

Read Before Filling!



Description

To enjoy years of minimal maintenance on your pool it is important that you fill your pool with the best source water that you can. This document walks through a few common scenarios our customers face when choosing their fill water source.

Initial Testing

It's recommended to test a sample of your water before you begin to fill the pool. Doing so will give you an idea of how suitable your water source is for swimming pool use. Test the water with convenient test strips or a more accurate water chemistry testing kit. A local swimming pool supply store can also test your water at a minimal charge.

Well Water

If you plan on using well water to fill your pool, consider tanking water in instead. Well water often contains sediment/silt as well as high metal and mineral content, none of which is ideal for swimming pool water. If well water is the only available source, please use the supplied "water filter kit" when you fill your pool. This contains a filter bag to attach to the fill hose that will help remove silt/sediment from the water, as well as a "sequestering agent" which will help the water hold metals/minerals in solution to prevent staining and scaling. The filter bag should also be used when topping off the pool, and additional sequestering agent should be added periodically, following the manufacturer's recommendations on the bottle.

Home Water Softeners

We are often asked by customers with water softeners in their homes whether they should fill their pool with softened or unsoftened water. The answer is usually a blend of the two.

Water softeners are usually found in homes that have "hard" source water, i.e. water that is high in calcium and mineral content. Water softeners help condition the water for normal household usage, by removing much of this calcium and mineral content. While this is ideal for most household purposes, pool water is supposed to have a relatively high calcium content (somewhere between 175 and 250ppm), and most water softeners will usually remove the calcium and minerals from the water to a much lower level than that.

Our best advice would be to test a sample of softened and unsoftened water and determine what fill ratio will allow for a 180-250ppm range. A simple example follows:

If your unsoftened water has a calcium hardness level of 450ppm, and your softened water has a calcium hardness level of 50ppm, a 1:1 fill ratio would yield a pool filled with water that has a calcium hardness level of 250ppm ($50 + 450 = 500/2 = 250$). A 2:1 fill ratio would yield pool water with 183ppm CH ($50 + 50 + 450 = 550/3 = 183$).

High Metal Content

Source water with high metal content should be avoided if possible. How do you know if your water has high metal content? Comprehensive water testing will tell you. You could also look for rust/metal stains in your sinks/tubs/toilets. If you see metal stains consider getting water tanked in from an outside source that has a lower metal content. If this is not an option, make sure you locate and add the "sequestering agent" supplied in the water filter kit. Sequestering agent helps the water hold metals/minerals in solution to prevent staining and scaling. Additional sequestering agent should be added periodically, following the manufacturer's recommendations on the bottle.