



## LOW pH

Low pH can lead to skin irritation and corrosion of equipment.

### Probable causes

- Mains water which has a naturally low pH
- Use of acidic sanitiser
- Excess addition of pH reducer

Regulating pH is one of the most important aspects of pool care and it should be maintained in the range 7.2 - 7.6.

Low pH can corrode metal fittings and copper heat exchanger tubes. It will cause discomfort to bather's eyes and skin and the chlorine which will be less stable, may be aggressive towards materials of construction in general.

SANITISER



SHOCK



WATER BALANCE



PREVENTION OR CURE



## 1. Effect of mains water

The pH and alkalinity of your mains (make up) water will have a major influence on the water balance of the pool. e.g. the pH, alkalinity etc. It is therefore important to regularly check both pH and alkalinity of the mains water when either refilling the pool or adding a substantial quantity of fresh water. Immediate action can then be taken to make any necessary corrections to the pH and/or alkalinity.

It is also important to regularly check the pH and alkalinity of the pool water. These two properties are closely linked and a low pH can also indicate there is a low alkalinity. A low alkalinity will not protect the pH from sudden movement (bounce). To determine alkalinity levels use an alkalinity test kit or test strips. It should be maintained within the range 80 - 150mg/l (ppm).

## 2. Effect of sanitiser

The sanitiser being used can also have a significant effect on the pH. Of the chlorine based sanitisers in regular use, 'trichlor' based slow dissolving chlorine tablets are acidic and will tend to reduce the pH. The degree to which this occurs will depend on the your mains (make up) water and the quantity of sanitiser used. The hard waters generally found in the South-East of England will have a higher tolerance to acidic chlorine donors and will require relatively less pH adjustment. However, in order to prevent acidic water conditions, the pH should be tested on a regular basis, preferably daily and the necessary corrections made.

## 3. Excess addition of pH Reducer

It is important not to routinely add pH reducer without testing the pool water. Carry out regular tests and only add the quantities of chemical indicated by the test.

### What you may need...

#### Fi-Clor pH Increaser 5kg To correct low pH



### Action to be taken

**Before adding any chemicals to your pool, ensure nobody is swimming. Keep the circulation running to ensure adequate dispersion of the chemicals**

#### 1. To increase the pH

- To increase the pH, dose **Fi-Clor pH Increaser** at a rate of 500g per 50m<sup>3</sup> (11,000 gallons). With the circulation running, distribute around the pool, avoiding the skimmers. Re-test after 24 hours and if the pH is still low, repeat the dose until the pH is within the range 7.2 - 7.6.
- If it is necessary to increase both the pH and alkalinity, treat the alkalinity before the pH. To increase the alkalinity, refer to the Troubleshooting Guide for 'pH Bounce'.