



A Homeowner's Guide to

# POOL MAINTENANCE

# Crystal Clear Waters: A Homeowner's Guide to Pool Maintenance

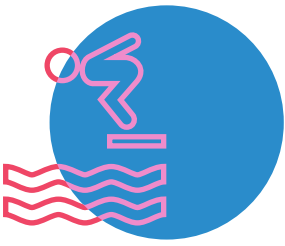
A swimming pool is a safe haven in the sweltering heat of summertime. It brings families and friends together, keeping people in their backyards for good, authentic fun. Whether it's an above-ground or in-ground pool, the crystal-clear, blue waters entice everyone, from the new swimmer to the seasoned pro, to dive in and make a splash.

But owning a pool isn't always a breeze. Dealing with algae blooms, ensuring the right chemical balance, and maintaining filtration systems can be daunting, time-consuming tasks that require the help of the entire family. Any pool owner knows it requires specific upkeep to provide a safe, clear swimming experience for everyone to enjoy.

To maximize the value that a swimming pool brings to backyard leisure time for families, take a close look at this maintenance guide. From water clarity and chemical readings to skimmer maintenance and filtration systems, this guide provides homeowners with an overview of how to take care of a pool and common mistakes to avoid directly from the best source: the Mid-South's leading retailer and maintenance provider, Smith Pool. Consider this buyer's guide your reliable resource, putting you steps ahead of the pool-buying busy season rush.

## Table of Contents

<b>Maintain Consistent Water Levels, Filtration, and Circulation</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Understanding the Chemical Impact on Water Clarity</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Brush the Pool and Skim the Water to Keep It Clean</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Keep Weather Conditions at the Top of Mind</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Trust Pool Care to Your Local Partners</b>	<b>6</b>



## Maintain Consistent Water Levels, Filtration, and Circulation

Imagine a pool with low, stagnant water. It can quickly become a recipe for disaster. That's why the foundation of a healthy pool is set in its water level, filtration, and circulation. At their best, these three factors work together to prevent algae, bacteria, and other contaminants from taking over the pool.

The skimmer, pump, filter, and jets are the systems responsible for filtering, cleaning, and circulating water in the pool. Think of the pump system as the "heart" of a swimming pool and filtration as the "kidney." The pump draws water into the filtration system which then removes dirt and debris, and clean water is pumped back into the pool. Similar to the daily activities you take to maintain good health, these pool systems need to be checked weekly to ensure they are functioning properly.

Pool water levels should also be checked regularly to ensure the pump is functioning properly to provide the best water circulation and cleaning filtration.

## Understanding the Chemical Impact on Water Clarity

Clear water doesn't just happen on its own. Think about leaving your kitchen sink full of water in the morning. At the end of the day, it will be murky, gray, and likely unsafe to clean dishes. The same rule of thumb applies to swimming pools.

Swimming pools require a chemical balance between [7.2](#) and [7.6](#) to maintain clear, safe water. Too much chemical usage can lead to strong, unpleasant odors, skin and eye irritation, and more. Too little chemicals can cause bacteria and algae to thrive. The science behind water clarity and safety is all about the right chemical balance, and there is no "one-size-fits-all" approach.

Start by testing the pool's water with pH strips, which identify how acidic or alkaline the water is. Acidic water causes corrosion and destruction of pool materials, while alkaline water can lead to cloudy water and decreased sanitation. Regardless, both imbalances can cause irritation to a swimmer's hair, skin, and eyes. An imbalance requires homeowners to add the right

chemicals and solutions to the water, which is why a pool's water clarity should be checked weekly. Remember, the safe, balanced level for a swimming pool is between 7.2 and 7.6 – situated on the pH scale between freshly distilled water and seawater.

Also review the water's sanitizer levels, checking for a balance of chlorine, salt, or bromine, depending on the type of swimming pool. As a rule of thumb, chlorine levels should be between 1 and 4 parts per million. Too much or too little could lead to similar problems: irritation, corrosion, or unclear water.

Aside from water circulation and filtration, the chemical balance of your pool water is the most important factor affecting water clarity and safety. Without an understanding of how to balance chemicals and pH, even the most beautiful pool can wreak havoc. But today's pool systems are designed to be easy for homeowners to maintain with close attention to detail and regular, consistent maintenance.

## Brush the Pool and Skim the Water to Keep It Clean



While pools are known for providing relaxing, easy getaways right in the comfort and privacy of a backyard, maintaining clear water doesn't stop at filtration, circulation, and chemicals. It requires a little "elbow grease" and weekly maintenance to keep a pool clean — but luckily not too much when these steps are followed regularly.

### Brush the Pool

Like brushing your teeth to prevent bad breath and buildup, a pool requires regular brushing to prevent algae growth and pool scales. Brushing the pool also increases the effectiveness of chemicals and sanitizers. Pool owners are recommended to use a long-handle brush to gently clean the inside wall and floor without applying too much pressure, which could tear the liner. Doing this task once a week during pool season will keep the water clear and the task easy.

### Clean Solid Debris

No one enjoys swimming with leaves, bugs, or other debris. Keep the pool water clean and clear by using a long-handle net to skim the surface of the pool's water. Doing so also helps to keep the pool skimmer and filtration system unclogged and operating effectively. Most pool owners tackle this task anywhere from weekly to multiple times per week, depending on the weather conditions. Make this process even earlier by investing in a battery-operated pool auto-cleaning system.

### Empty Skimmer Baskets

A pool's skimmer and pump catch and trap large debris, like leaves and bugs, to prevent a clogged filtration system. Depending on outdoor conditions, debris can accumulate in a day or a week, so it's best to check and dump the skimmer basket 1-3 times a week.

The key to crystal-clear water is consistency in care. When pool owners embrace these tasks as part of a weekly routine, the effort required to maintain a pool becomes minimal compared to the endless hours of joy and relaxation it provides in the safety and comfort of clean, balanced water.



## Keep Weather Conditions at the Top of Mind



Outdoor conditions also impact the balance of a pool's water. Windy weather can blow debris and leaves into the pool. Rainy weather can cause an imbalance in the water chemistry. Back-to-back days of hot, dry, sunny weather can promote algae growth. These are all natural considerations when owning a pool. While the weather is outside of anyone's control, it's vital for homeowners to quickly respond to and properly maintain a pool in response to weather conditions.

### Rainy and Stormy Weather

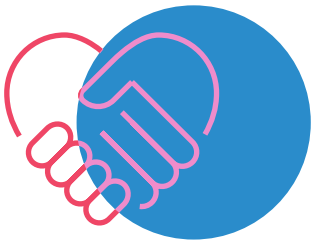
While light rain won't affect a pool as much, heavy rainfall washes bacteria, dirt, algae spores, and other debris into the pool, and dilutes the chemicals in the pool. After every heavy rainfall event, it's vital to check the pool's water level, chemical balance, and pH level to properly respond and keep the water clear and safe. Additional maintenance, like cleaning debris with a net and emptying the pool skimmer, will likely be required to get the pool back to its original, crystal-clear condition.

### Sunny and Dry Weather

While people may be tempted to dive right into the pool during periods of sustained dry, hot, sunny weather, these conditions can also negatively impact the water balance and level. The sun's harsh UV rays kill chlorine over a period of time, ruining chemical balance and decreasing its sanitation power. Hotter weather also contributes to quicker evaporation.

It's also more likely for algae blooms to take over a pool in the summer. Prevent an outbreak and maintain balance by checking the water's pH, chemical, and depth levels whenever there's a long period of unrelenting hot, sunny conditions. This will help keep not only the water but also swimmers safe.

Knowing how to maintain a pool while also staying aware of the weather makes caring for a pool simple and routine for any homeowner. The best part of being a pool owner in the Mid-South is not having to do it alone. If a homeowner would rather outsource pool maintenance, look no further than the local experts at [Smith Pool](#).



## Trust Pool Care to Your Local Partners

For nearly five decades, Smith Pool has helped thousands of families in the Mid-South transform their backyards into places for family leisure and entertainment. Today, we continue this tradition of excellence by maintaining a company of loyal, professional team members who can help you maintain the perfect pool for the entire family to enjoy – with hassle-free service.

As pool maintenance providers, a highly trained technician from Smith Pool will visit any home regularly to service the pool, keeping it clean and clear. Smith Pool does all of the work, so families can focus on enjoying clean, safe waters. With regularly scheduled maintenance visits, Smith Pool provides families across the Mid-South with peace of mind about their swimming pool.

### High-Quality Cleaning, Chemicals, and Care:

Pool maintenance includes

- Brush interior pool surfaces
- Skim debris from water surface
- Clean auto-cleaning filters and bags
- Clean skimmer and pump baskets
- Maintain sand filter systems
- Test chemical levels and add more, when needed
- Monitor and report problems or issues with your pool
- As needed: vacuum pool
- Add-on service: clean filter cartridges

With brick-and-mortar locations in Southaven and Memphis, we pride ourselves on providing easy access to all our customers across the Mid-South. Visit either location to meet the staff, purchase pool maintenance equipment, and participate in a hands-on “pool school,” where staff will show families, step by step, how to care for their pool.

Altogether, our team has more than 150 years of experience servicing and installing swimming pools and hot tubs. You deserve the best-in-class service and products, so connect with our dedicated team of experts today! The Smith Pool staff will be happy to answer any question you may have! Give us a call or visit one of our stores today.

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## We CARE: The Smith Pool Promise

Our team is small enough to care, yet big enough to exceed expectations. Here's our formula for guaranteed service and success:

**Customer-Focused, 5-Star Service**

**Accountable – Done Right or Done Again**

**Responsive Communication to Every Customer**

**Excellence in Everything. Never “Just Enough”**

We'd love to meet you and welcome you to the Smith Pool community of satisfied customers.

**Ernest Lubianai**

Is your pool swampy and green? Mines not! [Smith Pool] keeps my pool and equipment in great condition all year long...If you aren't using [Smith Pool] for your everyday pool needs/ service, I highly recommend you give them a call now!



**Lutrell Harris**

[Smith Pool] employees themselves bring joy to a pool. They are very polite...and the pool is amazing. I would really recommend them to anyone and everyone.



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