

Everything You Need to Know About pH Balance



A safe, clean, sparkly blue pool stems from an ideal pH measurement. Managing the proper pH level of your pool water is vital to the health of your pool, the appropriate maintenance and protection of your pool equipment, and the well-being of swimmers. Everything works optimally in your pool when the pH measures at a correct level. And swimmers are happy and healthy, too.

What does pH mean?

You probably learned a little about pH in chemistry class, but here is a refresher.

Everything has a pH level (the measurement of hydrogen in water) – teardrops, blood, soda, milk, lemon juice, and even dirt. Water's pH level is 7, which is considered neutral. pH measures a substance's acidity levels or alkalinity levels on a scale from zero to 14. Zero equals the highest levels of acidity, and 14 means very alkaline or basic.

What is the ideal pH measurement of pool water?

Pool experts aim for optimal pH levels of 7.4 to 7.6. At this level, chlorine works more effectively, and pool water is balanced correctly.

How do you test the pH level?

You can measure your pool's pH levels by using test strips. You leave the strip in the water for a few seconds. When you pull the strip from the water, colors emerge on the strip. You view what this means by looking at the color range on the container.

Pool Stop offers [free water testing](#) in their store. The store uses water analysis software to test your pool water quality effectively. Bring a sample taken away from the return jet and at least 18" below the surface of the water. It is recommended that you bring your water within two hours of collecting it.

What are the effects of a low pH and high pH?

If you get a low pH measurement of pool water, you will see:

- Clear pool water
- High chlorine values
- Increased sanitizer activity
- Formation of algae
- Some eye irritation and itchy skin for swimmers
- Corrosive action on pool equipment

If you read a high pH level, you will notice:

- Cloudy pool water
- Chlorine doesn't work well
- Slimy water and surfaces

What factors can shift the pH level of your pool water?

Substances are continually coming into your pool. Temperature changes cause your pool water temperature to change, which can shift the pH level. Rain, debris, bodily waste and sweat, and even soil and bugs can affect your pool's pH levels.

How often should you check your pH levels?

It is recommended you check the pH levels twice a week when you check your chlorine. This routine will keep your pool clean and blue and everything operating correctly.

The Harmony of pH

With some attention, knowledge, and care, you can ensure the ideal pH levels of your pool water. A perfect pH measurement will keep your pool water in a good range, protect your equipment, and keep swimmers safe.

Need assistance with pH measurements and correct levels?

[Pool Stop](#) has decades of experience servicing pools and ensuring proper water care. Call us or visit our store to chat with our knowledgeable staff or free water testing.