POOL DOSE CARD — HOW MUCH TO ACTUALLY ADD

KEEP IT BY THE PUMP
CHLORINE & SALTWATER POOLS

1 · YOUR TARGETS

Free chlorine	pH	Total alkalinity	Calcium hardness	Cyanuric acid	Salt (salt pools)
1–3 ppm 2–4 with stabiliser	7.2–7.8 aim 7.4–7.6	80–120 ppm	200–400 ppm	30–50 ppm outdoors only	check your maker often 2,700–3,400

CORRECT IN THIS ORDER → 1. Total alkalinity 2. pH 3. Calcium hardness 4. Cyanuric acid 5. Chlorine

Alkalinity holds pH still. Chlorine added to badly balanced water is chlorine wasted.

2 · BALANCING DOSES, BY POOL SIZE

To do this	Use	5,000	10,000	15,000	20,000	25,000	30,000 gal
Raise alkalinity **+10 ppm**	Baking soda	**11 oz**	**1.4 lb**	**2.1 lb**	**2.8 lb**	**3.5 lb**	**4.2 lb**
Raise pH **+0.2**	Soda ash	**3 oz**	**6 oz**	**9 oz**	**12 oz**	**15 oz**	**18 oz**
Lower pH **−0.2**	Muriatic acid (31–35%)	**6 fl oz**	**12 fl oz**	**18 fl oz**	**24 fl oz**	**30 fl oz**	**36 fl oz**
Lower pH **−0.2**	Dry acid	**8 oz**	**1.0 lb**	**1.5 lb**	**2.0 lb**	**2.5 lb**	**3.0 lb**
Raise hardness **+10 ppm**	Calcium chloride (77%)	**10 oz**	**1.2 lb**	**1.8 lb**	**2.4 lb**	**3.0 lb**	**3.6 lb**
Raise stabiliser **+10 ppm**	Cyanuric acid	**6.5 oz**	**13 oz**	**1.2 lb**	**1.6 lb**	**2.0 lb**	**2.4 lb**

Add half, run a full circulation, retest, then add the rest. Do not raise alkalinity more than about 50 ppm at a time, and never more than about one quart of muriatic acid per 10,000 gallons in one dose. Calcium hardness, cyanuric acid and salt cannot be lowered by adding anything — the only way down is to drain water and replace it.

3 · CHLORINE

Routine top-up +1 ppm	Cal-hypo 67%	Liquid 12%
5,000 gal	**1 oz**	**5 fl oz**
10,000 gal	**2 oz**	**11 fl oz**
15,000 gal	**3 oz**	**16 fl oz**
20,000 gal	**4 oz**	**21 fl oz**
25,000 gal	**5 oz**	**27 fl oz**
30,000 gal	**6 oz**	**32 fl oz**

Shock +10 ppm	Cal-hypo 67%	Liquid 12%
5,000 gal	**10 oz**	**1.7 qt**
10,000 gal	**1.3 lb**	**3.3 qt**
15,000 gal	**2.0 lb**	**5.0 qt**
20,000 gal	**2.6 lb**	**1.7 gal**
25,000 gal	**3.3 lb**	**2.1 gal**
30,000 gal	**3.9 lb**	**2.5 gal**

Shock in the evening with the pump running — sunlight destroys unstabilised chlorine. Cal-hypo adds calcium. Dichlor and trichlor add cyanuric acid, roughly 9 ppm of it for every 10 ppm of chlorine. Liquid chlorine adds neither but degrades in storage. **Pool not on the list?** amount = figure for 10,000 gallons × (your gallons ÷ 10,000).

4 · YOUR GALLONS, IN FIVE MINUTES

Rectangle: length × width × average depth × 7.5 | **Round:** diameter × diameter × average depth × 5.9 | **Oval:** length × width × average depth × 5.9
Average depth = (shallow + deep) ÷ 2. Measure to the **water line**, not the top of the wall. If you cannot measure it, estimate and round **up** — under-treating costs a retest, over-treating can cost a water bill.

5 · WHEN SOMETHING IS WRONG — DO THIS FIRST

What the water is doing	The one thing to do before anything else
Green, tint to swamp	Test pH before you shock — shock in badly balanced water is mostly wasted. Then brush, shock hard in the evening, and run the pump continuously.
Cloudy, not green	Check the filter run time and the filter pressure before you touch a chemical. Most cloudy water is a circulation problem wearing a chemistry costume.
Smells of chlorine, stings eyes	That smell is chloramine. It means you need **more** chlorine, not less — take free chlorine to about ten times the combined reading.
Chlorine reads zero whatever you add	Test cyanuric acid before adding another ounce. Above roughly 60–70 ppm nothing else will work and the fix is to dilute.
White crust on tile	Calcium, not dirt. Bring pH and alkalinity down first or it comes straight back. Never anything abrasive on vinyl.
Flat coloured stains	Identify before treating. Lightens under a chlorine tablet = organic. Lightens under vitamin C = metal, and chlorine will make it worse.
Freeze forecast, pool open	Run the pump and keep it running. Moving water is what protects the plumbing. Do not switch it off to save electricity.

THE LABEL ON YOUR CONTAINER IS THE INSTRUCTION. THIS CARD IS THE ARITHMETIC.

Concentrations differ by brand and by year, so confirm the amount on the label before it goes in the water. Never mix chemicals — chlorine with any acid releases chlorine gas, and cal-hypo with trichlor can ignite. Always add chemical to water, never water to chemical. Nobody swims until you have retested.

Figures are commonly accepted values from published public-health guidance — Indiana Department of Health, *Adjusting Chemical Levels in a Swimming Pool*, and Yakima County (WA) Public Health.
From **Pool Maintenance, Open to Close** by Michael Petitpas — the full book has a table like this for every chemical, plus opening, closing and green-water fixes.

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