



# POOL CARE GUIDE



# WELCOME TO THE BIOGUARD® DIGITAL POOL CARE GUIDE

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## WHAT MAKES BIOGUARD® UNIQUE? **OUR DEALERS.**



### THE RIGHT ADVICE

BioGuard dealers receive our unique H<sub>2</sub>Know water care training, making them the undisputed water care experts in your local community.



### THE RIGHT PRODUCTS

BioGuard dealers carry an extensive line of test and proven pool solutions and different pool care systems to match your unique needs.



### THE RIGHT SOLUTIONS

BioGuard experts use our exclusive ALEX® software for in-depth water analysis, so they can recommend the best remedies for any pool challenge you might have.

## THE SYSTEM ADVANTAGE

Pool care should be easy. Don't know where to start? Well we've got you covered. Follow one of our BioGuard® systems and you'll be enjoying your pool instead of maintaining it. Answer the questions below to see what system works best for you.



### TRADITIONAL CHLORINE POOLS

Is chlorine your sanitizer of choice?



### SALT POOLS

Does your pool use a saline (salt) chlorinator?



### NON-CHLORINE POOLS

Do you prefer not to use chlorine?







The **COMPLETE** pool care system is an advanced cleaning and maintenance line that makes beautiful water easy!



# COMPLETE YOUR POOL CARE SYSTEM

BioGuard introduces three products designed to enhance your BioGuard pool care system of choice. Put these products to work and enjoy brilliant, crystal clear water and fewer pool problems.

## POOL COMPLETE WEEKLY™

Combination of phosphate remover, powerful cleaning enzymes and a water clarifier

Add weekly to your basic water care system to keep waterlines clean and maintain clear, sparkling water



## POOL COMPLETE™ 911

Powerful enzymes and advanced clarifiers restore water clarity quickly

Rescues hazy, cloudy pool water due to an excess of contaminants and high pool use



## POOL CLOSING COMPLETE™

Designed to protect valuable equipment and surfaces during the off season

Formulated to counteract pool water's corrosive tendencies during winter months





# GET TO KNOW ALEX<sup>®</sup>

THE BEST FRIEND A POOL CAN HAVE



**ALEX** isn't a person.

It is however state of the art water testing software that is much more accurate than a simple dip of a test strip at poolside or a self-driven analysis using a computer or mobile application. BioGuard<sup>®</sup> dealers test for several parameters beyond the basics to understand how they may be influencing each other in order to avoid trial and error. Being right the first time saves you time and money.



Customer-friendly, easy to follow recommendations with 'Water Quality Score,' helping you zero in on improvements.



Receive automatic emails reminding you of important pool maintenance details and actions.



Safe and secure data, your information is not shared with anyone.

## ACCURATE WATER TESTING THE COMPLETE PICTURE

The BioGuard<sup>®</sup> Pool Care System is not complete without accurate water testing. ALEX<sup>®</sup> our computerized water analysis system, provides accurate results in an instant. All you have to do is bring in a water sample from your pool or spa to your local BioGuard Dealer and you'll receive personalized step-by-step instructions for start-up, closing and maintenance. It's that easy! ALEX completes the perfect picture of your pool water needs.

ALEX testing software advantages:

- Custom results for BioGuard products and programs
- Provides easy to follow printouts with targeted pool care recommendations
- Includes Water Quality Score, helping you stay on top of potential water quality challenges or changes
- Fast and accurate results based on your pool care system

**RELAX...**

AND LET **ALEX<sup>®</sup>** HANDLE IT





# TRADITIONAL CHLORINE POOLS

## 3-STEP SYSTEM

We think pool care should be easy and with our 3-Step System it is just that. Keep your pool sparkling clear by following three easy steps.

The BioGuard® 3-Step Care System is ideal for:

- Pools of any size or surface type
- Pools that use chlorinators or skimmers with proper water flow
- Pump circulation 10 to 24 hours per day



### What is SILKGUARD®?

SilkGuard® is a BioGuard exclusive technology that

- Makes water soft and smooth
- Protects equipment (prevents corrosion)
- Prevents scale formation

### What makes it SMART?

Our SmartGuard® technology allows our sanitizer to last twice as long when compared to other skimmer applications.



## Sanitize to clean the water

BioGuard SilkGuard Complete® Tabs and SilkGuard Complete Sticks enhanced with SilkGuard® Technology keep pool water sanitized and velvety smooth. They are available in 3" tabs, 1" tabs and sticks.

STEP 1

**SilkGuard Complete® Tabs and SilkGuard Complete® Sticks:**

- Kill bacteria
- Control algae
- Enhanced with SilkGuard technology
- Smart Guard® technology provides extra long-lasting sanitizer that dissolves slowly and all but stops dissolving when pump is off
- Contains SunShield® Technology so that chlorine is protected from sunlight for long-lasting sanitization of pool water

## Shock to remove contaminants

Keep pool water clear with Smart Shock®

STEP 2

- Keeps water sparkling clear
- Multi-functional product shocks, oxidizes, buffers and clarifies
- Kills bacteria
- Unique blue algae-fighting crystals
- No need to mix or pre-dissolve
- Apply once a week

## Algae killing and prevention

Prevent algae before it starts with Algae Complete®

STEP 3

- Highly effective formula prevents wide variety of algae growth
- Stable in sunlight and will not evaporate
- Dual Action Algaecide for increased performance
- Will not affect pH levels
- No need to mix or pre-dissolve
- Non-staining
- Apply once a week

## SALT POOLS



Saltwater pools are favored for their simpler and gentler approach to pool care, but they do have some unique needs when compared to traditional chlorine pools. BioGuard® offers two unique pool care systems that enhance the saltwater experience.



## SALT POOLS

### A SIMPLE SYSTEM THAT DELIVERS GREAT RESULTS THE MINERAL SPRINGS® SYSTEM

The Mineral Springs system utilizes easy-to-apply minerals and a saline (salt) chlorinator to produce a chlorine sanitizer. It takes only five minutes a week to maintain — in fact, once you've started the system, you only have to add the Renewal® product once a week. That's it!

BioGuard's Mineral Springs System is ideal for:

- Pools equipped with any saline (salt) chlorinator
- Frequent travelers or vacation-takers
- Those looking for the luxuries of a mineral pool
- Pools of any size or surface

### 2 EASY STEPS!

STEP 1

#### Mineral Springs Beginnings®

A proprietary  
blend of minerals  
added to pool  
water at start-up



STEP 2

#### Mineral Springs Renewal®

Replenish mineral  
levels and adjust pH,  
keeping water soft  
and clear



### ACCESSORIES

#### Mineral Springs Stain and Scale

Protects chlorine generator  
and pool and equipment  
from scale formation



#### Mineral Springs Cell Cleaner

Removes built-up scale  
to restore cell to peak  
performance





# NON-CHLORINE POOLS

## THE SOFTSWIM® SYSTEM

Soft, clear, chlorine-free water is easy to achieve. That's the philosophy behind SoftSwim.

BioGuard's® SoftSwim System is ideal for:

- No more than 25,000 gallons
- Excellent circulation, using a sand filter
- Pump operates at least 12 hours per day
- In-ground or above-ground
- Any surface type, but especially great for all vinyl-lined pools

You don't have to be an exact match with these descriptions to be a good candidate for SoftSwim. Talk with your local BioGuard® Dealer and they'll direct you to the best program for you and your pool.



### Prevent Algae Growth

Using an effective algicide is an important first step in your pool care regimen for inhibiting and controlling the growth of algae.

STEP A

- Add it to your pool every two weeks to keep algae in check
- Withstands evaporation from direct sunlight
- Works harder in high temperatures
- Supports the effectiveness of other SoftSwim products when used on a regular basis

### Sanitize to Kill Bacteria

This is a step you don't want to miss when keeping your pool primed for good times in the sun.

STEP B

- Kills bacteria
- Contains biguanide — the key ingredient that makes this program so different than chlorine-based sanitizers
- Will not degrade in sunlight

### Oxidize and Clarify for Sparkling Clear Water

Use SoftSwim C on a monthly basis to maintain clarity. Our powerful clarifier and oxidizer helps you keep the sparkle in your water longer by removing contaminants that can cause cloudiness.

STEP C

- Stabilized formula lasts longer
- Clears your pool water by eliminating body oils, perspiration and other undesirable contaminants that can affect clarity and sparkle

# WATER BALANCERS

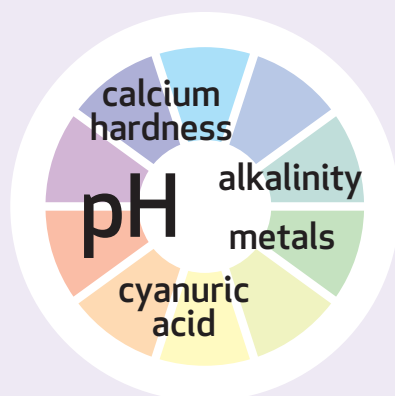


## BALANCE YOUR WATER TO PREVENT PROBLEMS

BioGuard® Care Systems work best in water that is properly balanced. Keeping the right balance in your swimming pool water is important. Balancers control scale, prevent metallic stains, adjust pH and total alkalinity and correct mineral imbalances.

## HOW IMPORTANT IS pH?

Having the correct pH in your pool is crucial to your swimmers' comfort and also protects your pool equipment and surfaces from corrosion, staining and etching. The ideal pH range is 7.4–7.6. If the pH is too high or too low it can cause those pesky red, itchy eyes!



## REDUCE YOUR pH AND TOTAL ALKALINITY

### Lo 'N Slo®

- For lowering pH and total alkalinity
- Quick-dissolving and easy-to-measure
- Safer to store, transport and handle than liquid muriatic acid



## INCREASE YOUR TOTAL ALKALINITY, pH OR CALCIUM HARDNESS

### Balance PAK® 100

- For raising total alkalinity
- Prevents pH change
- Prevents corrosion and vinyl liner wrinkling due to improper pH
- Dissolves quickly when added directly to water



### Balance PAK® 200

- For raising pH level
- Protects pool equipment from corrosion, plaster etching and wrinkling of liners due to improper pH
- Prevents eye irritation due to low pH

### Balance PAK® 300

- For raising calcium hardness levels
- Dissolves quickly
- Protects pool equipment from corrosion, plaster etching and wrinkling of liners



## PROTECT YOUR CHLORINE FROM SUNLIGHT SO YOU USE LESS

### Stabilizer 100 or Instant Stabilizer 100

- Prevents free chlorine residual loss due to sunlight
- Reduces maintenance costs and chlorinating product consumption
- Skimmer use for outdoor, chlorinated pools only





# FIVE KEYS TO POOL CARE BASICS

Get the most out of your pool by following the five keys to basic pool maintenance.



1

## Circulation

**Run your pump for a minimum of 10-12 hours per day.**

*The more your water is in motion, the harder it is for bacteria and algae to take hold. Maximize your sanitizer's efficiency by circulating your pool water, preferably during the day, for a minimum of 10-12 hours.*

2

## Filtration

**Backwash per manufacturer's instruction.  
Chemically clean every 6 weeks.**

*Your filter removes both visible debris and most microscopic matter. Check the manufacturer's guidelines on backwashing — a process that removes materials trapped on or in the filter media. A regular chemical cleaning is necessary approximately every 6 weeks since backwashing will not remove oils and deeply embedded debris.*

3

## Cleaning

**Brush and vacuum your pool every week.**

*Algae and bacteria can begin to grow in areas that have little or no circulation. At least once a week, brush and vacuum the walls and floor of your swimming pool. Brushing is a must, even if you use an automatic pool cleaner or retain a weekly service.*

4

## Testing

**Test weekly for active sanitizer and pH.**

**Bring a water sample to your local BioGuard® dealer monthly.**

*Certain pool parameters must be regularly measured and adjusted, including active sanitizer (free available chlorine, bromine, or biguanide), total alkalinity and calcium hardness, among others. Most important are pH and active sanitizer levels — both should be tested weekly.*

*\* Take a sample to your local BioGuard Dealer when you open and close your pool.*

Free chlorine residual	1 - 4 ppm for chlorinated pools
Total bromine residual	1 - 3 ppm for brominated pools
Sanitizer residual ("B")	30 - 50 ppm for SoftSwim pools
pH	7.4 is ideal pH (7.2-7.6 is acceptable)
Total alkalinity	125 to 150 ppm (80-150 ppm for saltwater pools)
Calcium Hardness	200 to 275 ppm for plaster & SoftSwim pools 175 to 225 ppm for all other pool types
Phosphate Level	Ideal range is below 125 ppb for all pools

5

## Chemistry

**Apply the right products to your pool water at the right time.**

*Timing and accuracy is important, be sure to follow label directions for the optimal outcome. Your BioGuard Dealer can give you precise instructions on what to do. It's just one of the many valuable benefits you'll receive as a BioGuard customer.*

# ROUTINE POOL CARE SUMMARY



## DAILY

- Test and adjust the pH and sanitizer levels
- Run your filtration system a minimum of 10-12 hours a day during summer; 24 hours a day is ideal

## WEEKLY

- Test the total alkalinity level
- Shock to remove contaminants with your preferred BioGuard® shock treatment product
- Add a preventive dose of your preferred BioGuard® algicide
- Remove leaves and other debris from pool
- Empty skimmer and pump baskets
- Brush pool floor and walls
- Check water level and top up if necessary
- Check filter pressure and backwash only if required (follow manufacturer's recommendations)

## MONTHLY

- Take a pool water sample to your local BioGuard® Dealer for an in-depth ALEX® water analysis

# VACATION MAINTENANCE

While on vacation, debris and bacteria can collect in your pool and upset the water balance. Consider a “vacation plan” to prevent problems so you can come home to a clear pool.

1. **CONTACT YOUR BIOGUARD® DEALER FOR A VACATION MAINTENANCE PLAN**  
(Your dealer can give you instructions based on your specific BioGuard System.)
2. **CLEAN YOUR POOL THOROUGHLY, BRUSHING AND VACUUMING WALLS AND FLOORS**
3. **TEST POOL WATER AND MAKE SURE IT'S PROPERLY BALANCED**  
Anything that's out of balance — total alkalinity, pH, calcium hardness, etc. — will likely get worse when left unattended.
4. **RUN YOUR PUMP AT LEAST EIGHT HOURS A DAY**  
Maximize your sanitizer's efficiency by circulating your pool water. (Either set your timer or ask a neighbor to turn it on and off.)
5. **UPON RETURNING, HAVE YOUR BIOGUARD DEALER PERFORM A WATER ANALYSIS**  
You'll want to be sure your pool is properly balanced and ready for swimming.





# OPENING YOUR POOL

Avoid a summer filled with headaches by opening your pool the right way. With a well-ordered system, you can prevent future problems and lay the groundwork for a pool care plan that's simple to maintain. We've outlined six important steps to help ensure a smooth, carefree opening for your pool. Of course, your local BioGuard® Dealer is always ready to assist with information tailored to your specific pool care needs.

## 1. REMOVE THE POOL COVER

If you use a solid cover, drain off the water — but not into the pool. Sweep the cover and clean it with BioGuard Stow-Away® to prevent sticking and unpleasant odors. Store it in a dry place that's free of debris and protected from the elements.

## 2. FILL THE POOL

Your pool must be filled to the middle of the skimmer opening to circulate properly.

## 3. CHECK YOUR PUMP, SKIMMER BASKET AND FILTER

Make sure all equipment is clean and in working order. Start the circulation system, remove debris from the pool and add BioGuard Pool Opening Complete®. If the filter (sand, D.E. or cartridge) is dirty, remove grease and oil with BioGuard Strip-Kwik®. For scale build-up, use BioGuard Kleen It®.

## 4. BRING IN A WATER SAMPLE FOR TESTING

Circulate the water 24-48 hours before taking a water sample. Using a clean plastic container (or one provided by your dealer), scoop about a pint of water at elbow-depth from the pool away from skimmers and returns. Seal the container and take it to your local BioGuard Dealer for testing and analysis. You'll get personalized instructions for starting up your pool.

## 5. TEST SANITIZER AND pH LEVELS

Use one of the BioGuard Test Kits or Test Strips to regularly check the sanitizer residual and pH levels. To maintain proper balance, you should follow the ranges on page 14.

## 6. ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

Now that you're into the swim of things, follow routine maintenance recommendations for your selected pool care system. Your local BioGuard Dealer can also help you with a maintenance plan.

# CLOSING YOUR POOL FOR THE OFF SEASON



Preparing your pool for the off season is the most important thing you can do to make your spring pool opening as easy as possible. There are enormous benefits to correctly closing your pool, including:

- *Protecting your pool surfaces and equipment*
- *Keeping water looking its best all winter long*
- *Protecting equipment from freeze damage*
- *Saving money on extra maintenance when you open your pool*

Whether you completely close and cover your pool or simply just reduce maintenance, BioGuard® can make winterizing painless. Convenient Arctic Blue® Winter Kits and Pool Closing Complete® provide the products you need for cold weather care.

Check BioGuard.com for more information or simply consult your local BioGuard Dealer prior to closing.



## HOW TO WINTERIZE A 3-STEP, MINERAL SPRINGS®, OR SALTSCAPES® POOL

Follow the steps below when you're ready to close your pool for the cold weather season.

1. GO TO YOUR LOCAL BIOGUARD® DEALER FOR A COMPLETE WATER ANALYSIS.
2. BALANCE POOL WATER ACCORDING TO THE DEALER'S WINTER INSTRUCTIONS.
3. BRUSH AND VACUUM POOL.
4. CLEAN THE WATERLINE WITH BIOGUARD OFF THE WALL®.
5. CHEMICALLY CLEAN THE FILTER WITH STRIP-KWIK®.
6. CLEAN THE SALINE (SALT) CHLORINATOR WITH SALTSCAPES® CELL CLEANER.
7. ADD BIOGUARD POOL CLOSING COMPLETE.
8. ADD ARCTIC BLUE® SHOCK THEN ARCTIC BLUE® ALGAE PROTECTOR. USE BOTH PRODUCTS ACCORDING TO LABEL INSTRUCTIONS.
9. RUN THE FILTER CONTINUOUSLY FOR 24-48 HOURS.
10. WINTERIZE EQUIPMENT ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURER'S DIRECTIONS.
11. FOLLOW RECOMMENDED WATER DRAINING AND COVERING PROCEDURES APPROPRIATE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS IN YOUR AREA.

## HOW TO WINTERIZE A SOFTSWIM® POOL

Follow the steps below when you're ready to close your pool for the cold weather season.

1. GO TO YOUR BIOGUARD® DEALER FOR A COMPLETE WATER ANALYSIS.
2. BALANCE POOL WATER ACCORDING TO THE DEALER'S WINTER INSTRUCTIONS.
3. BRUSH AND VACUUM POOL.
4. BACKWASH AND CHEMICALLY CLEAN FILTER WITH SOFTSWIM® FILTER CLEANER.
5. ADD INITIAL DOSE OF SOFTSWIM A (1 QUART PER 25,000 GALLONS OF WATER).
6. ADD SOFTSWIM C (1 GALLON PER 10,000 GALLONS). WAIT 3 HOURS.
7. ADD SOFTSWIM B TO TOP UP TO 50 PPM.
8. RUN FILTER CONTINUOUSLY FOR 24-48 HOURS.
9. WINTERIZE EQUIPMENT ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURER'S DIRECTIONS.
10. FOLLOW RECOMMENDED WATER DRAINING AND COVERING PROCEDURES APPROPRIATE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS IN YOUR AREA.



# SAFETY TIPS



When used correctly, pool water maintenance products safeguard the health of your entire family. If they're mishandled, they can be hazardous. Please keep the following guidelines in mind for a safer more enjoyable pool environment.

For more safety tips contact your your BioGuard dealer or visit our website at BioGuard.com.

## YOU SHOULD ALWAYS...

- Read labels and follow directions carefully
- Store chemical products safely and out of the reach of small children and pets
- Keep your pool maintenance products in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area away from other household or garden chemicals
- Keep chemical product containers tightly closed when not using
- Dispose of all chemicals according to label directions. It's hazardous to throw chemicals into the trash or put spilled materials back into the original container
- Follow emergency advice on the product label should accidental contact occur. In case of poisoning or chemical exposure, call (800) 222-1222 and speak to your state Poison and Control Center

## YOU SHOULD NEVER...

- Never mix chemicals of any kind together. Always add maintenance products to the pool separately and in different areas
- Never add water to chemicals. Always add pool chemicals directly to the pool
- Never interchange measuring scoops or place wet scoops back into a chemical container
- Never store liquids directly above sanitizers and oxidizers. They could accidentally leak and contaminate other products

# ROUTINE POOL CARE SUMMARY

Your local BioGuard® Dealer will recommend a pool care system based on your individual pool and your personal preferences. Fill out the form below with your dealer.

ABOUT YOUR POOL

SHAPE

☐ RECTANGULAR

☐ SQUARE

☐ ROUND

☐ OVAL

☐ FREE-FORM

POOL TYPE

☐ ABOVE-GROUND

☐ IN-GROUND

FINISH & COLOR

(vinyl, plaster, fiberglass, paint)

POOL VOLUME

To calculate rectangular or square pools:

Average length x average width x average depth x 7.5 = approx. pool gallons

  
To calculate round or oval pools:

Diameter x diameter x average depth x 5.9 = approx. pool gallons

AVERAGE WIDTH (FT)

AVERAGE LENGTH (FT)

AVERAGE DEPTH (FT)

Shallow end depth + deep end depth ÷ 2 = average depth

VOLUME (GALLONS)

p25

# MY POOL NOTES

We recommend keeping some basic notes on your pool treatment and maintenance history. It might come in handy in the future!

# MY POOL NOTES



BioGuard.com

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## DEALER INFORMATION