

BASIC POOL CARE

AN EASY TO FOLLOW GUIDE TO MAINTAINING YOUR POOL



 **LESLIE'S**

WE KNOW POOLS

TESTING & BALANCING

Regularly testing and balancing your pool water helps keep water issues at bay and protects swimmers, pool surfaces, and equipment. Test 2–3 times per week during swim season.

WAYS TO TEST YOUR WATER

FREE IN-STORE WATER TREATMENT PLAN

Advanced digital technology delivers a 10-point water diagnostic and a customized treatment plan with product recommendations and step-by-step instructions tailored to your pool.



ACCUBLUE HOME EXCLUSIVELY AT LESLIE'S

The industry-leading digital water test technology used in our stores is now available at home.

Get a customized treatment plan with step-by-step instructions delivered straight to your Leslie's app.

Test anytime, right from your backyard.



TEST KITS AND STRIPS

No matter how you test, whether it's our free in-store water test, your at-home AccuBlue unit, or easy-to-use test strips, you can track every result in the Leslie's app.

Each test gives you a customized treatment plan with step-by-step recommendations to keep your pool perfectly balanced.



Water Chemistry 101

Maintaining balanced water improves chlorine effectiveness and creates a comfortable swimming experience. Here's what to aim for:



TOTAL ALKALINITY

- Ideal Range: 80–120 ppm
- Testing Frequency: Weekly
- Increase Level: Leslie's Alkalinity Up or Leslie's Soda Ash
- Decrease Level: Leslie's Dry Acid or muriatic acid

pH

- Ideal Range: 7.4–7.6
- Testing Frequency: Weekly
- Increase Level: Leslie's Soda Ash
- Decrease Level: Use Leslie's Dry Acid or muriatic acid

CHLORINE

- Ideal Range: 2.0–4.0 ppm
- Testing Frequency: Weekly
- Increase Level: Leslie's Power Powder Plus or Leslie's Chlor Brite
- Decrease Level: Leslie's Fresh 'N Clear

CALCIUM HARDNESS

- Ideal Range: 200–400 ppm
- Testing Frequency: Monthly
- Increase Level: Leslie's Hardness Plus
- Decrease Level: Talk to a Leslie's pro about partially draining your pool

CYANURIC ACID

- Ideal Range: 30–50 ppm
- Testing Frequency: Monthly
- Increase Level: Leslie's Conditioner
- Decrease Level: Talk to a Leslie's pro about partially draining your pool

METALS

- Ideal Range: 0 ppm
- Testing Frequency: Monthly
- Decrease Level: Leslie's NoMetal or Leslie's Stain & Scale Prevent

PHOSPHATES

- Ideal Range: 0 ppb
- Testing Frequency: Monthly
- Decrease Level: Leslie's NoPhos and Leslie's Perfect Weekly

TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS

- Ideal Range: 0–2500 ppm for chlorine pools, 0–1500 for saltwater pools
- Testing Frequency: Monthly
- Decrease Level: Talk to a Leslie's pro about partially draining your pool

SANITIZING

Sanitizers are your pool's first line of defense. They work around the clock to kill bacteria, fight off contaminants, and keep your water crystal clear and safe to swim in. Maintaining consistent sanitizer levels helps prevent bacteria, viruses, and algae from forming. That means fewer surprises and less risk of costly, time-consuming fixes. From chlorine tabs to liquid options and alternatives, we'll break down what works best and how to keep your sanitizer levels right where they should be.

1

KEEP LEVELS STEADY

Maintain your sanitizer within the ideal range at all times. Fluctuating levels make it easier for bacteria and algae to grow.

2

TEST OFTEN

Check your sanitizer levels at least 2–3 times a week. Hot weather, heavy use, and rain can all impact your water chemistry.

3

DON'T SKIP SHOCKING

Even with regular sanitizer use, shocking your pool weekly helps eliminate chloramines and keeps your water fresh and clear.



Staying on top of regular water testing helps you catch small issues before they turn into big ones. Neglecting maintenance can lead to high CYA or calcium levels that may require draining your pool. A quick test today can save you time, money, and hassle later.

4

USE THE RIGHT SANITIZER FOR YOUR POOL

Not all pools are the same, and neither are sanitizers. Chlorine tabs are a go-to for most pool owners because they're easy, slow-dissolving, and provide steady protection. Liquid chlorine works fast and is great for quick cleanups or larger pools that need more frequent treatment. If you have a smaller pool or sensitive skin, alternative options like mineral systems or saltwater generators might be a better fit. Not sure which one is right for you? Ask a Leslie's expert in-store or test your water with the Leslie's app for a customized recommendation.

5

CHOOSE THE RIGHT SANITIZER FOR YOUR POOL

- Chlorine Tabs: Great for steady, hands-off treatment
- Liquid Chlorine: Fast-acting for larger pools or quick adjustments
- Salt Systems or Mineral Options: Provide a more consistent chlorine delivery with fewer highs and lows

Not sure which is best for your pool? Ask a Leslie's expert in-store or test your water with the Leslie's app for a customized recommendation.



SHOCKING

Think of pool shock as your deep clean. While your regular sanitizer does the daily work, shocking your pool gives it a powerful boost to break down contaminants, eliminate chloramines, and clear cloudy water. It's especially important after heavy use, storms, or algae outbreaks. Regular shocking helps keep your pool crystal clear, safe, and swim-ready all season long.

WHAT SHOCKING ACTUALLY DOES

- **Breaks down organic contaminants** like sweat, sunscreen, and debris
- **Eliminates chloramines** that cause eye irritation and strong chlorine odor
- **Restores chlorine efficiency** so your sanitizer works better
- **Helps clear cloudy or discolored water**

WHEN TO SHOCK YOUR POOL

- After a pool party or heavy use
- Following rainstorms or high winds
- When water looks cloudy or dull
- At the first sign of algae
- Weekly as part of regular maintenance



Always shock in the evening or at night. Sunlight can burn off unstabilized chlorine before it does its job. Let your pool filter run overnight for the best results.

SHOCK OPTIONS



FRESH 'N CLEAR:

Chlorine-free shock ideal for weekly maintenance and removing chloramines.



CHLOR BRITE:

Stabilized, pH-neutral dichlor shock, great for quickly boosting chlorine levels.



POWER POWDER:

Powerful cal-hypo shock ideal for eliminating stubborn algae, cloudy water, and heavy contamination.



BONUS TIP:

If your pool smells strongly like chlorine, it's not a good sign. That smell is actually from chloramines, which are used-up chlorine that is no longer effective. It means your water isn't properly balanced. Shocking your pool helps break down chloramines and frees up chlorine to do what it's supposed to do.

CIRCULATING AND FILTERING

Your pool pump is the heart of your pool system! It pulls water from the pool, pushes it through the filter (and other equipment like a heater or chlorinator), then returns clean, treated water back into the pool. That steady circulation helps remove debris, keep chemicals evenly mixed, and prevent cloudy water and algae.

To keep it running its best, empty the skimmer and pump baskets regularly, keep the water level halfway up the skimmer opening, and run the pump long enough each day to maintain good circulation. Variable speed pumps should typically run 3–4 hours on high and 10–12 hours on low. If you notice weak flow, unusual noise, or air bubbles at the returns, check for a clog in the skimmer or strainer basket, or a possible air leak.

Leslie's Tip:

When it comes to how long you should run a single speed pump during peak season, the simple rule of thumb is to run the pump 1 hour for every 10°F of air temperature. So, 90°F-100°F = 9-10 hours run time.



Your filter acts as a one-man cleanup crew for your pool, trapping dirt, debris, and small particles as the water circulates through. This crucial function reduces workload on your sanitizer and helps keep your pool cleaner with less effort. To keep the filter performing its best, maintain steady water flow by emptying skimmer and pump baskets regularly, and clean or backwash the filter when the pressure gauge rises 8–10 psi above normal. If you notice cloudy water, weak return flow, or rising pressure on the gauge, it's usually time to clean, backwash, or service the filter.

THE THREE TYPES OF POOL FILTERS:

- Cartridge filters use a pleated cartridge to catch debris. They're low-maintenance, don't require backwashing, and are cleaned by removing the cartridge and rinsing it off.
- Sand filters use specially graded sand to capture particles. They're simple, durable, and require occasional backwashing to flush out debris buildup.
- D.E. (diatomaceous earth) filters provide the finest filtration, catching very small particles for extra-sparkly water. They require occasional backwashing and "recharging" with fresh D.E. powder to keep filtering effectively.



WEEKLY MAINTENANCE

A little maintenance each week goes a long way. Staying on top of a weekly pool care routine helps you catch small issues before they become big problems. It keeps your water balanced, your equipment running smoothly, and your swim time stress-free. Think of it as your pool's preventive care plan—quick, easy, and totally worth it.

YOUR WEEKLY POOL CARE CHECKLIST

- Test your water**
Use test strips, the Leslie's app, or visit us in-store to check sanitizer, pH, alkalinity, and more.
- Balance your chemicals**
Adjust pH, alkalinity, and sanitizer levels based on your test results.
- Shock the pool**
Add pool shock to break down contaminants and refresh your sanitizer.
- Empty skimmer and pump baskets**
Remove leaves, bugs, and debris to keep water flowing freely.
- Brush and vacuum**
Brush walls, steps, and corners. Vacuum or run your pool cleaner for a spotless pool floor.
- Check your filter**
Rinse cartridge filters or backwash sand and D.E. filters as needed.
- Inspect water level**
Make sure your water level is about halfway up the skimmer opening for proper circulation.
- Look for any changes**
Cloudy water? Algae spots? Strange noises? Catching issues early is key.



Even if you have a pool cleaner, don't skip the brush. Dirt, algae, and other contaminants can stick to pool walls and cause staining over time. Pool cleaners are great for picking up debris like leaves and bugs, and they help improve circulation when your pump's off.

POOL VOLUME REFERENCE GUIDE

Wrong chemical dosing = wasted money and ineffective results. Use this simple formula to figure out your pool's volume so you can be sure you're using the right amount of chemicals!

FORMULAS



RECTANGULAR POOL

Length x Width
x Average Depth
x 7.5 = Gallons

POOL VOLUME
18,563 Gallons

$$\text{---}30'\text{---} \times \text{---}15'\text{---} \times \begin{array}{c} 8' \\ \text{AD}=5.5' \\ 3' \end{array} \times 7.5$$

Average Depth



CIRCULAR POOL

3.14 x Radius x Radius x
Average Depth
x 7.5 = Volume

POOL VOLUME
9,440 Gallons

$$\text{---}20'\text{---} \times \text{---}20'\text{---} \times \text{---}4'\text{---} \times 7.5$$

Average Depth



OVAL POOL

3.14 x Length x Width x .25 x Average Depth x
7.5 = Gallons

POOL VOLUME
10,620 Gallons

$$\text{---}30'\text{---} \times \text{---}15'\text{---} \times \text{---}4'\text{---} \times 5.9$$

Average Depth



PUT YOUR TOOLBOX AWAY. LESLIE'S WILL COME TO YOU!

We'll handle the heavy lifting with our at-home pool and equipment services. From professional cleanings and equipment inspections to installations and repairs, our trained technicians handle the hard stuff so you don't have to. It's the easiest way to keep your pool clean, safe, and running right—all without leaving your backyard.



TRUSTED BY POOL OWNERS FOR OVER 60 YEARS

We're more than a store – we're your pool partner. While other retailers just sell pool supplies, Leslie's offers expert advice, free in-store water testing, a customized treatment plan, and thousands of pros who know pools inside and out. Whether you're shopping online or visiting one of our 890+ stores, you'll get the products, guidance, and confidence you need to keep your pool clean, safe, and swim-ready. That's something you won't find on a warehouse shelf or in an anonymous online cart.

FREE IN-STORE SERVICES

FREE WATER TREATMENT PLAN

- Come in-store and get a Free digital water test with a complete diagnosis and step-by-step water treatment plan.

FREE POOL CLEANER INSPECTION

- If it needs repairs, you just pay for part.

FREE EXPERT ADVICE

- Get expert advice in store, on our blog, or over on our YouTube channel.



Have more questions? Find us on YouTube.

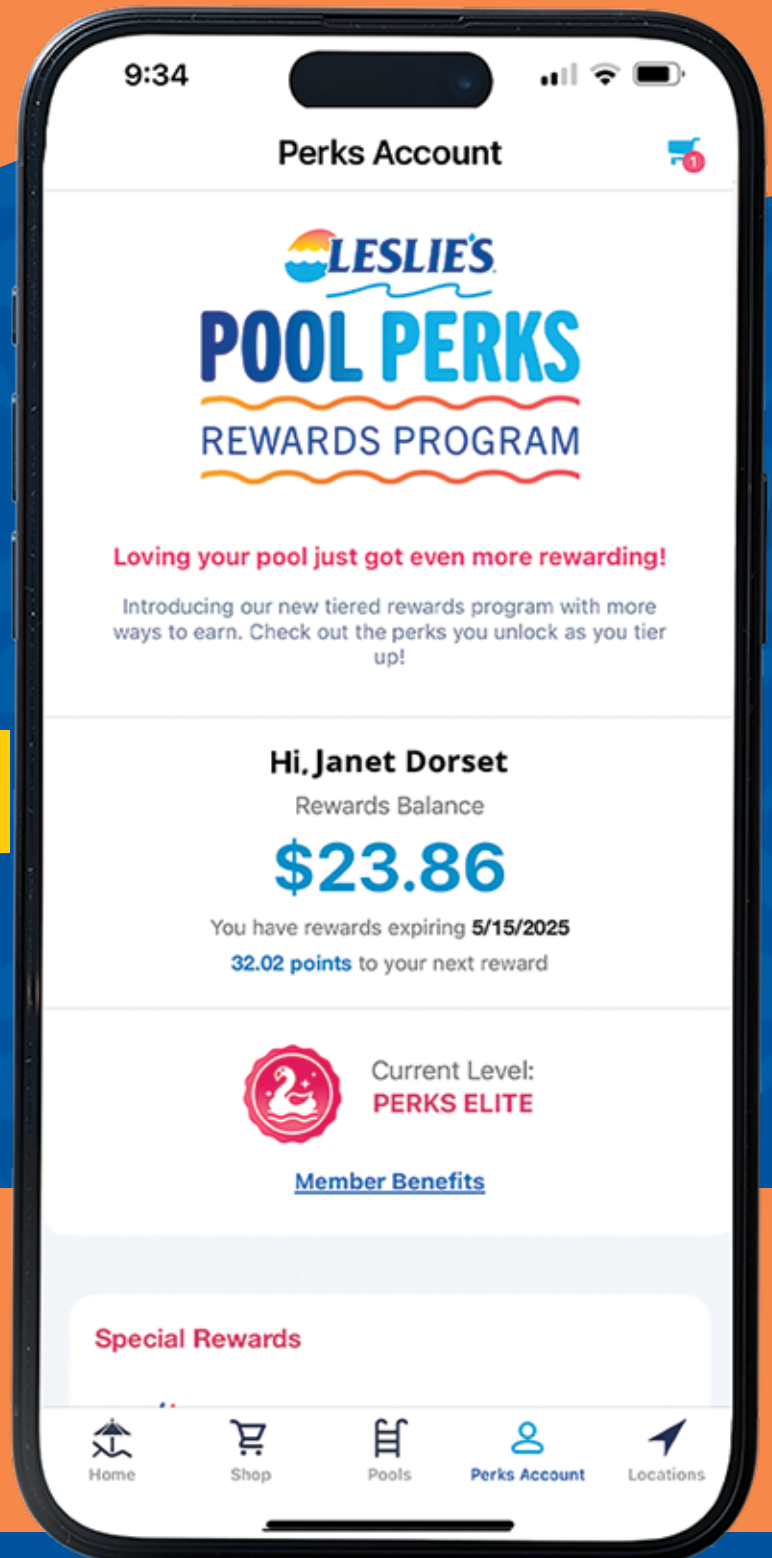
EXPERT POOL CARE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

- TRACK WATER TESTS
- CHECK PERKS REWARDS
- VIEW TREATMENT PLANS
- SHOP PRODUCTS

DOWNLOAD OUR APP



For more expert tips, product spotlights, and troubleshooting guides, check out the Leslie's blog: lesliespool.com/blog





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