

COMMON SENSE CARE

Pool chemicals can be dangerous and must be treated with care. Never mix two chemicals together before adding to the pool water. Thoroughly dissolve any chemical prior to adding, and always add one chemical at a time. **If adding via the skimmer box to help with even distribution, ensure the pump and filter are left running for several hours afterwards.**

Most chemicals are heavier than water - if not circulated properly they may sink to the floor in concentration and cause irreversible damage.

CLEANING

Do not use abrasive cleaning agents, steel wool, sharp bristled brushes or scouring pads.

A wipe over with a soft cloth or sponge should be all that is required for routine cleaning of your Aqualux interior. Sunscreen or other organic matter should not be left to sit on the water, as it can leave a scum line around the waters edge. If this is left to 'bake' on, it can be very difficult to remove. If you have a high sunscreen load in your pool, we recommend the use of a chitosan based clarifying agent to help remove oils and assist filtration. Stubborn organic build up can often be removed with a vinyl liner cleaning product. Note, these should not be applied with abrasives such as microfibre or magic erasers.

If using an automated pool cleaner, please ensure it is specifically designed for use with a PVC interior / pool liner - never use a cleaner that is intended for an alternative finish such as pebble or tile.



POOL COVERS

If covering your pool through winter, make sure it is clean, the water balanced and cover fits neatly sealing all edges. This helps stop leaves, dirt and other debris entering, which can cause staining if left on the pool surface for any length of time.

If your pool cover is a floating blanket type, lift an edge of the cover every 2 weeks to check no leaves or debris have entered the pool.

When using any pool cover, be sure to watch your chemical levels. Pool covers will reduce your chemical consumption by around 2/3, so automatic chemical systems need to have their time cycles reduced to keep water properly balanced.

IMPORTANT

If you empty your pool, you must refill it within 48 hours, preferably much sooner. Sharp objects may damage your Aqualux finish and lead to the pool leaking. Take care with pool cleaning equipment such as vacuum handles etc - eg. don't let the children pole vault in the pool using the handle!

Note: Chemicals in some sunscreens have been found to react with copper, resulting in orange stains on swimwear, acrylic nails and pool interiors. If you have copper in your pool, you should select organic sunscreens to reduce the risk of chemical reaction.



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Care and Maintenance

THANK YOU

For choosing a new Aqualux interior for your pool. Please read this guide and keep it handy - maybe with your pool chemicals so its there when you need it.

IMPORTANCE OF BALANCED WATER

As water differs in mineral content throughout Australia, it is important that your pool water is balanced, stabilised and checked regularly.

As a minimum, we suggest a simple home test fortnightly and a professional test monthly.

Below is the maximum and minimum safe range for an Aqualux interior. The ideal balance for your pool will vary depending on sanitising system.

	Chlorine/Salt	Ioniser
pH.	: 7.4 - 7.8	7.2 - 7.6
Total alkalinity	: 100 -150ppm	80 -120ppm
Calcium hardness	: 200 - 400ppm	200 - 300ppm
Free chlorine	: 1 - 3ppm	.5 - .8ppm
Stabiliser	: 30 - 50ppm	30 - 50ppm
Saturation index	: -0.1 to +0.4	0.1 to +0.4

STABILISER

A stabiliser prevents chlorine being destroyed by the sun. All Aqualux pools should be treated with a stabiliser (isocyanuric acid) in the range between 30 - 50ppm. More is not better - over 100ppm will prevent chlorine from working effectively.

PH

The pH reading measures the acidic or alkaline content in the water - ideally sitting between 7.4 - 7.8

pH should never go below 7.0 - low pH is not only irritating to eyes, but can cause the pool finish to form wrinkles - especially if the water is not stabilised with isocyanuric acid. Water with high pH will also be irritating to the eyes, causing scale and generally cloudy water. If pool water contains metal (especially copper or iron) there is an increased risk of metal staining with a pH over 7.6.

To raise pH, it is recommended that to use soda ash (PH UP) or sodium bicarbonate (PH BUFFER). Dry acid is recommended for lowering the pH.

Avoid using hydrochloric acid (muriatic acid) - it is too severe and can damage the protective top-coat and Aqualux print pattern.

TOTAL ALKALINITY

Refers to the amount of alkaline materials in the pool water (which can act as buffering agents to help control pH levels).

Water with low alkalinity will be sensitive to pH changes, making pH very difficult to control - pH levels will tend to bounce causing green, corrosive and eye-irritating water.

Water with high alkalinity is also difficult to control, but because it will want to *resist* pH change. The water can sometimes be cloudy and generally requires constant acid demand. Constant adjustment of total alkalinity is essential. Ideal range for Aqualux is between 100 - 150ppm for a chlorinated pool, or 80-120ppm for an Ioniser.

CALCIUM HARDNESS

The amount of dissolved calcium in the pool water. Keep levels between 200 - 400ppm, or below 300ppm if you have an ioniser. (This will reduce the risk of scale build up)

FREE OR USABLE CHLORINE

Also known as 'available' chlorine. Levels should be kept between 1 - 3ppm. Below 1ppm can allow algae and bacteria to flourish, turning pool water muddy brown and staining the pool finish.

If you have a salt system, it is essential chlorine levels be kept below 3ppm, as the chlorine generated by a salt sanitising system can be stronger than traditional chlorine.

It is necessary to manually check chlorine levels at least once a fortnight, preferably weekly - especially if your system is equipped with an automatic doser.

DISSOLVED METALS

Testing for the presence of dissolved metals such as copper and iron in the pool water is important. Dissolved metals may cause staining of the Aqualux finish directly, or may combine with calcium to form actual deposits on the Aqualux finish, especially if the pH value is high. Keep down levels of dissolved metals, by **avoiding the use of algaecides which contain metals such as copper**. If this should happen, the dissolved metals can be 'de-activated' by using a chelating material and following manufacturer's instructions.

Where an ionic steriliser is used to treat the water, copper levels should be maintained towards the middle to lower end of the manufacturer's recommend range. Copper levels over 0.2 will increase the risk of staining.

DISSOLVED SOLIDS

If the level of dissolved solids is too high, it becomes difficult to obtain the best from the chemicals. There are many problems associated with this, which include scale formation, green water, odour and reduced chlorine effectiveness. The danger level is around 1500ppm (excluding salt) and if levels rise above 2500ppm, the water needs to be changed or diluted.

