

## **5 Ways to Save \$1000's on Swimming Pool Chemicals**

One of the biggest concerns of customers of ours is: “How much will this pool cost me every month?”, and “Can I afford it?”. I'm here to share a few savings ideas I have with you. The most common chemicals you will typically need to have on hand as a new pool owner are: Chlorine or Salt, Muriatic Acid, Alkalinity Increaser, Calcium Chloride, and stabilizer.

If you are looking to save money every month on your pool chemical bill-and let's face it, who isn't?-Add a salt chlorination system to your equipment. When you are shopping around and obtaining estimates from your local pool contractors, have them price out a basic salt chlorination system for you, or if you already have a pool, this is an easy element to add to existing equipment. It should cost \$1000-\$1500 to add to the basic pool equipment initially, but it will save you big time and money over the long run.

Traditional pools need chlorine added by way of liquid, powder, or tablet manually. The owner or caretaker must constantly calibrate the pools chemical balance to determine when and how much chlorine needs to be added.

What a salt chlorination system does is, breaks down the chemical components of pure non-iodized salt. Sodium Chloride or salt is added to the pool. As the pump is pumping water from the skimmer and main drains that salt passes through a generator that sends out a low voltage electrical current separating Sodium Chloride into its two components: Sodium & Chlorine. You now have chemically natural Chlorine in your pool keeping the Ph & alkaline levels stabile.

Another benefit of having a salt pool is that if you hire a pool maintenance company to care for your pool, they typically charge less for those with a salt chlorination system. It is very tedious to constantly be calibrating chemical levels in a traditional pool, so the maintenance company will charge you for their added time and aggravation as well as the cost of the chemical itself. The cost of a bag of salt is minimal when compared to the cost of chlorine.

Another option is completely automating your pool system. Hayward now offers a system called the ProLogic. This offers total pool management by automating all of the pool and spa functions including: water chemistry, salt chlorination, pool & spa functions, and lighting!

The goal is to keep your pool as evenly chemically balanced at all times to avoid damage to your pools interior finish as well as keeping you chemical costs down. The less the chemical balance fluctuates, the less chemicals you have to add to the water to balance which equals less money out of your pocket!

Investing in a D.E. Filter is another good way to save big bucks over the long run on pool chemicals and supplies. If you have a good filter, it will effectively remove debris while requiring less pump time which equals savings on your electricity bill. In order of effectiveness, you have the choices of a sand filter, a cartridge filter, or a DE (Diatomaceous Earth) Filter. A sand filter while inexpensive does not filter as well as other mediums. Sand can trap debris the size of 20-40 microns.

A cartridge filter runs at a lower pressure than a sand filter and traps debris the size of 10-15 microns. Cartridge filters are what most pool contractors use as their standard filter, and while they work well, the cartridge itself usually needs to be replaced once a season. Each cartridge could cost upwards of \$80 and some of the housing units hold 3 or 4 filters. That's \$320 every time you need to replace the filter cartridge!

You can also look into a Fiberglass swimming pool rather than Gunite. Locally here in Florida, Gunite, or concrete swimming pool construction is more common than fiberglass, and is usually a bit less expensive off the bat. Fiberglass has many excellent qualities though. Similar to a fiberglass boat, and fiberglass pool has no lifetime limit given it is cared for and maintained properly. Fiberglass pool manufacturers, such as San Juan Pools extend a 25 year warranty on their pool shells.

From the maintenance and chemical standpoint, fiberglass is much easier and less expensive to maintain due to its non-porosity. Concrete is a porous surface allowing algae and small debris to

attach to its surface therefore requiring more chemicals and effort to remove that substance. Also, a concrete pools plaster finish reacts with water to raise pH levels, in turn requiring more acid and chemicals to counterbalance this chemical reaction, where a fiberglass surface does not at all interfere with water's chemical balance.

Fiberglass also has better insulating qualities meaning that if you have a pool heater, the fiberglass pool will hold the heat better than a concrete one of the same dimensions.

A pool cover is a must have in areas like Florida! Water evaporates quickly in the heat of the summer here in Florida. You could easily lose a few inches of water per week to evaporation if you are not careful. This can be costly for several reasons. If the skimmer starts to suck air due to the water level being too low you could damage or ruin your pump. Also, you have to treat all new tap water that you add to your pool. If you cover your pool, you can not only save on your water bill, but you will be saving on the chemicals you will need to balance out the new tap water you have to add every week due to evaporation without a cover.

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