

# THE CARE & MAINTENANCE OF YOUR LOOP-LOC LUXURY LINER

Your LOOP-LOC Swimming Pool Liner requires virtually no maintenance. The primary cause of liner failure is neglect. By the time your liner shows signs of improper care and maintenance, it is usually too late to restore the liner back to its original condition. However, by following these simple procedures, you will ensure that your new liner will continue to serve you well for years to come.

**Dealers and Homeowners:** LOOP-LOC is not responsible for designing your pool liner floor in regards to safety or pool type classification. Check with your diving board manufacturer in regards to type classification, and to determine if your pool meets APSP and ANSI standards.

To contact APSP: 2111 Eisenhower Ave, Suite 500, Alexandria, VA 22314. (703) 838-0083

## **WATER CHEMISTRY:**

The maintenance of proper water balance is the most important factor to maximizing the life and appearance of the liner. Proper pH levels, for example, allow chemicals to perform their function. Chlorine needs a certain pH level to kill bacteria and algae. Proper technique is important for water testing. Be sure to read and follow the written instructions from the chemical manufacturer. Always be sure to use chemicals that are recommended and approved for use with vinyl liner pools.

Your Pool Professional can test for these chemical levels or can provide you with the proper testing kits and procedures to ensure proper water balance. If you are using a testing kit to check your water chemistry, it is imperative that you purchase a new test kit every year to ensure a correct test result. Failure to use a new test kit annually could result in an inaccurate assessment of your water chemistry.

In certain geographical areas metals such as iron, copper, and manganese may be present in your water system. This may be especially true in rural areas. These materials can stain and damage the vinyl liner material. If the presence of these metals is known or suspected, contact your pool supplier for a metal remover considered safe for use in vinyl liner pools.

It is up to the homeowner to insure that the water is properly balanced at all times. The Loop-Loc Liner warranty does not cover damage to the liner caused by an improper water balance, which can and will cause severe damage to the liner. The following section states the recommended water chemistry values that will help to ensure a long lasting, perfect fitting, beautiful liner. These values are guidelines and may vary depending on your geographic location. Contact your Pool Professional to determine the proper chemical levels for your pool.



## **CHEMICAL LEVELS:**

- \* PH (between 7.2 and 7.6)
- \* Total Alkalinity (between 80 and 125 ppm)
- \* Calcium Hardness (between 175 and 250 ppm minimum)
- \* Free Chlorine residual (between 1.0 and 1.5 ppm)
- \* Cyanuric Acid (between 40 and 75 ppm)
- \* Never mix chemicals together, rather add chemicals to pool water separately and circulate throughout pool before adding second chemical.
- \* Always allow one chemical to dissolve throughout the pool before adding a second chemical. Combinations of chemicals that alone would have no effect on your liner, can cause bleaching of the liner color or pattern if you allow the concentration of chemicals to remain high near the pool liner walls or bottom.

## **PH LEVELS:**

Not only do proper pH levels allow the other chemicals to do their work, but also it is important to note that low and high levels can cause damage to the liner. Under the right circumstances with pH below 7.0, the liner can actually grow and develop unsightly wrinkles. High pH greatly accelerates the aging process and shortens the life of the liner. You should avoid using hydrochloric (muriatic) acid to adjust the pH level. You may use this acid in extreme cases for total alkalinity reduction, but only if it is suggested by your Pool Professional. This acid can attack the printed pattern on your liner and can lessen the durability of the liner making it more susceptible to wear from abrasion.

During the swimming season the pH levels should be tested on a daily basis to ensure proper water chemistry.

## **CHLORINE:**

In most areas of the country, a circulation range of 1.0 - 1.5 PPM of chlorine will do the job of killing off bacteria in water. Above this range high concentrations of chlorine will attack the liner, bleach it and shorten its life. Pool water below the proper chlorine range might not kill the bacteria, causing unsanitary conditions and possible staining of the liner.

Never let chlorine come in contact with the liner before it is fully dissolved. This means that granular or tableted chlorine is dissolved first in a bucket of water, and likewise liquid chlorine is poured in various locations around the pool and is immediately agitated, dispersed and circulated. Do not place chlorine tablets in your skimmer basket. Doing so results in too high a concentration of chlorine to develop in and around the skimmer and the main drain which will damage the liner. Do not use floating chlorinators because they can come to rest in one area and allow too high a concentration of chlorine in one area. The broadcasting of tablets, granules, or concentrated chemicals can bleach the liner and shorten the life of the liner.

Particular care is required for introduction of gas chlorine since the concentration is so high. Gas chlorination will cause the colors in a liner fade and could be harmful to the vinyl if the gas comes in direct contact with the vinyl. Gas chlorination also allows the chlorine residual levels to exceed the recommendations made by the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals. During the swimming season the chlorine levels should be checked on a daily basis.

## **TOTAL ALKALINITY:**

The Alkalinity level determines the ability of the pool water to counteract slight changes on the pH levels of the water chemistry. During the swimming season the Alkalinity level should be checked on a weekly basis.

### **CALCIUM HARDNESS:**

The Calcium Hardness determines the ability of the pool water to counteract slight changes in the pH levels of the water chemistry that could cause corrosive conditions in pool systems. During the swimming season the Calcium Hardness should be checked on a monthly basis.

### **FREE CHLORINE RESIDUAL LEVEL:**

The Free Chlorine Residual Level determines the amount of chlorine present in your pool system. Chlorine is used to kill algae and bacteria. Not maintaining a proper chlorine level in your pool will cause your water to turn green signaling the growth of algae and bacteria. The result of these growths could lead to staining of the liner material.

### **CYANURIC ACID:**

Cyanuric Acid is a conditioner used to stabilize the chlorine in the pool. Not maintaining the proper Cyanuric Acid levels in your pool system will decrease and eliminate the effectiveness of the chlorine and may allow growth of algae and bacteria. Be sure to keep the Cyanuric Acid levels well within the range of 40 to 75 ppm. Allowing the level to drop below 40 ppm along with a pH level of less than 7.0 will cause the liner material to grow in size and form wrinkles. During the swimming season the Cyanuric Acid level should be checked on a monthly basis.

### **CLEAN THE WATER LINE:**

Another major contributor to shortening the life of a pool liner is dirt and grime at the water line of the liner. The "bathtub ring" is usually caused by the accumulation of airborne contaminant's, combined with things like dirt and suntan oils, which settle on the water line and can be baked into the liner by the sun. If the scum line gets baked in, it acts on the vinyl to prematurely dry and crack it, especially in the "sun corner" of the pool. There is a simple and inexpensive way to reduce the problem. Routinely wipe the water line with a sponge (or a sponge with recommended vinyl cleaner) to eliminate grime build up. If grime build up has occurred, be sure to use only vinyl cleaners recommended by your Pool Dealer. NEVER USE ABRASIVE CLEANERS OR PADS ON THE LINER. DO NOT USE GASOLINE, KEROSENE, OR OTHER PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AS THEY CAN CAUSE RAPID DETERIORATION OF THE LINER.

### **PROTECT THE WATER LINE:**

A good, non-alcohol, non-petroleum based vinyl protective liquid applied to a clean vinyl surface will reduce grime build up and ultra violet deterioration. Be sure to talk to a Pool Professional. Select a product specially suited for this use.

### **DON'T DRAIN THE POOL:**

Never lower the water level of the pool to less than a foot of water in the shallow end. If water pressure is removed from the liner it may cause the liner to shrink. This can create many problems from an unsightly look, to tears and rips around fitting or corners. DO NOT DRAIN THE POOL! FIRST CALL YOUR POOL PROFESSIONAL. THE DRAINING OF THE POOL MAY VOID YOUR WARRANTY.

### **AUTOMATIC POOL SEEPS AND MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT:**

Vacuum your pool bottom to keep dirt and debris from accumulating and clinging to the liner. Make sure that the vacuum head being used is recommended and approved specifically for use in vinyl liner pools. Only use vacuum heads, pool sweeps, brushes or other maintenance equipment that has been specifically designed with no sharp corners or edges that could damage the liner. Never use telescopic pole in the pool without the attachment.

The use of automatic pool cleaners may have an adverse affect on your pool liner, especially on the printed patterns. Be sure to check with your pool professional for compatibility advice of auto cleaners and your liner. Loop-Loc assumes no liability for any damage to your liner as a result of the use of auto pool cleaners.

### **VINYL LINER REPAIR:**

In the case where a tear or cut occurs in the liner, it normally can be repaired with special pool vinyl repair products available from your Pool Dealer. The adhesives are made to work under water or in the air. Consult your Dealer for the proper repair procedure.

### **CLOSING YOUR POOL:**

Using the proper procedures for closing your pool is very important to extending the life and beauty of the liner. Do not close your pool for the season without letting the water circulate for several hours after the final addition of chemicals. Chemicals can become concentrated at the deep end of the pool and can cause bleaching of the liner.

Always use a proper sized winter cover that is tightly sealed around the entire edge of the pool to prevent the accumulation of debris while the pool is closed. Decaying organic material can cause staining or bleaching of your vinyl liner material. Do not use cinder blocks, bricks or other sharp edged heavy materials to seal the pool cover. Water and snow loads that accumulate on the cover may drag these objects into the pool causing cuts or tears in the liner.

Using the proper procedure for closing your pool is very important to extending the life and beauty of the liner. See your pool dealer for specific instructions and assistance.

### **OPENING YOUR POOL:**

When opening your pool if any algae is present in the water use an algaecide that is recommended for vinyl pools to control the algae and prevent it from staining the liner.

When filling the pool make sure the hose being used is properly secured as to not cut or tear the liner when filling the pool. A good suggestion is to run the hose into a secured piece of PVC piping. The piping will prevent the hose from whipping around uncontrollably and possibly cutting the liner.

Another idea is to securely place a tube sock over the end of the hose and secure it with water source (especially suitable for wells and coastal areas).

*Dealers and Homeowners:* Loop-Loc is not responsible for designing your pool liner floor in regards to safety or pool type classification. Check with your diving board manufacturer in regards to type classification, and to determine if your pool meets APSP and ANSI standards.

To contact APSP: 2111 Eisenhower Ave, Suite 500, Alexandria, VA 22314. (703) 838-0083.