

Imagine

FIBERGLASS POOLS

Imagine



Imagine Fiberglass Pools Owner's Guide



Important Notice and Disclaimer

Please note that while the Imagine Fiberglass Pool Owner's Guide offers valuable insights and recommendations for caring for your fiberglass pool, it serves as a general overview and may not cover every possible scenario or circumstance. Pool ownership entails various factors that can vary depending on factors such as climate, usage patterns, and environmental conditions, which may not be fully addressed within this guide. Therefore, it is essential to exercise caution and use your discretion when implementing any advice or recommendations provided herein.

Furthermore, Imagine Fiberglass assumes no liability for any damages, injuries, or losses that may occur as a result of reliance on the information contained within this Owner's Guide. While we strive to provide accurate and helpful guidance, individual circumstances may differ, and unforeseen factors may impact the effectiveness or applicability of the information provided. As such, users of this guide are encouraged to consult with qualified professionals and exercise due diligence in caring for their fiberglass pool to ensure its optimal performance and longevity.



Welcome to the Imagine Fiberglass Family!

We are thrilled to have you join our community of happy pool owners, and we extend our sincerest gratitude for choosing us to bring your dream backyard oasis to life. Your recent purchase marks the beginning of an exciting journey towards creating lasting memories, relaxation, and endless enjoyment right in your own backyard. As you embark on this adventure, we are here to support you every step of the way with our comprehensive Owner's Guide, designed to ensure that your experience with your Imagine Fiberglass Pool is nothing short of extraordinary.

Within the pages of our Owner's Guide, you'll discover a wealth of essential information tailored specifically to your Imagine Fiberglass Pool, spa, and/or tanning ledge. From detailed instructions on proper care and maintenance to crucial insights on safety measures and water chemistry management, this comprehensive guide is your go-to resource for ensuring the longevity and optimal performance of your investment. Additionally, you'll find valuable insights into your warranty coverage, providing peace of mind and reassurance as you embark on your journey of pool ownership.

To make the process as easy as possible, you can activate your Warranty online at the Imagine Fiberglass Pools website. A copy of the warranty is at the end of this guide and you can also request a written copy of the warranty by contacting us at:

Imagine Fiberglass
560 Weber Street North
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 5C6
(519) 570-2841

At Imagine Fiberglass Pools, we prioritize your safety and the longevity of your pool investment above all else. It is paramount that you carefully adhere to the recommendations outlined in this Owner's Guide. Failure to follow these recommendations may not only void your warranty but could also lead to significant damage to your pool or even pose a risk to the well-being of individuals.

Failure to follow all safety instructions may result in injury or death.

Failure to read and follow water chemistry maintenance may result in a discolored surface.

Failure to read and follow specific instructions contained in this guide may void your pool warranty.

By diligently following the guidelines provided in this Owner's Guide, you not only safeguard your warranty coverage but also ensure the safety, longevity, and enjoyment of your Imagine Fiberglass Pool for years to come. Your commitment to proper care and maintenance is the cornerstone of preserving the beauty and functionality of your pool oasis.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION



PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE INSTALLING AND USING OUR PRODUCT(S).

READ ALL MANUALS, WARNINGS, AND LABELS PRIOR TO THE INSTALLATION AND USE OF THE POOL.

SUPERVISE CHILDREN AND DISABLED PERSONS AT ALL TIMES.

- Proper supervision is critical to safe use of your pool. Adults should always assist children to enter and exit the pool.

INSTALL SAFETY BARRIERS TO ELIMINATE UNAUTHORIZED AND UNSUPERVISED ENTRY TO THE POOL.

- Secure all doors, gates, and safety barriers to prevent unauthorized and unsupervised access to the pool. Use self-closing and self-latching gates on the fence.
- Install door alarms and locks to prevent unauthorized and unsupervised access to the pool.
- Whether the pool is in use or not, the pool owner is responsible for safeguarding the pool at all times.

THE POOL COVER IS NOT A SAFETY FEATURE. IT IS NOT A BARRIER AND WILL NOT PREVENT UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY INTO THE POOL.

- Use of the pool cover does not replace the need to install safety barriers, door alarms, and locks to prevent unauthorized and unsupervised access to the pool.

THE POOL COVER MUST BE COMPLETELY REMOVED PRIOR TO USING, OR WHILE USING, THE POOL.

- Do not cover the pool while you or others are in the pool.

DO NOT ALLOW DIVING OR JUMPING INTO A POOL.

- It is recommended that “No Diving” signs be placed at all areas of the pool.



- Never dive or jump into the shallow end of the pool.
- Never dive or jump into the pool from the side of the pool, sunbathing platform, steps or pool ladder.
- Do not allow any diving or headfirst entry into any pool.
- Imagine Fiberglass Pools products are not designed for the installation or use of diving boards or slides, so **no diving board or slides should be installed or used on or in any of our products**. Use of a diving board or slide with an Imagine Fiberglass Pools product could result in serious injury, paralysis or death and void the Warranty.
- Your entry into a pool should always be feet first, so you can determine water depth and pool configuration. Headfirst entry into the water can lead to a very serious, life-threatening accident.
- If your pool has variations in depth, install and secure a rope and float line across the width of the pool 1 to 2 feet just before the point where the deep end slope begins. The rope and float line will alert swimmers and divers to the separation of the deep end and the shallow end of the pool. Prohibit playing with or hanging from the rope and float line.
- Slides should be used only by adults and children who have been trained and instructed to use them. Children should only use slides under the supervision of adults. Imagine Fiberglass Pools strongly recommends that slides not be installed. If the owner decides to install a slide, the owner is doing so at their own risk and liability.

NEVER SWIM ALONE OR ALLOW OTHERS TO SWIM ALONE.

- Adults should always assist children to enter and exit the pool.

CHECK ALL LADDERS REGULARLY TO ENSURE THAT INSTALLATION IS SECURE.

NEVER SWIM IN A POOL OR USE A SPA OR HOT TUB WITH A BROKEN OR MISSING DRAIN COVER.

- Never allow children or anyone else to play with or swim near drain covers and suction fillings.

POOL WATER SHOULD BE CLEAN AND CLEAR AT ALL TIMES, SUCH THAT THE POOL FLOOR IS VISIBLE AT ALL TIMES FROM OUTSIDE THE POOL.

- You must see the bottom of the pool clearly to avoid drowning, serious injury, or death.
- Pool water and pool floor should be clean at all times to avoid slips during pool use. Slipping on the pool floor can lead to serious injury or death.
- Regularly monitor pool drainage system to ensure that it is functioning properly. If you have concerns about the functionality of the drainage system, contact your installer.



KEEP POOL TOYS AWAY FROM THE POOL WHEN THEY ARE NOT IN USE.

SWIM SAFELY.

- Never engage in horseplay or other roughhousing while in or around the pool.
- Do not run near or around the pool.
- Never use electronics in or near the pool.
- Keep all glass products, such as cups, bottles, and containers, away from the pool at all times.

SWIMMING LESSONS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED PRIOR TO POOL USE.

- There are many great organizations that provide guidance on classes to learn to swim.

CPR LESSONS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED PRIOR TO POOL USE.

BE PREPARED WITH LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT.

- Keep lifesaving equipment, such as a pole, throw rope, and Coast Guard approved ring or float near the pool with clear signage to indicate where such equipment may be located.
- A telephone with emergency numbers clearly posted should also be near the pool.

NEVER USE THE POOL WHEN USING ALCOHOL OR DRUGS.

POOL OWNERS MAY NEED TO COMPLY WITH FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL, OR LOCAL LAWS, ORDINANCES, AND/OR BUILDING CODES RELATED TO POOL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.

- You should contact your local government, neighborhood association, and/or building code enforcement office for further details.

Pool Chemistry

Proper water treatment and maintenance are of utmost importance. Neglecting to maintain appropriate water chemistry can create a breeding ground for harmful bacteria and algae, posing health hazards to swimmers. Inadequate water treatment not only jeopardizes the health and safety of those enjoying your pool but can also result in irreparable damage to your pool's surface and equipment. Furthermore, neglecting proper water treatment measures can lead to corrosion of metal components and deterioration or discoloration of pool surfaces. Chemically balanced and sanitized water, on the other hand, will provide a healthy and visually appealing environment for you, your family and friends.

However, appearance is not a reliable gauge of the condition of your pool water. A good test kit, or professional water analysis services, must be used regularly to ensure balanced, clear and sanitary water. Your test kit should be able to test sanitizer level, pH and total alkalinity. These are the chemical factors that can change quickly and require frequent adjustments.

Proper test ranges for your Imagine Fberglass Pool:	CHLORINE RESIDUAL - 1.0 TO 3.0 PPM
	PH LEVEL - 7.2 TO 7.6
	TOTAL ALKALINITY - 80 TO 120 PPM
	CALCIUM HARDNESS - 150 TO 200 PPM
	CYANURIC ACID (CHLORINE STABILIZER) - 30 TO 50 PPM
	METALS - 0 PPM
	TDS - LESS THAN 1500 PPM (IF SALT SYSTEM, MAXIMUM SHOULD BE 1000 PPM ABOVE SAFE SALT LEVEL)

Balanced water means that its chemical demands have been met. If the chemical levels are too low, the water will aggressively seek the products it needs by attacking and damaging the pool surface and equipment. At the other end of the scale, high chemical levels will precipitate from the water and damage the pool surface and equipment.

Out of balance water can therefore cause expensive damage to your pool and related equipment, and may also inhibit the sanitizing process.

Water balance is dependent on multiple factors that include variables specific to your pool's size and geographical location. The following is a general overview of each of these variables, but it is important to understand that these chemicals do not operate in a vacuum and no one chemical is enough even at the

proper level – it is the balance of all of them together at all times that will keep your pool in its best condition. This is so important that for warranty purposes, you must keep monthly water balance records in order for supporting any claim.

In simple terms, a scientific water balance program requires that you balance the following variables:

- pH
- Total Alkalinity
- Calcium Hardness

Pool Startup

1. Test and Balance Water:
 - Test pool water for chlorine residual, pH, Total Alkalinity, Calcium Hardness,
 - Cyanuric Acid (chlorine stabilizer), and metals.
 - Its very important to also test make up water (the water you either fill or top the pool up with) to determine any pollutants you may be adding.
2. Balance the water to the following chemical ranges:
 - pH Level - 7.2 to 7.6 (Ideal 7.4 to 7.6)
 - Total Alkalinity – 80-120 ppm
 - Calcium Hardness – 150 - 200 ppm
 - Cyanuric Acid (chlorine stabilizer) 30 to 50 ppm
 - Metals – 0 ppm
3. Apply a Metal/Scale Inhibitor type product that has a tolerance for high chlorine levels. Follow manufactures label directions for proper application and use.
4. Establish a chlorine level of 1 to 2 ppm. Shock the pool 2 days later using either chlorine or non-chlorine shock product per label directions to remove organic contaminants and make the watersparkle.
5. Begin Regular Water Maintenance Program.

Regular Water Maintenance Program

Step 1 – Total Alkalinity

Test total alkalinity (TA) one to two times per week. Always check TA first. Proper range for TA in your Fiberglass Pool is between 80 - 120 ppm. The total alkalinity is the measure of alkaline materials dissolved in the water. Proper levels of TA serve as a buffer to prevent fluctuations in the pH. To increase your TA, add a Total Alkalinity Increaser. To lower your TA, you may need to add doses of “ph down” (dry acid) or Muriatic Acid. Always follow the directions of the chemical container. Total Alkalinity kept in the proper range will help stabilize the pH level.

Step 2 – pH Control

Test twice per week. PH is a measure of the relative acidity and alkalinity of water. The pH scale runs from the highly acid range of 0 to the highly alkaline range of 14. A pH level of 7 is considered neutral. The ideal and most comfortable range for your Fiberglass pool water is a pH between 7.2 to 7.6 (Ideal 7.4 to 7.6).

Low pH (pH below 7.2) can cause:

- Eye burn and skin irritation.
- Corrosion of pool surface, pool equipment and fittings.
- Rapid loss of chlorine.

High pH (above 7.6) can cause:

- Loss of chlorine effectiveness.
- Scaling on pool surface.
- Cloudy water.
- Ideal conditions for algae growth.

What causes the pH to change?

PH can vary week-to-week, even day-to-day. Factors that affect the pH include:

Swimmers, rainwater, fresh water, chlorine, and the total alkalinity.

Adjusting pH

If the pH is low, add a pH increaser (Sodium Carbonate) to raise the pH. Follow directions on the container for dosage and application.

Re-test after four hours and repeat dosage if necessary.

If the pH is high, add pH decreaser (Sodium Bisulfate) or Muriatic Acid to lower the pH. Follow directions on container for dosage and application.

Note: If you cannot maintain a proper pH level, check total alkalinity and adjust accordingly. Proper total alkalinity stabilizes the pH level.

Use the Langelier index to determine proper water balance. Calculators can be found online.

Step 3 – Chlorine

Test twice per week. Chlorine is the most widely used effective and economical sanitizer for swimming pools. Chlorine controls algae, effectively kills bacteria and other disease causing organisms, and removes waste products through oxidation. You should maintain low, but constant chlorine levels. Proper chlorine levels for your Fiberglass Pool should be between 1.0 to 3.0 ppm (1.5 is ideal)

Step 4 – Super Chlorination (Shock)

Why is shocking your pool necessary? Waste enters the pool through wind, rain, and people. Many of these wastes are not filterable and combine with the chlorine to form "chloramines," a chlorine nitrogen complex. Chloramines cause eye irritation and reduce the amount of "free" chlorine available to provide sanitation. A buildup of waste (in the form of chloramines) also causes the water to become cloudy or have a dull appearance.

What Shocking Does

Shocking burns out wastes and transforms the chloramines back to free available chlorine. Shocking uses oxidation to restore the pool water to a sparkling, sanitary, comfortable condition. Normal chlorine levels are usually unable to accomplish this.

How and When to Shock

Shocking should be done every one to two weeks. Heavy bather use and warm water temperatures will further increase the need to shock. The addition of 1 pound of chlorine shock per 10,000 gallons of pool water is usually sufficient. Preferably shock the pool in the evening.

NOTE: Additional shock may be needed after a rain storm, heavy bather load, hot weather or additional fresh water filling.

Monthly Water Maintenance Items

Calcium Hardness

Calcium naturally occurs in water. Different areas of the country have higher and lower levels of calcium in the water. The higher the calcium concentration in the water, the more prone the pool is to calcium leeching. When the pH is maintained between 7.2 and 7.4, the calcium is balanced in the water. Calcium levels must be maintained between 80 and 120 parts per million and the terms of the Warranty require you to maintain this level.

When the pH rises above 7.4, calcium begins to leech out of the water and cling to the pool surface. The higher the pH is allowed to go, the more pronounced the calcification can become. Obviously, the problem occurs more often in areas with higher natural concentrations of calcium in the water (also known as hard water).

All that is required for calcium to fall out of balance creating a layer of scale is a pH above 7.4 and calcium hardness over 120 parts per million. The higher the levels, the more pronounced the problem will be. Many guidelines being used in the industry for adding calcium to water are based on concrete pool guidelines.

NOTE: Calcium levels should be maintained between 150 and 200 parts per million. Fiberglass pool owners should not need to add calcium chloride or products that use calcium hypochlorite to their pools.

If a fiberglass pool is exposed to high pH levels, an inconsistent discoloration below the waterline can occur. This whitening is due to calcium leeching from the pool water and clinging to the walls, steps and floor of the pool. It can be seen as a streak or solid area and is especially noticeable when the water level is lowered and the calcium dries.

If the pool is exposed to high pH levels and a discoloration starts to occur, the problem can be treated in the early stage (approximately 1 to 3 months) with chemical treatments.

If the pool is maintained with very high pH over a period of time (longer than 3 months), the problem can become severe. The calcium begins to combine with the chlorine, producing a chemical salt known as calcium chloride. This is shown as CaCl_2 and is a salt of calcium and chlorine. This salt attaches itself to the surface and causes the surface to appear significantly lighter, especially when dehydrated. In advanced cases, the calcium chloride is so bad that the pool, even when hydrated (full of water), still shows the whitening.

If the pool has advanced calcium chloride build-up but the gelcoat surface returns to normal when hydrated, the problem can be treated using chemicals. It will take up to 6 months to allow the treatment to totally dissolve the calcium chloride.

Stabilizer (Cyanuric Acid)

Stabilizer prevents the sun's ultraviolet rays from decomposing free chlorine in the pool water. As a chlorine stabilizer, cyanuric acid levels should be 30 to 50 parts per million. If levels rise above 100 parts per million, chlorine is not as effective at killing bacteria and algae. In other words, more is not better. Often, pools reach excessive levels of cyanuric acid because many powdered chlorines contain cyanuric acid.

The Key Takeaways on Pool Chemistry

Pool surface color can discolor, fade, stain, yellow, or scale as the result of improper water chemistry and unbalanced water. Water chemistry is extremely important to all aspects of your pool and equipment, and their respective warranties.

Salt water chlorine generators drive up pH and routinely require pH adjustment. Salt water chlorine generators can also easily produce damaging amounts of chlorine. Please monitor levels and adjust daily. High levels of chlorine can cause permanent damage to pool surface, cause fading, and discoloration.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CARE OF YOUR POOL.
Please invest the time and energy into educating yourself on water chemistry and proper pool care.

Water Level

Your fiberglass pool is designed to remain full of water at all times. The water level in your pool should be maintained at center to 3/4 of the way up on the skimmer. Maintaining a water level too high or too low will result in your skimmer functioning improperly and/or inefficiently.



DO NOT EMPTY YOUR SWIMMING POOL.

- Fiberglass pools are to remain full of water at all times.
- Lowering the water level below the pool skimmer does VOID YOUR WARRANTY. If it becomes necessary to drain your pool, contact your pool installer.
- If the pool is drained, hydrostatic or ground pressure outside the pool may cause the structure to buckle or crack. All damage to the pool shell resulting from improper pool drainage is the homeowner's responsibility.

Monitoring Well / Standpipe / Sump Tube

Imagine Fiberglass Pools should be installed with a monitoring well. This is a tube that is installed in the gravel or sand that fills the excavated area around your pool shell and allows the groundwater level to be monitored. This tube will also allow the use of a pump to evacuate the groundwater from around the pool should the need arise.

During installation and when undertaking any landscaping work around your Imagine Fiberglass Pool, it is important to keep in mind the drainage of surface water. You must ensure that surface water does not run towards your pool, but rather away from it. You must install sufficient drainage to keep the surrounding area free of heavy surface and sub-surface water.

Excessive ground water around the swimming pool may cause structural damage to the pool that will not be covered by the Warranty.

Winterizing

Winterization is the process of closing your pool for the winter and is vital to keep everyone and everything safe. You generally winterize a pool when it won't be used for several months.



Critical Reminder - Do not drain your pool! A fiberglass pool must remain full of water at all times. There may be no water in your monitoring well at the time you are winterizing, but rain and snow-melt can quickly change that situation. If the pool is drained and hydrostatic pressure builds, as groundwater accumulates, the resulting forces on the pool could cause it to buckle, crack or lift. All damage to the pool shell resulting from draining the pool without professional assistance of your installer is strictly the owner's responsibility.

Typical Steps for Winterizing:

1. Adjust Pool pH: Adjust pool pH to 7.2-7.8. This will prevent staining, scaling and algae growth.
2. Shock the Pool: Shock the pool following product directions.
3. Run the Filter: Run the filter for 24-48 hours depending on how dirty the water is.
4. Vacuum the Pool: Skim out floating debris and vacuum the pool thoroughly.
5. Add an Algaecide: Add an algaecide to prevent algae from forming before the water has frozen.
6. Lower Water Level: Follow your pool installer's directions for lowering your water level approximately 1" beneath the skimmer.
7. Drain Equipment: Turn off the filter pump and drain the pump, filter, heater, and other equipment. Store equipment to prevent damage. Follow manufacturer's directions for lubrication and proper covering. Then a regiment using skimmer plugs and return plugs with a combination of blowing out the lines is used.
8. Turn off Power: Turn off all power to the support equipment and remove fuses or turn the circuit breakers to off.
9. Remove Accessories: Remove and store accessories.
10. Cover the Pool: Cover the pool securely with a seasonal safety cover. Be sure that the edge of the cover is sealed so that wind does not get under it. A good pool cover resists water, weather, and pool chemicals and keeps out leaves and other debris.

General Operation

There are many topics not covered by this Owner's Guide. Your Imagine Fiberglass Pool will be equipped with equipment manufactured by others, like a pump and filter. You may have additional equipment like a heater, underwater lighting and winter covers and you will require chemicals and supplies to operate your pool. For proper care and use of those items, you should always refer to the separate manufacturer's instructions for your specific pool equipment, supplies and chemicals to determine correct usage and operating procedures and storage for those items.



Pay particular attention to the cautionary information included in those manuals and ensure that any items requiring licenced personnel, such as electrical and gas fired elements, are properly installed and inspected. Water is an excellent conductor of electricity. Electrical shock or electrocution can occur in a pool if live electrical current flowing through appliances comes in contact with the water. Make sure electrical devices are protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).

The chemicals needed to maintain your water chemistry are potentially harmful when stored or used improperly. If mixed with other chemicals, explosion and fire can occur. Read the labels on the chemical containers and follow manufacturers' instructions. Always store chemicals out of the reach of children.

Pool Surface Care

Body oils, sun tan lotions, and airborne contaminants can sometimes build up on the pool surface along the water line. These can easily be wiped away using a mild detergent, fiberglass or vinyl cleaner. DO NOT use abrasive cleaners, automatic dish detergent, steel wool, metal scrapers, or other brushes or tools, as they can cause permanent damage to the gel coat finish. Although it is rarely necessary, a dulled gel coat finish above the water line may be restored with a heavy cut automotive polishing compound, power or hand applied, followed by a coat of wax. Use only a wax recommended for fiberglass and follow instructions carefully. DO NOT wax in direct sunlight.

The gel coat finish of your pool is a gloss surface and can be scratched like any other gloss surface. Due to the thickness of our gel coat, you generally do not need to concern yourself with these scratches. They are only superficial.

For any other surface issues, we recommend that you contact your installer.

Cut out, laminate, and post this safety sign in an area that it is clearly visible to users before entry of the pool. Review the warnings with pool users before every pool use.

 **WARNING**

DROWNING HAZARD

SUCTION FITTINGS (DRAIN COVERS)



Avoid Drain Covers



Avoid Body Entrapment



Avoid Evisceration



Avoid Hair Entanglement



Avoid Finger Entrapment

- Never play or swim near drains or suction fittings. Your body or hair may be trapped causing permanent injury or drowning.
- Never enter the pool or spa if a suction fitting or drain cover is loose, broken, or missing.
- Immediately notify your installer if you find a drain cover loose, broken, or missing.

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS MAY RESULT IN ENTANGLEMENT, ENTRAPMENT, SERIOUS INJURY, DROWNING AND/OR DEATH.

This page is intentionally left blank.

Cut out, laminate, and post this safety sign in an area that it is clearly visible to users before entry of the pool. Review the warnings with pool users before every pool use.

 WARNING	
<p>NO DIVING OR JUMPING! Shallow water.</p>  <p>Diving or jumping may result in paralysis, permanent injury, or death.</p>	<p>PREVENT DROWNING</p>  <p>Watch children at all times.</p>
<p>Never swim alone or allow others to swim alone. Never leave children or disabled persons unattended in or near the pool. Install safety barriers, gates, locks, and alarms to prevent unauthorized and unsupervised access to the pool. Never use the pool when using alcohol or drugs. Never swim in the pool or spa if it has a broken or missing drain cover. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE SAFETY RULES COULD LEAD TO ENTANGLEMENT, ENTRAPMENT, DROWNING, SERIOUS INJURY, AND DEATH.</p>	

This page is intentionally left blank.

Cut out, laminate, and post this warning sign in a prominent location where any person that might service or manage the pool would see it. Review the warnings with any pool service personnel before allowing them to perform any function related to your pool.



WARNING

Your pool is designed to remain full of water at all times. The pool shell may be damaged if the water level is allowed to drop more than a few inches below the skimmer. When appreciable draw down is noticed or if it becomes necessary to drain the pool, contact your installer for instructions. In both cases ensure that your monitoring well remains free from ground water accumulation.

