staining and discoloration. Regularly use a stain/metal and scale control product to prevent discoloration and maintain your pool's finish. These products contain chelating and sequestering agents that can effectively shield your pool from calcium. Metals should be tested monthly, and after using well water, noticing stains, or making major equipment changes. A written record is required to maintain your Warranty.

Below are common metals and the issues they may cause when allowed to accumulate:

- Copper: Copper occurs naturally and is also present in pool equipment, plumbing, and certain algaecides or "mineral" sanitation products. In high concentrations, Copper can deposit onto hair, fingernails, or pool surfaces, causing green staining and sometimes green-tinted water.
- Corrosive Water: Water with low pH, low alkalinity, or low calcium hardness can become corrosive and dissolve copper and other metals into the pool water.
- Iron: Iron can cause the water to appear brown or green and may stain pool walls. Its presence commonly results from corrosive water conditions or iron in the fill water. While the required maximum level is 0.3 ppm, iron-free water is ideal.
- Chelating Agents: Copper and iron can be kept in solution and prevented from staining by using chelating agents, which "lock" metals in a stable, non-reactive form.
- Magnesium & Manganese: These minerals increase water hardness and can contribute to scale formation.

Chemical Notes

To maintain the longevity and pristine appearance of your fiberglass pool surface, use only products labeled safe for fiberglass pools. Many common pool chemicals can cause irreversible damage to the gelcoat, including staining, etching, and blistering. To help avoid these issues, the following products are strictly prohibited;

- **Cal Hypo (Calcium Hypochlorite)**: Causes calcium scaling and cloudiness.
- **Trichlor Tablets/Pucks**: Highly acidic and can bleach or blister the surface.
- **Dichlor Granular Chlorine**: Stabilized chlorine that dissolves slowly.
- **Any type of salt other than** pool-grade salt (sodium chloride, NaCl).
- **Household Bleach:** Contains impurities.
- **Any Stabilized or Granular Chlorine Products**: Can settle and harm the surface.
- **Abrasive Cleaners and Household Cleaners**: Products like Magic Erasers, Soft Scrub, Comet, Ajax, or degreasers not labeled as fiberglass pool safe.

Chemical Handling, Safety and Storage

Chemical Handling

Proper chemical handling is essential to maintain water quality, protect the pool surface, and preserve warranty coverage. Failure to follow these requirements may result in surface damage or unsafe conditions. *The requirements and safety language in this section are consistent with the structure and intent of* ***ANSI/APSP/ICC*** *standards*.

Chemical Application Safety Requirements

Chemical handling and application are the responsibility of the pool owner or service professional and must always follow manufacturer instructions and applicable industry standards. To protect your fiberglass pool, only use **chemicals and products labeled safe for fiberglass pools**. Note: **Some products may require pre-dilution** to prevent localized damage. Always check the manufacturer's instructions.

The following application requirements shall be observed at all times:

- Chemicals shall not be introduced through the skimmer.
- The circulation system shall be operating during chemical application.
- Chemicals shall be added away from pool walls, steps, benches, and ledges.
- Chemicals shall not be permitted to rest on pool surfaces.
- Treated areas shall be brushed immediately to promote uniform dispersion.
- All chemicals shall be used in accordance with manufacturer instructions.
- Chemicals shall not be added with swimmers in the water.

Chemical Storage

Pool chemicals should be stored in accordance with manufacturer instructions and generally accepted industry standards, including APSP-11 and the ICC International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC).

Key principles reflected in these standards include:

- Pool chemicals shall be stored in their original, labeled containers.
- Chemicals shall be stored in a cool, dry, well-ventilated location, protected from moisture, heat, and direct sunlight.
- Incompatible chemicals shall not be stored together, particularly oxidizers (such as chlorine products) and acids.
- Chemical containers shall be kept sealed when not in use to prevent contamination and off-gassing.
- Chemicals shall be stored out of reach of children and unauthorized persons.
- Damaged, leaking, or unidentifiable containers shall not be used.

⚠ Failure to follow the water chemistry requirements in this manual may void your pool Warranty.

Testing Frequency and Tools

Regular testing is the foundation of pool care. By monitoring your water consistently, you can prevent imbalances before they cause costly or irreversible damage.

Please refer to your Pool Warranty for required testing frequency.

Recommended Testing Frequency

- Chlorine and pH: 2–3 times per week
- Total Alkalinity: Once per week
- CYA, Calcium Hardness, TDS, Phosphates, Metals: Once per month

⚠ Testing may be required more frequently after heavy use, following heavy rain or extreme weather, and/or after adding new water or chemical products.

Testing Tips:

- Rinse testing tubes with pool water before use.
- Collect water samples 12–18 inches below the surface.
- Test chlorine before pH for accuracy.
- Replace reagents annually.

Testing Tools:

Tracking changes over time helps you identify small shifts early and maintain consistent balance. For added accuracy, use a high-quality digital or drop-based test kit. The **Orenda App** is also a useful companion—it interprets your results and provides step-by-step guidance for chemical adjustments.

Online Resources

Orenda App

Water Test Kits

Taylor Technologies K 2005 Complete Test Kit (Traditional Chlorine)

Taylor Technologies K 2005 Complete Test Kit-Salt

Test Strips

7-Way Test Strips

Understanding Your Pool Equipment

Skimmer

Tallman Pools swimming pools are fitted with a wall-mounted skimmer to continuously draw surface water and debris into the circulation system. Floating leaves and debris are captured in the skimmer basket before entering the system. When equipped with a vacuum plate, the skimmer may also be used as the suction connection for manual vacuuming or automatic cleaners. The skimmer basket should be checked and emptied on a routine basis to prevent restricted water flow or added strain on the pump. Water level must be maintained at the midpoint of the skimmer opening.

Pump

A pool pump is the heart of your pool's circulation system, responsible for keeping the water clean, safe, and properly balanced. Water drawn through the skimmer is carried through the suction line to the circulation pump, where a removable strainer basket inside the pump housing captures smaller debris before the water reaches the filter. The pump then pushes the filtered water back into the pool, allowing chemicals to be evenly distributed, supporting the operation of equipment like heaters and salt systems, and helping prevent algae and bacteria growth.

Filtration System

A filtration system is designed to remove dirt, debris, and other contaminants from the water to keep your pool clean, clear, and safe for use. After leaving the pump, water enters the filtration system, where fine particles are removed to improve clarity and overall water quality before the water is returned to the pool. This continuous filtering process traps materials such as leaves, dust, oils, and other impurities, reducing the demand on sanitizing chemicals. A functioning filtration system is essential for maintaining healthy water quality and protecting pool equipment from damage caused by debris buildup. The most common types of filtration systems are:

Sand Filter

A sand filter is a common type of pool filtration system that cleans water by passing it through a specially graded filter sand. As water enters the filter tank, the sand traps dirt, debris, and fine particles while allowing clean water to flow back into the pool. Over time, debris accumulates in the sand and reduces efficiency, so the filter must be periodically cleaned through a process called backwashing, which reverses the water flow and flushes contaminants out of the filter.

Cartridge Filter

A cartridge filter is a type of pool filtration system that removes dirt and debris by passing water through a pleated filter cartridge. The pleats increase surface area, allowing the filter to capture fine particles while maintaining good water flow. Unlike sand filters, cartridge filters are cleaned by removing the cartridge and rinsing it with a garden hose rather than backwashing, which helps conserve water.

DE Filter

A diatomaceous earth (DE) filter is a type of pool filtration system that uses a fine powder made from fossilized diatoms to trap extremely small particles. As water passes through grids coated with DE, dirt, debris, and microscopic contaminants are captured while clean water returns to the pool. The filter must be periodically cleaned by backwashing and then recharged with fresh DE to maintain proper filtration efficiency.

Sanitation Systems

A pool sanitation system is responsible for disinfecting the water by controlling bacteria, viruses, algae, and other harmful microorganisms to keep the pool safe for swimmers. Before returning to the pool, filtered water passes through the sanitation system, where a sanitizer is introduced to continuously neutralize contaminants. Many Tallman Pools utilize salt chlorination systems that generate chlorine through electrolysis, though other sanitizing methods may be used depending on owner preference. Proper sanitation works in conjunction with circulation and filtration to maintain healthy water quality, reduce the risk of waterborne illness, and ensure the pool remains clear, balanced, and safe for everyday use.

Water Circulation

Once sanitized, water is returned to the pool through multiple return fittings. Proper adjustment of these returns helps promote efficient circulation and debris removal. For example, directing one return toward the skimmer improves surface cleaning, while another angled downward helps keep debris suspended for filtration. Operating the circulation system for the appropriate length of time based on pool size, usage, and weather conditions is essential for maintaining clear, balanced water.

Water Inspection Port

Fiberglass pools are equipped with a water inspection port designed to monitor groundwater conditions surrounding the pool shell. This access point allows owners or service professionals to check for the presence of external water beneath or alongside the pool, particularly following heavy rainfall or during periods of elevated groundwater.

Routine Pool Maintenance

Water Chemistry

Maintaining properly balanced water chemistry is essential to protecting your fiberglass pool. Improperly treated water can create unsafe swimming conditions, damage the pool surface and equipment, and void warranty coverage. Pool water is exposed to contaminants such as algae, bacteria, and other microorganisms through wind, fill water, and swimmer use, making ongoing management critical. Proper care includes maintaining balanced water chemistry, sanitization, filtering to remove byproducts, and regularly adjusting chemical levels to remain within required ranges. Maintaining the required water chemistry outlined in this Manual is crucial to caring for the surface of your Pool.

Water Level

Maintain the water level at approximately the midpoint of the skimmer opening for proper circulation and Warranty purposes. Water that is too low can pull air into the system and may damage the pump and filter. Water that is too high reduces skimmer performance. Regularly monitor the water level and add water as needed, especially during hot weather or periods of heavy pool use. Additionally, if pool water levels require reduction, draining must be performed in accordance with applicable local codes and regulations governing water discharge and runoff, and water must be maintained at no lower than the midpoint of the skimmer.

⚠ Fiberglass pools are designed to always remain full of water. Draining the pool can cause external hydrostatic or ground pressure that can buckle or crack the shell. If draining seems necessary for any reason, contact Tallman Pools for professional guidance and written authorization. Damage caused by draining without written authorization is the owner's responsibility and is not covered under the Warranty.

Pool Surface Care

Proper maintenance of your gelcoat surface is essential to preserving its appearance, performance, and warranty coverage. Routine cleaning with non-abrasive tools, prompt debris removal, daily debris skimming and keeping the waterline clean help protect the surface from buildup and organic staining. The pool should never be drained, as doing so can cause serious structural and surface damage and will void the warranty. Protecting the pool from prolonged UV exposure and high chemical levels, along with addressing stains or surface issues promptly using approved methods or professional guidance, will help ensure the beauty and durability of your gelcoat finish.

Above the waterline: A “bathtub” ring caused by body oils, suntan lotions and contaminants from the air can form. This is easily removed with warm water and a swimming pool cleaner approved for fiberglass.

Below the waterline: Brush the pool walls, steps, benches, and waterline weekly, or more often as needed, using a soft nylon brush only to prevent buildup and maintain the appearance and longevity of the pool surface.

Water Inspection Port

Monitoring groundwater is essential to preserving the structural integrity of your fiberglass pool, as excess hydrostatic pressure around the shell can cause shifting, bulging, or even failure. To prevent such issues, **inspect the Water Inspection Port monthly, after any heavy rainfall or storms, and before any service that requires lowering the Pool’s water level**. If water is present in the inspection port, use a submersible pump or siphon hose, lowering it into the port until submerged, and pump slowly to avoid disturbing the supporting soil, sand, or gravel. Carefully monitor the discharge; stop immediately if sediment or dirt appears, as this could undermine the pool’s foundation. When the port is dry, turn off the pump, remove the equipment, and replace the inspection lid securely to keep debris out. Never drain your pool without proper authorization from Tallman Pools, as doing so while groundwater pressure is high can have catastrophic consequences. Damage caused by groundwater is not covered under the warranty.

Pump & Motor

In most cases, the pump should run 8–12 hours per day to properly circulate and turn over the pool water. During colder months, runtime can often be reduced slightly, but the pump should still run regularly. Never operate the pump without proper water flow, as running the pump dry can cause equipment damage. If the pump loses prime after routine cleaning, turn the pump off, open the lid and fill pump with water. Ensure the O-ring is properly seated and turn the pump on.

Pump Strainer Basket

The pump strainer basket (hair-and-lint basket) captures debris before it reaches the filter. Inspect and clean as needed, typically weekly. Always shut off power to the pump before opening the lid. For cartridge or D.E. systems, release trapped air at the filter using the air relief valve before servicing. After cleaning, confirm the basket is seated correctly, prime the pump if needed, and restore operation per the manufacturer's instructions.

Sand Filters

Sand filters are cleaned by backwashing when pressure rises above normal or return flow decreases. Always follow your valve and filter manufacturer instructions for proper backwash and rinse operation. A pressure increase of 7–10 PSI above the normal clean pressure is an indication that backwashing is needed.

Check with your local building department for requirements regarding waterflow during backwash.

Backwash Procedure (for Dial Valve)

- Turn pump motor off and change the valve setting from Filter to Backwash.
- Turn pump motor on. In 15 to 30 seconds the water flowing out the backwash lines turns dirty. Continue backwashing until the water runs clean again (normally 1 to 4 minutes).
- Turn pump motor off and rotate valve to the Rinse position.
- Turn pump motor back on and wait for the water to run clean.
- Once the water runs clean, count slowly to 15, turn the pump motor off.
- Set the valve back to Filter position, then turn pump motor back on.

Backwash Procedure (For Pull-Valve)

- Consult your owner's manual for proper position for the T-Valve to Backwash.
- Turn pump motor off.
- Set T-Valve to correct Backwash position.
- Turn pump motor on. In 15 to 30 seconds the water flowing out the backwash line will turn dirty. Continue to backwash until the water runs clean (normally 3 to 4 minutes).
- When water runs clean, turn pump motor off, place valve in Filter position.
- Turn pump motor back on.

Cartridge Filters

Clean the cartridge when return flow drops or when pressure rises significantly above normal. Rinse thoroughly using a garden hose and spray at an angle to clean between pleats. Body oils may require periodic degreasing with a filter-safe cleaner. Avoid any cleaner settings or products that leave waxy residues, as they can permanently reduce filter performance. Rinse completely before reassembly and ensure O-rings are properly seated and lubricated.

D.E. Filters

D.E. filters require periodic backwashing and recharging with the proper amount of D.E. powder after cleaning. Follow your filter manufacturer's instructions for maintenance and recharge procedures. Check with your local building department for requirements regarding waterflow during backwash.

Salt Chlorine Systems

Salt systems still require proper water balance and should be operated strictly according to the installation, startup, and operating instructions provided by the manufacturer. Maintain salt levels within the required range as low salt levels can reduce chlorine production while excessive salt may contribute to corrosion or other equipment issues. **Use only Pool Grade Salt (Sodium Chloride NaCl)**. Salt pools typically require more frequent testing, including free chlorine, pH, total alkalinity, and salt levels, and an initial adjustment period should be expected while determining the ideal settings for your pool.

The salt cell should be inspected and cleaned periodically using a 1:4 muriatic acid to water solution for 10–15 minutes, then rinsed thoroughly. Be mindful of salt splash-out, as saltwater can damage nearby stone, decorative concrete, and metals and may accelerate corrosion of metal components; in some installations, a sacrificial anode may be recommended.

Pool Covers

A properly fitted cover improves safety, reduces debris, limits evaporation, helps limit UV exposure, retains heat, and lowers overall chemical demand. If your cover uses straps or anchors, protect the coping from strap abrasion by using a soft barrier material. When not in use, store covers clean, dry, and out of direct sunlight to help extend their lifespan.

Vacuuming

While automatic cleaners handle routine debris, manual vacuuming allows for more precise removal of fine debris and algae, helping maintain clear, balanced water. Use fiberglass-safe equipment, including a soft brush vacuum head, telescopic pole, vacuum hose, and vacuum plate. Depending on debris levels, vacuum on Filter for light debris or Waste for heavier debris or algae, always turning the pump off before changing valve settings. Prime the hose fully, connect through the skimmer, and maximize suction by closing the main drain valve during vacuuming. Vacuum slowly using overlapping passes to avoid stirring debris. After vacuuming, empty baskets, reset valves, backwash the filter if needed, and restore water level if vacuuming to waste. Consistent vacuuming, combined with proper water chemistry, reduces strain on equipment and helps keep your fiberglass pool clean, safe, and well-maintained.

Winterization

In the Southeast, mild winters typically do not require fully shutting down your pool. Instead, a partial winterization approach helps keep the pool clean, balanced, and ready for occasional warm days while protecting equipment during brief cold snaps. During cooler months, reduce pump runtime to approximately 6–8 hours per day, running it during the coldest overnight hours if freezing temperatures are expected. Continue testing water weekly and maintain proper chemistry, including balanced pH, alkalinity, and free chlorine, as algae can still develop in winter. Regularly remove leaves and debris, empty skimmer and pump baskets, and vacuum as needed to prevent staining and circulation issues. If you choose to use a cover, keep it clean and dry while continuing to monitor water level and chemistry; if uncovered, remain diligent with debris removal.

While extended freezes are uncommon, it's important to protect equipment during cold weather. Ensure freeze protection settings are enabled on automated systems, insulate exposed plumbing if a hard freeze is forecasted, and avoid draining the pool, as the water helps insulate the shell. In the event of temperatures below freezing for several hours, keep the pump running continuously until conditions improve and protect exposed equipment as needed. If you prefer to fully winterize your pool, we recommend hiring a professional pool service experienced with fiberglass pools to ensure the process is completed safely and correctly.

Spring Opening

If your pool has been partially winterized, spring opening is straightforward. Begin by removing winter debris, emptying skimmer and pump baskets, and brushing the walls, steps, and waterline. Restore the water level to the middle of the skimmer opening to ensure proper pump priming, then restart the system by priming the pump, turning on filtration, checking return flow, and inspecting for leaks around the pump, filter, and heater.

Once circulation is established, test and balance the water, adjusting alkalinity, pH, calcium hardness, and chlorine in that order. If the pool has been idle for several months, additional treatments such as shocking (avoiding calcium hypochlorite), phosphate remover, or a metal sequestrant may be beneficial. Run the pump continuously for the first 24 hours to fully circulate chemicals, then return to your normal schedule. Finish by cleaning or backwashing the filter as appropriate, optionally adding a spring algaecide, and performing a final inspection of the pool shell, pump lid O-ring, heater operation, and electrical components to ensure everything is ready for the swimming season.

If your pool was fully winterized, we recommend hiring a professional pool service experienced with fiberglass pools to ensure the process is completed safely and correctly.

Decks, Walkways & Patio Areas

Keep adjacent surfaces as clean as possible to reduce dirt and debris entering the pool and increasing chlorine demand. Rinse outdoor areas as needed but minimize runoff into the pool. Avoid spilling concentrated pool chemicals on decks, as they may stain or etch surfaces. If a spill occurs, rinse immediately with plenty of fresh water.

Groundwater & Drainage

Ensure all surrounding surfaces are graded to drain water away from the pool. Over time, site conditions can change due to soil settlement, erosion, landscaping modifications, or construction activity. The addition or relocation of downspouts, irrigation systems, decks, patios, or hardscaping can also alter drainage patterns and direct water toward the pool. These changes should be monitored and corrected as needed to prevent water accumulation around the pool structure.

Tallman Pools requires a groundwater access/inspection point (water inspection port/standpipe/sump tube) to monitor and remove water buildup around the shell if needed. Check drainage conditions regularly, especially during wet periods.

⚠ Excessive groundwater around the pool may cause structural damage not covered under the Warranty.

Additional Maintenance & How-To Guides

Pool equipment packages and recommended maintenance practices may vary by manufacturer, dealer, and geographic region. For equipment-specific operation and maintenance guidance, consult your equipment manufacturer's manuals and your local authorized Tallman Pools dealer. If issues arise with the operation of any pool equipment, contact Tallman Pools or your authorized Tallman Pools dealer for assistance.

Additional Maintenance and Pro Tips are available on our website: Pool Care Pro Tips

Built with Strength and Integrity, by Our Family for Yours

Your Tallman Pool is the result of decades of experience, craftsmanship, and care, built by a family-owned company with a long-standing commitment to quality and integrity. By following the guidance in this Use & Care Manual, maintaining balanced water chemistry, and operating your pool equipment as recommended, you help preserve the strength, beauty, and long-term performance your pool was designed to deliver.

If questions arise, or service is needed, we encourage you to work with a qualified pool professional experienced in fiberglass pools.

From our family to yours, welcome to the Tallman Pools family, and thank you for trusting us to be part of your backyard enjoyment for years to come!

Tallman Pools®

Weekly Water Inspection Record Form

	Date	pH	Free Chlorine	Calcium Hardness	Total Alkalinity	Cyanuric Acid	TDS	LSI	Salt (If Used)	Metals	Water Temp	Chemicals Added
Week 1												
Week 2												
Week 3												
Week 4												
Week 5												
Week 6												
Week 7												
Week 8												
Week 9												
Week 10												
Week 11												
Week 12												

- Obtain professional water testing by a pool supply store at least once every six (6) weeks
- Test, record & adjust Total Alkalinity once per week
- Test, record & adjust Free Chlorine & pH 2-3x per week
- Test, record & adjust all other levels monthly

NOTES: .....

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