

## 3 Chemicals You Need

Throughout your time of owning a pool, there are 3 chemicals that you simply must have for your pool. These chemicals are very important, as you'll be using them quite frequently.

### 1. Chlorine tablets

Chlorine tablets come in dimensions of either 1 inch or 3 inch. Chlorine tablets go in your skimmer, normally 3 - 4 tablets at a time. During the summer, when you run your pool on a daily basis, you'll need to change out your tablets every week or so. If you are planning to use 2 skimmers, you'll need around 8 tablets each week. You can buy chlorine tablets by the bucket, containing 30 - 50 tablets. They can tend to get expensive, around \$80.00 a bucket, so you'll need to have plenty of money to invest in your pool during the summer.

### 2. Alkaline powder

Even though chlorine in your water will help to kill off germs, it can also raise the level of acid in your pool. If you aren't using enough alkaline, parts that contain metal will begin to corrode, turning your water a misty green color. On the other hand, if you are using too much alkaline powder, the water will get very cloudy, raising the level of germs in the water - which can lead to very dangerous health issues. In order to get the right amount of alkaline powder in your pool water, you should always use brand name alkaline powders in the amount recommended by the package.

### 3. Chlorine powder

Chlorine powder is essential to killing germs such as algae and bacteria that exist in your pool and multiply at very fast speeds. To kill off these germs, you'll need to use a large amount of chlorine powder in your water. Depending on the size of your pool, you may need to use more powder than others. Chlorine powder can tend to be expensive, so you should always check how much you need before you buy. This is a chemical you must have, as it's impossible to keep your pool free of germs without it. If you have already bought it or if you plan to buy a large supply, you shouldn't worry as you'll always have the need for it - meaning that you can never buy enough chlorine powder.

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# SWIMMING POOLS

*Making  
Waves*

April 2008

## What You Should Know About Swimming Pools

In the warmer areas of North America, swimming pools are very popular. They provide great fun and exercise, along with plenty of entertainment for your entire family. When you decide to buy a swimming pool, you'll have two options to choose from - in ground pools or above ground pools. Both types are different, in appearance and what they have to offer you.

Above ground swimming pools are the most affordable, as the prices range from \$500.00 - \$7,000.00. Above ground pools are also easier to install, and even portable. Normally, you can have this type of pool installed and ready for use in a few hours. You can self install them if you wish, which will save you money. If you have the money to spare, you can always have a professional install it to ensure that everything is done correctly.

Pools that are in the ground cost a lot more. The prices for an in ground swimming pool can reach as high as \$50,000.00, depending on the size of the pool, the design, and the materials that are used.

The most expensive type of in ground pool is concrete, which is custom poured to virtually any shape you can imagine. You can also get a heater to help control the temperature of the water in the pool. You can get a standard type of heater or solar heater. If you have a solar heater in mind, you should make sure that your pool has been placed in a location where it will receive a lot of sun. If you use a solar powered heater but don't place your pool in the sun, it'll prove to be a waste of money.

To protect yourself in the long run, you should always refer to the zoning laws for your area regarding a swimming pool or a deck. This way, you'll know what the laws are regarding your swimming pool. Once you know what the laws and regulations are, you should always do anything you can to ensure that you meet the requirements and that your pool is within the guidelines.

Even though heat and hot summer days are the main reasons why most want a pool, there are other benefits as well. Swimming is one of the best exercises you can do for your body, so a pool will offer you a lot of health benefits. Keep in mind that unless you are using a heater to heat your pool, you'll only be able to use it during the summer. If you choose to use a heater however, you can extend summer and get a lot more enjoyment from your swimming pool.

Once you have bought your pool and have everything going, it can cost you quite a bit to keep everything going. Pools need to be maintained, which can tend to be expensive. You can do this yourself or hire a professional, although either way will cost money. The equipment you'll need and the chemicals are expensive, and you should know that up front before you make your purchase.

All in all, swimming pools are great for your property. Whether it's an above ground swimming pool or in ground pool, your family will love it. You'll have somewhere to go on hot days together, to relax and enjoy the cool water. Once you have a swimming pool you won't have to use the local pool anymore - and you won't have to deal with the crowds or long lines anymore.

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*Helping you properly care for your swimming pool!*

## Winterizing Your Swimming Pool

Once fall ends and winter begins to rear its ugly head, it will be time to shut your pool down. When shutting your pool down, the first step will be the water. You should begin by checking your pH level, and making sure that it is around 7.5. If it isn't, simply add some dry acid. You should also check your chlorine as well, and use a winterizing product to make sure that your pool will be protected from algae during the few months that you won't be swimming.

During the winter months, you should run your pump for around 6 hours a day, to ensure that the algae doesn't settle in. You should also go ahead and check for any types of leaks as well, then switch your skimmer valve off and let the water drain to around 6 inches below the skimmer's bottom. This way, you'll have the preferred amount of water in your pool.

If you are using a summer cover, take it down and give it a good cleaning using fresh water and a pressure washer if you have access to one. Once you have cleaned the cover really good, go ahead and put it in your building or garage and break out your winter cover. When you put your winter cover on the pool, make sure that you have plenty of tension on the cover, to prevent anything from getting under it.

Although you may have put the cover on tight, you should still check it every couple of days to make sure that it is still tight. Remind your family and friends that you have closed your pool down for the winter, and that they shouldn't be around it. Pool covers are designed to protect your pool and the water - they aren't made for safety. Never, under any circumstances should you let a pet or a person on the cover.

Once you have finished with the cover, it is time for the equipment. You'll need to drain the water from your pump, heater, and your filter. Each one should have a drain plug located somewhere near the bottom, which makes it easy to drain the water out. You should never forget to do this, as the water can freeze inside of your equipment during the cold months of winter and result in permanent damage of your equipment.

Once you have finished getting your swimming pool ready for winter, you can relax knowing that your pool is protected. Keeping a check on it every few days will ensure that nothing has happened. Once summer starts to arrive again, you can get your pool ready for summer and prepare to open it up again. If you've done things right - your pool will be ready to go in no time at all.

## In Ground Pools

Although above ground swimming pools may be cheaper to buy, easier to install, and cheaper to operate, a lot of people prefer to have in ground pools. In ground swimming pools provide you with a lot more room to swim, and a lot more space. Those of you who have families or a lot of friends who love to swim, would greatly benefit from having one of these pools.

In ground swimming pools are long lasting, as they are designed with cement on the sides and along the bottom. They are a bit more expensive than above ground swimming pools, although they are more than worth the money you spend. Depending on your needs, you can have your in ground pool built to your liking, such as a shallow end for kids and a deep end for diving.

Installing an in ground swimming pool will take a bit more time than above ground pools, which only take a few hours. To install an in ground pool, the contractor will need to dig a hole in the ground, then set up the framework outside of the hole. Once this is finished, he will pour some sand in the bottom of the this hole, then set the liner up.

With in ground pools, you'll have a few different types of material that you can select for the liner. The most common and preferred is vinyl, which is also the most attractive. Vinyl liners are also better for winter as well. If you live in an area that is well known for winter, you may want to go with a vinyl liner for your swimming pool.

Fiberglass and concrete are also excellent liners as well. Fiberglass liners are constructed in a factory from fiberglass reinforced plastic then worked with until it resembles a really large bathtub. Unlike vinyl liners, you won't need to replace fiberglass. In the end, you can save a lot of money and time by using a fiberglass liner.

Concrete liners are also great, and are one of the most common ways to line your in ground swimming pool. If you are using concrete, you can also have your pool custom poured, giving you the design you want. Concrete lasts for years and years, and like fiberglass liners, it doesn't need to be replaced. You can also add to the look of this liner as well, by using tile or finishing the concrete liner with plaster.

In ground swimming pools are great for families who love to swim, or those who want to have the biggest swim pool possible. Even though they take a lot of time to build and cost a lot of money, they are more than worth it in the end - when you walk outside and see what you have with your own eyes.