IDEAL

POOL CARE GUIDE
Take a few minutes to read through this guide, then keep it handy for quick reference. If you need extra help, your IDEAL Dealer is there for you. Have fun and enjoy your pool.

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www.idealpoolcare.com
pH – pH is the most important factor controlling your pool water balance. It refers to the measure of the relative acid or base of the pool water and should be tested daily.

- **If pH is too high** – pH values above 7.8 will lead to cloudy water, staining, scale deposits, filtration problems and reduces chlorine efficiency.

- **If pH is too low** – pH values below 7.2 may lead to metal corrosion, etched plaster, rapid loss of chlorine residual and possible irritation to swimmers.

- **Ideal pH** – To maintain an ideal pH level in your pool water, use **IDEAL pH Increaser** when the pH drops below 7.2. When the pH level rises above 7.8, use **IDEAL pH Reducer**.

**Total Alkalinity** – Total alkalinity is the measure of your pool water’s ability to resist change in pH. Alkalinity does not have to be tested on a daily basis. This is a measure of the buffering capacity or the ability of pool water to resist a change in pH.

- **High Total Alkalinity** – When the total alkalinity is above 175 ppm (parts per million), the pH will tend to slowly creep up and resist efforts to change.

- **Low Total Alkalinity** – When the total alkalinity is below 75 ppm, the pH is likely to “bounce” from one extreme to the other and it will be difficult to keep the pH in the proper range.

- **Ideal Alkalinity** – When the total alkalinity of your pool drops below 100 ppm use **IDEAL Total Alkalinity Increaser**. If the total alkalinity rises above 175 ppm add **IDEAL pH Reducer**.
Calcium Hardness – Calcium Hardness is the amount of dissolved calcium in your pool water. Your IDEAL authorized dealer should test your pool water for calcium hardness at the beginning of each season.

- **High Calcium Hardness** – Calcium hardness above 300 ppm can cause calcium to precipitate from the water causing cloudy conditions and scale deposits.

- **Low Calcium Hardness** – Calcium hardness below 100 ppm may lead to corrosion.

- **Ideal Calcium Hardness** – If the calcium hardness level in your pool rises above 300 ppm, the use of IDEAL Stain & Scale Magic will prevent cloudy water and hard water scale. A low calcium hardness level can be corrected by adding IDEAL Hardness Increaser.

Stain Producing Metals – Iron, copper, silver and manganese are metals which commonly cause colored water, or stains in pools. If you are fortunate enough to have “ideal” fill water, and a properly constructed and maintained pool, these would not be a problem. Since ideal conditions rarely exist, we recommend the regular use of a good metal removal agent like IDEAL Stain & Scale Magic to continually protect the pool against stain producing metals.

Sanitizing Your Pool Water – Disinfection is an essential element of any pool water treatment program. IDEAL chlorinated products are designed to disinfect your pool water by releasing “free chlorine” into the pool water to control germs and microorganisms, algae and organic matter.

The best method for maintaining a proper chlorine level in pools is by using one of the IDEAL stabilized chlorine products. They also contain a much higher percentage of available chlorine than liquid chlorine products and do not alter the hardness level.

Because water conditions change rapidly, it is very important to test the water every day for chlorine residual. The free available chlorine reading should be 1-3 ppm. You should also test pH at the same time.

Protect your chlorine from sunlight. At the start of each season, test your pool for stabilizer content, and if necessary add IDEAL Stabilizer following label directions. Sunlight will rapidly lower chlorine level in outdoor pools unless the pool water is “stabilized.” Stabilizer, technically known as Cyanuric Acid, will shield your chlorine from rapid destruction by sunlight’s UV rays.
Maintenance Program

Daily – Use a test kit or test strips to test both the chlorine residual and pH. The free available chlorine reading should be 1-3 ppm and the recommended range for pH is 7.4 - 7.6.

Weekly – Add the following IDEAL water care chemicals at the suggested label dosage and according to label directions.

1. Add IDEAL Stain & Scale Magic and circulate the water for 1 hour.
2. Then add the IDEAL chlorine product of your choice and continue water circulation.
3. Shock treat the water with one of the IDEAL shock treatment products. Be sure to follow the instructions on the label.
4. After 1 hour of circulation, add IDEAL Algaecide 60 or IDEAL Algaecide 30 to prevent algae growth.
5. Vacuum the pool and clean surface areas with IDEAL Tile & Vinyl Cleaner.
6. Check the pressure gauge on your filter to see if it has reached the point where it must be backwashed or cleaned. The more your pool is used, the more disinfectant it will require and the more frequently the filter must be backwashed or cleaned.

After these steps are taken, your pool should be sparkling clean, crystal clear, and ready for use.
Shock Your Pool

Organic matter enters your pool through a variety of sources. Swimmers, rainfall, leaves and grass all contribute contaminants which place a demand on the chlorine in your pool.

Chlorine reacts to the presence of these organic contaminants by combining with them to form compounds known as “chloramines.” These compounds are responsible for the noxious odors, skin irritations and eye-burn problems frequently misinterpreted as being too much chlorine in the pool. In reality, there is not enough chlorine to “oxidize” and eliminate the organic matter. The ONLY solution to this situation is shock treating the pool.

IDEAL offers four kinds of pool water shock treatment products. The contents of these products are completely different, but all provide excellent shock treating capabilities.

- **Sure Shock** (*Calcium Hypochlorite-Borate Blend*) is our most powerful shock. It is recommended when high levels of free chlorine are needed. Because of the super chlorinating characteristics of **Sure Shock**, swimming is not recommended until the free chlorine has dropped down to approximately 4 ppm. Dissolve in warm water before applying to avoid bleaching vinyl liners.

- **Fast Shock** (*Lithium Hypochlorite*) dissolves fast to oxidize contaminants without raising the free chlorine to unsafe levels. It is safe to use in vinyl liner pools because it dissolves so quickly.

- **Non-Chlorine Oxidizing Shock** (*Potassium Monopersulfate*) is a powerful oxidizer which destroys organic matter in the water and prevents the formation of combined chlorine. Since it contains no chlorine, swimming may resume immediately after use.

- **Multi-Shock** (*Dichlor-Potassium Monopersulfate Blend*) is a combo shock that provides the benefits of both granular chlorine (*dichlor*) and non-chlorine shock. It helps control algae and bacteria growth, and prevents the formation of combined chlorine.

Helpful Hints For Shocking

Your pool should be shocked after heavy bather loads, long periods of hot weather and after heavy rains. By shocking your pool, you will eliminate chlorine odors and ensure a clean healthy pool. Shock should always be added to the deep end of your pool, preferably in the evening. Chlorinated shock is more effective if it is not subject to the sun’s UV rays.

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Be sure to consult your authorized IDEAL dealer before beginning a shock treatment program. He will recommend a program that’s best for your pool needs.
Algae are microscopic aquatic plants which are constantly being introduced into the pool water from the atmosphere. If not kept under control, algae can discolor your pool water, clog your filter, create unpleasant odors and produce slimy, slippery walls and floors. Algae growth is usually established during times when the disinfectant level, or algaecide content in the water, is low or neglected.

Type of Algae and Treatment

**Green Algae** – The most common. It is identified by a cloudy green appearance of the water. **TREATMENT:** Shock treat the pool with *IDEAL Sure Shock* at a rate of 1 lb. per 5,000 gallons. Add *IDEAL Algaecide 60* or *IDEAL Algae Killer* according to label instructions.

**Mustard Algae** – A difficult algae to control. It is identified by the cloudy greenish-yellow color of the water. **TREATMENT:** Shock treat the pool with *IDEAL Sure Shock* at a rate of 1 lb. per 5,000 gallons. Add *IDEAL Algaecide 60* or *Algae Killer* according to label instructions.

**Black Algae** – Identified by very dark green slippery patches clinging to floors and walls. **TREATMENT:** Shock treat the pool with *IDEAL Sure Shock* at a rate of 1 lb. per 5,000 gallons. Add *IDEAL Algae Killer* according to instructions.

**Pink Algae** – Frequently called “Red Algae.” This is actually a bacteria that cannot be prevented by algaecides. The best prevention is maintaining an adequate chlorine residual. **TREATMENT:** Shock treat the pool with *IDEAL Sure Shock* at a rate of 1 lb. per 5,000 gallons.

If an algae problem exists, the filtration system should be run continuously for a minimum of 72 hours. The pool surface should be brushed daily. This will remove dead layers of algae and allow the chemicals to kill the remaining layers of algae growth.
### Troubleshooting Guide

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<td>Green Water</td>
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<td>Copper in Fill Water (clear water)</td>
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<td>Reddish Brown Water</td>
<td>Dissolved Iron or Manganese in water</td>
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<td>pH level too high or too low</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chlorine Odor</td>
<td>Combined Chlorine (chloramine) level too high.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The cause is NOT too much chlorine — it's not enough free available chlorine.</td>
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<td>Calcium Scale Formation</td>
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<td>Calcium Hardness level too low</td>
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</table>

### Pool Capacity
The capacity is the number of gallons in your pool. You need to know the capacity to add the correct amount of chemicals to maintain clean balanced water.

**To figure out the average depth:**

\[
\text{Deep End Depth} + \text{Shallow End Depth} = \text{Depth} \div 2 = \text{Average Depth}
\]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOLUTIONS</th>
<th>Maintain a proper pH level by using <strong>IDEAL pH Reducer</strong>.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bring your pH into the desired range of 7.4 - 7.6 ppm.</td>
<td>Maintain a proper level using one of the <strong>IDEAL</strong> chlorinating products.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Check filtration system. Backwash if necessary.</td>
<td>Use <strong>IDEAL Filter Cleaner</strong> each spring and fall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bring free chlorine into desired range of 1 - 3 ppm. Shock if necessary.</td>
<td>Test total alkalinity and adjust accordingly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test total alkalinity and adjust accordingly.</td>
<td>Lower total alkalinity in 100 - 175 ppm range by using <strong>IDEAL pH Reducer</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bring pH level to the 7.4 - 7.6 range. Shock with chlorine shock treatment per label instructions and add <strong>IDEAL Algaecide 60 or Algae Killer</strong>.</td>
<td>Add <strong>IDEAL Algaecide 60</strong> or <strong>IDEAL Algaecide 30</strong> every other week per label directions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use <strong>IDEAL Stain &amp; Scale Magic</strong> at a rate of 3 oz. per 10,000 gallons.</td>
<td>Add <strong>IDEAL Stain &amp; Scale Magic</strong> every other week at a rate of 3 oz. per 10,000 gallons to prevent stains due to copper in the water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjust pH to 7.4 - 7.6 range. Use <strong>IDEAL Stain &amp; Scale Magic</strong>. Let pump run continuously until clear.</td>
<td>Add <strong>IDEAL Stain &amp; Scale Magic</strong> every other week at a rate of 3 oz. per 10,000 gallons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shock the pool using one of the <strong>IDEAL</strong> shock treatments. Let circulate overnight and then adjust free chlorine residual to 1 - 3 ppm.</td>
<td>Shock treat every other week, after heavy use or rain. Test for free chlorine residual daily.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjust pH by using <strong>IDEAL pH Increaser or IDEAL pH Reducer</strong> to bring pH level to ideal range of 7.4 - 7.6 ppm.</td>
<td>Test pH level daily and maintain pH in 7.4 - 7.6 range.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shock the pool using chlorine based shock at 1 lb. per 10,000 gallons. Let circulate overnight and then adjust free chlorine residual to 1 - 3 ppm.</td>
<td>Test pH level daily and maintain pH in 7.4 - 7.6 range.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add <strong>IDEAL pH Reducer</strong> to bring pH into 7.4 - 7.6 ppm range and to bring total alkalinity down to 100 - 175 ppm.</td>
<td>Maintain pH level in 7.4 - 7.6 range. Maintain total alkalinity level at 100 - 175 ppm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If hardness level is too high, some water may have to be drained. Add <strong>IDEAL Stain &amp; Scale Magic</strong> per label directions.</td>
<td>Add <strong>IDEAL Stain &amp; Scale Magic</strong> every other week at a rate of 3 oz. per 10,000 gallons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add <strong>IDEAL pH Increaser</strong> to bring pH into 7.4 - 7.6 ppm range.</td>
<td>Maintain pH level in 7.4 - 7.6 range. Add <strong>IDEAL Total Alkalinity Increaser</strong> to maintain total alkalinity level in the 100 - 175 ppm range.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add <strong>IDEAL Hardness Increaser</strong> to raise the calcium to 180 - 275 ppm.</td>
<td>Maintain calcium level at 180 - 275 ppm.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**For rectangular pools:**  
*Length x Width x Average Depth x 7.5 = Total Gallons*

**For circular pools:**  
*Dia. x Dia. x Average Depth x 5.9 = Total Gallons*

**For oval pools:**  
*Long Dia. x Short Dia. x Average Depth x 5.5 = Total Gallons*

**Irregular shaped pools:**  
*Long Dia. x Short Dia. x Average Depth x 5.5 = Total Gallons*  
*Gallons x .85 = Adjusted Total Gallons.*
Opening Your Pool

**Step 1 Remove Your Pool Cover** – If you have a winter cover, be sure to drain as much of the water sitting on top of the cover as possible before removing it. Once the cover is off, use *IDEAL Stain & Scale Magic* to prevent staining and scale on pool surfaces.

**Step 2 Have Your Fill Water Tested** – By first testing your fill water, your *IDEAL* dealer can warn you of possible problems before they occur. Be sure to bring a sample back to your dealer once you’ve filled the pool as well.

**Step 3 Add Water** – Add enough fresh water to your pool to bring the water level to the desired height.
Opening Your Pool (cont.)

Step 4  **Check Your Pool’s Equipment & Plumbing**  – Before starting your pump and filter system be sure all lines are open. Make sure the pump and skimmer baskets are in place and free of debris. Follow manufacturer’s guidelines for starting up your heater, filter and pump. Finally, always start the season with a clean filter. *IDEAL Filter Cleaner* dissolves oil, hair and scale from sand, diatomaceous earth and cartridge filters.

Step 5  **Remove Debris from Pool Bottom**  – Remove leaves, twigs and other large debris from the pool’s bottom using a Leaf Rake. If you can’t see the pool bottom it is important that you perform this step especially well. Because chlorine shock seeks out contaminants to oxidize, leaves will consume much of the chlorine residual. A cloudy pool which is free of debris is much easier to clear up and shock treatment is much more effective.

Step 6  **Start Your Filtration System & Vacuum**  – Once your pool is full, start the filter and circulate the water. This will help your filter remove small particles. Then hook up your vacuum system and manually vacuum the entire pool and brush the walls using *IDEAL Tile & Vinyl Cleaner*.

Step 7  **Shock Your Pool**  – When the pool is free of debris and has re-circulated overnight, shock treat the water by adding 1 pound of *IDEAL Sure Shock*, *IDEAL Non-Chlorine Oxidizing Shock*, *IDEAL Fast Shock*, or *Multi-Shock* per 10,000 gallons. Be sure to follow the label directions for the proper way to introduce the shock treatment to your pool.

Step 8  **Stabilize Your Pool Water**  – Pool water needs to be stabilized or “conditioned” to prevent the rapid loss of chlorine by the sun’s U.V. rays. Add the recommended amount of *IDEAL Stabilizer* by dissolving it in a bucket of water before adding it to the pool. This will help reduce chlorine usage throughout the season.

Step 9  **Chlorinate Your Pool**  – Now you can chlorinate your pool with one of *IDEAL Stabilized Chlorine Products*. When starting up your pool for the season, use twice the normal dosage indicated for your pool’s capacity or use an automatic feeder. Allow pool water to re-circulate overnight.

Step 10  **Prevent Algae**  – By adding *IDEAL Algaecide 60* or *IDEAL Algaecide 30* or *IDEAL Algae Killer* algaecide, you not only kill existing algae but also prevent algae from entering your pool.
Closing Your Pool

**Step 1 Check the pH** – Winterizing your pool correctly can make spring start up easier. To begin, check the pH level and bring it into ideal range (7.4 - 7.6) by using *IDEAL pH Increaser* or *IDEAL pH Reducer*.

**Step 2 Superchlorinate and Add Algaecide** – Either *IDEAL Sure Shock*, *IDEAL Fast Shock* or *IDEAL Muli-Shock* are recommended for this step. By raising the chlorine level and adding the proper dosage of algaecide, your pool will remain algae-free during the fall and winter months.

**Step 3 Brush the Pool Walls and Vacuum** – Wipe away any waterline stain on the pool’s walls by using *IDEAL Tile & Vinyl Cleaner*. Then, after all ladders and other movable objects have been removed, brush and vacuum. Be sure to follow this step by thoroughly backwashing the filter.

**Step 4 Lower the Water Level** – Following the manufacturer’s instructions, partially drain your pool. Usually just below the skimmer, or approximately 18” is recommended. Drain all water from the pump, filter, heater, hoses and pipes to protect from freezing. Most in-ground pools require that the lines be blown out and plugged. A non-toxic anti-freeze can also be placed in the lines to help ensure that any water left in the line won’t freeze and rupture the pipe.

Be certain to follow your pool manufacturer’s instructions for proper method of protecting the underground lines of your pool.

**Step 5 Cover Your Pool** – A good quality cover is one of the best investments a pool owner can make. A pool cover will protect your pool from leaves, sticks and other debris that not only can puncture a vinyl liner but stain any type of pool surface. Add *IDEAL Stain & Scale Magic* for added assurance against staining during the winter months.
The heart of any circulation system is the pump. Together with the filter, these two components function to provide uniform distribution of chemicals and removal of dirt, leaves and other debris.

An efficient circulation system needs to be operated for a proper amount of time each day to assure sparkling clear water. You can care for the system by making sure the pump and skimmer baskets are clean and by cleaning or backwashing the filter. Be sure to follow the filter and pump manufacturer’s recommendations.

Should problems arise, contact your authorized IDEAL dealer for help.

The Pump – For efficient operation, always make sure your skimmer and main drain lines are free of blockage. Check your skimmer basket and hair and lint trap frequently for debris. You should also make sure pool water is at the proper level to assure a free flow of water to the pump in order to avoid damage to the pump motor.

Filter – You must periodically clean or backwash your filter. Check your pressure gauge reading and consult your manufacturer’s manual for the correct method for periodically cleaning or backwashing your filter. To assist in cleaning your filter, use IDEAL Filter Cleaner.

Heater – Have your heater checked each season by a pool service company. For lighting the pilot and general operating instructions, refer to your manufacturer’s guide. Keep in mind that if the filter is not working properly or the water is restricted, your heater may not function properly.

Automatic Chlorine Feeder – Prior to use, clean out any residue and make sure all lines are free of restrictions. Use only the type of chemical recommended by the manufacturer. Never mix different types of chemicals in a feeder or automatic chlorinator. This will eliminate the possibility of an explosion and injury.

Pool Cleaning Equipment – Use as often as necessary to maintain a clean, clear pool. Most cleaning units are designed to operate when the filtration system is running, so make sure your filter and pump are working properly. Cleaning equipment made of plastic should be stored away from sunlight. Keep equipment away from your deck area to avoid tripping.
IDEAL Pool Products

CHLORINE

IDEAL Granular Chlorine  62% (Dichlor)
Dissolves rapidly destroying bacteria and algae. Long lasting stabilized 56% available chlorine.
2 lb., 4 lb., 10 lb., 25 lb., 50 lb.

IDEAL 1” Chlorine Tablets (Trichlor)
1/2 oz. tablets dissolve slowly. Long lasting stabilized 90% available chlorine. Ideal for automatic chlorinator and floating feeders.
4 lb., 10 lb., 25 lb., 50 lb.

IDEAL 3” Chlorine Tablets (Trichlor)
7 oz. tablets dissolve slowly. Long lasting stabilized 90% available chlorine. Designed for automatic chlorinator and floating feeders.
4 lb., 10 lb., 15 lb., 25 lb., 50 lb.

IDEAL Chlorine Sticks (Trichlor)
8 oz. sticks dissolve slowly. Long lasting stabilized 90% available chlorine. Designed for automatic chlorinator and floating feeders.
4 lb., 10 lb., 15 lb., 25 lb., 50 lb.

IDEAL Bromine Tablets
A bromine based sanitizer. Less irritating to eyes, skin, and hair. Great for pools, spas, and hot tubs.
25 lb., 50 lb.

BALANCERS

IDEAL pH Increaser
Dry granular product for raising the pH of the water.
2 lb., 5 lb., 20 lb., 50 lb.

IDEAL pH Reducer
Dry granular product for lowering the pH of pool water. Increases chlorine’s ability to kill algae.
5 lb., 14 lb.

IDEAL Total Alkalinity Increaser
Dry granular product for raising total alkalinity.
5 lb., 10 lb., 50 lb.

IDEAL Hardness Increaser
Dry granular product to raise calcium hardness in pool water. Prevents etching of plaster due to low calcium hardness levels.
10 lb., 50 lb.

IDEAL Stabilizer
Reduces chlorine loss caused by sun’s UV rays.
2 lb., 10 lb.

SHOCKS

IDEAL Sure Shock (Calcium Hypochlorite - Borate Blend)
Shock treatment kills bacteria and controls algae. Restores a crystal clarity to pool water and enhances water quality.
1 lb., 25 lb., 50 lb.

IDEAL Fast Shock (Lithium Hypochlorite)
Dissolves immediately and will not bleach liners.
1 lb.

IDEAL Non-Chlorine Oxidizing Shock (Potassium Monopersulfate)
A non-chlorine granular shock. Oxidizes contaminants and dissolves completely. You can swim soon after treatment. Safe for all pool surfaces.
1 lb., 25 lb.

IDEAL Multi-Shock (Dichlor-Potassium Monopersulfate Blend)
Fast Dissolving, will not cloud water or cause scale.
1 lb.

ALGAECIDES

IDEAL Algaecide 60 (Poly)
Concentrated Poly-Algaecide formula is non-metallic and non-foaming. Destroys and prevents many strains of algae.
1 qt.

IDEAL Algaecide 30 (Poly)
Less concentrated form of IDEAL 60. Formula is non-foaming and non-metallic. Can also be used as a preventative algaecide.
1 qt.

IDEAL Algaecide 10 (Poly)
Less concentrated form of IDEAL 30. Also non-foaming and non-metallic.
1 qt.

IDEAL Algae Killer (Copper)
Non-foaming 7% copper. Destroys and prevents all common algae growth: green, mustard and black algae. Will not stain.
1 qt.

TROUBLESHOOTERS

IDEAL Water Clarifier
A concentrated floccing agent for use in cloudy water caused by particle build-up in swimming pools. Add directly to water.
1 qt.

IDEAL Super Clarifier
Weekly clarifier that removes excess oils and lotions to prevent scum. Safe to use with all sanitizers.
1 qt.

IDEAL Filter Cleaner
A liquid product for cleaning oils and grease from filter cartridges.
1 qt.

IDEAL Stain & Scale Magic
Effectively removes metals from pool water and metal stains and scale from surfaces. Non-foaming and pH neutral.
1 qt.

IDEAL Tile & Vinyl Cleaner
A professional strength cleaner for removing oily film and scale from tile and vinyl liners. Non-foaming formula.
1 qt.
SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR POOL