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PRINTABLE PLANNER

Pool Care & Maintenance Planner

9 print-ready worksheets to keep your water balanced and crystal clear, all season long. Chlorine or saltwater, inground or above-ground.

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Print as many copies as you need.

$39 · One-time

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Pool Profile

Dimensions, calculated gallons, surface area, and your equipment

Pool Name / Location:

Volume (US gal):

Dimensions (L x W x avg depth, ft):

Type (chlorine / saltwater):

Surface (inground / above-ground):

Date Started:

Your pool's volume is the single most useful number you own. Every chemical dose, every run-time decision, and every product you buy depends on it. Work it out once here, write it down, and you will never have to guess again.

Pool Profile

Fill this in once. Getting the gallons right drives every dosing and maintenance decision after it. Pools are measured in feet, and 1 cubic foot holds 7.48 US gallons.

Quick volume math (US gallons)

- Rectangle: length ft x width ft x average depth ft x 7.48
- Round: diameter ft x diameter ft x average depth ft x 5.9
- Oval: long ft x wide ft x average depth ft x 6.7
- Average depth = (shallow end + deep end) / 2
- Surface area (rectangle) = length ft x width ft, in square feet

Measurement	Your value	Notes
Pool shape (rectangle / round / oval / kidney)		
Length or diameter (ft)		
Width (ft)		
Shallow-end depth (ft)		
Deep-end depth (ft)		
Average depth (ft)		
Surface area (sq ft)		
Calculated volume (US gallons)		
Water type (chlorine / saltwater)		
Filter type (sand / cartridge / DE)		
Approx. turnover goal (hours)		

Equipment List

A quick inventory of what runs your pool. Knowing the exact models makes ordering parts, sizing chemicals, and troubleshooting far easier.

Equipment	Detail / model
Pump (brand / model / HP)	
Filter (type / size sq ft or lbs)	
Heater or heat pump	
Salt cell / SWG (if saltwater)	
Automatic cleaner / robot	
Skimmer(s) and main drain	
Timer or automation	
Test kit (drop kit recommended)	

Dosing and range figures are estimates from standard pool-care formulas and are not a substitute for testing your own water. Educational only. Always follow the product label and local guidance.

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Water Test Log

Track FC, CC, pH, TA, CYA, CH, and salt over the season

Pool Name / Location:

Volume (US gal):

Dimensions (L x W x avg depth, ft):

Type (chlorine / saltwater):

Surface (inground / above-ground):

Date Started:

Clear, safe water is a number game. Logging your readings turns a slow chlorine drift or a creeping pH into something you catch and correct in minutes, instead of a green pool you discover on a Saturday morning.

Water Test Log

Test FC and pH 2 to 3 times a week in swim season, the full set weekly. A liquid drop kit is more accurate than strips. Test before you dose, not after.

Ideal ranges (backyard pools)

- Free chlorine (FC): set by your CYA. Target roughly 7.5% of CYA, so CYA 30 wants about FC 2 to 3, CYA 50 wants about FC 4 to 6. Salt pools run higher CYA, so dose to the cell and the FC/CYA ratio.
- Combined chlorine (CC): 0 to 0.5 ppm. Above 0.5 means it is time to shock.
- pH: 7.2 to 7.8. Lower with muriatic acid, raise with soda ash.
- Total alkalinity (TA): 60 to 120 ppm. Baking soda raises it.
- CYA (stabilizer): 30 to 50 for a chlorine pool, 60 to 80 for a saltwater pool. Lower CYA only by draining and refilling.
- Calcium hardness (CH): 200 to 400 ppm.
- Salt (saltwater pools): about 3,000 to 3,200 ppm, or whatever your salt cell calls for.

Date	FC	CC	pH	TA	CYA	CH	Salt	Notes

Notes

Shock days, new fill water, heavy bather load, rain or storm events, anything that moved a reading.

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Chemical Dosing Tracker

Log every chemical addition with before and after readings

Pool Name / Location:

Volume (US gal):

Dimensions (L x W x avg depth, ft):

Type (chlorine / saltwater):

Surface (inground / above-ground):

Date Started:

Dosing is not guesswork once you track it. Writing down the amount and the reading on each side of every addition builds a record of exactly how your pool reacts, so you stop overshooting and start dialing it in.

Chemical safety, every time

- Never mix pool chemicals together, especially different chlorine types or chlorine and acid. Dangerous gas can form.
- Always add chemical to water, never water to chemical. Pre-dissolve or broadcast per the product label.
- Run the pump while you dose so the chemical circulates.
- Wait, then retest before re-dosing. Add in steps rather than all at once.
- Store chemicals separately, sealed, and away from kids and pets.

Chemical Dosing Tracker

Record every addition: what you added, how much, and the reading before and after. This is how you learn how your specific pool responds, so next time you dose right the first time.

Ideal ranges (backyard pools)

- Free chlorine (FC): set by your CYA. Target roughly 7.5% of CYA, so CYA 30 wants about FC 2 to 3, CYA 50 wants about FC 4 to 6. Salt pools run higher CYA, so dose to the cell and the FC/CYA ratio.
- Combined chlorine (CC): 0 to 0.5 ppm. Above 0.5 means it is time to shock.
- pH: 7.2 to 7.8. Lower with muriatic acid, raise with soda ash.
- Total alkalinity (TA): 60 to 120 ppm. Baking soda raises it.
- CYA (stabilizer): 30 to 50 for a chlorine pool, 60 to 80 for a saltwater pool. Lower CYA only by draining and refilling.
- Calcium hardness (CH): 200 to 400 ppm.
- Salt (saltwater pools): about 3,000 to 3,200 ppm, or whatever your salt cell calls for.

Date	Chemical (type)	Amount added	Reading before	Reading after	Notes

Notes

Which product and strength you used (liquid chlorine %, cal-hypo, dichlor, trichlor, muriatic acid, soda ash, baking soda), and how long you waited before retesting.

Dosing amounts depend on your exact volume and current readings. Always calculate from a fresh test, follow the product label, add in steps, and retest before adding more. Dosing and range figures are estimates from standard pool-care formulas and are not a substitute for testing your own water. Educational only. Always follow the product label and local guidance.

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Weekly Maintenance Schedule

Skim, brush, vacuum, baskets, test, and backwash, by day

Pool Name / Location:

Volume (US gal):

Dimensions (L x W x avg depth, ft):

Type (chlorine / saltwater):

Surface (inground / above-ground):

Date Started:

Pool care is mostly small habits done on time. A few minutes most days keeps the water clear and the equipment happy, so you spend summer swimming instead of fighting algae.

Weekly Maintenance Schedule

A light daily skim plus a steady weekly rhythm beats a heavy weekend rescue every time. Adjust the days to your life, but keep the tasks. Run the pump long enough to turn the whole pool over each day, usually about 8 hours.

> **Backwash a sand or DE filter** when the pressure gauge climbs 8 to 10 psi above its clean baseline, not on a fixed day. Rinse or hose a cartridge filter on the same trigger.

Monday

- [ ] Skim surface and empty skimmer baskets
- [ ] Check pump and filter pressure
- [ ] Test FC and pH

Tuesday

- [ ] Skim surface
- [ ] Brush one wall / step section
- [ ] Empty pump strainer basket

Wednesday

- [ ] Skim surface
- [ ] Test FC and pH, top up chlorine if low
- [ ] Check water level

Thursday

- [ ] Skim surface
- [ ] Vacuum or run the cleaner
- [ ] Brush waterline tile

Friday

- [ ] Skim surface and empty baskets
- [ ] Full water test (FC, CC, pH, TA, CYA, CH, salt)
- [ ] Adjust chemistry as needed

Saturday

- [ ] Skim surface
- [ ] Backwash or clean filter if pressure is up
- [ ] Inspect equipment for leaks or noise

Sunday

- [ ] Skim surface
- [ ] Tidy deck and store toys
- [ ] Plan next week, restock chemicals

Weekly Check-off Grid

Tick each core task as you finish it. One row per week.

Week of	Skim	Baskets	Brush	Vacuum	Test	Filter	Done

Notes

Anything that needed extra attention: algae starting, a clogged skimmer, low water, equipment running loud.

A consistent routine prevents most pool problems. Dosing and range figures are estimates from standard pool-care formulas and are not a substitute for testing your own water. Educational only. Always follow the product label and local guidance.

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Spring Opening Checklist

A step-by-step plan to open your pool for the season

Pool Name / Location:

Volume (US gal):

Dimensions (L x W x avg depth, ft):

Type (chlorine / saltwater):

Surface (inground / above-ground):

Date Started:

A calm, orderly opening sets up the whole summer. Uncover and reassemble first, get water moving, then balance from alkalinity up. Rushing the chemistry or skipping circulation is what turns an opening into a week-long green-water fight.

Chemical safety, every time

- Never mix pool chemicals together, especially different chlorine types or chlorine and acid. Dangerous gas can form.
- Always add chemical to water, never water to chemical. Pre-dissolve or broadcast per the product label.
- Run the pump while you dose so the chemical circulates.
- Wait, then retest before re-dosing. Add in steps rather than all at once.
- Store chemicals separately, sealed, and away from kids and pets.

Spring Opening Checklist

Open early, before the water warms and algae gets a head start. Work top to bottom: uncover, reassemble, circulate, then balance. Expect a few days of running the pump nonstop to clear the water.

Before you remove the cover

- [ ] Pump standing water and debris off the cover
- [ ] Remove, clean, and dry the cover, then store it
- [ ] Remove winter plugs and skimmer/return freeze guards
- [ ] Reinstall drain plugs, baskets, ladders, and rails

Equipment start-up

- [ ] Reconnect pump, filter, heater, and salt cell
- [ ] Lubricate o-rings, check for cracks, reinstall return fittings
- [ ] Top water up to mid-skimmer level
- [ ] Prime and start the pump, check for leaks
- [ ] Run the filter and circulate for 24 hours before testing

Balance the water

- [ ] Test the full set: FC, CC, pH, TA, CYA, CH, and salt
- [ ] Adjust TA first (60 to 120), then pH (7.2 to 7.8)
- [ ] Bring CYA into range (30 to 50 chlorine, 60 to 80 salt)
- [ ] Raise FC to the target for your CYA, shock if needed
- [ ] Retest after circulating, fine-tune in steps

Clean and clear

- [ ] Brush walls, steps, and floor
- [ ] Skim, then vacuum debris to waste if heavy
- [ ] Run the pump 24/7 until the water clears
- [ ] Add a clarifier only if needed, per label

Notes

Parts replaced or ordered, opening test readings, how long the water took to clear, anything to fix before next season.

Handle the cover and chemicals carefully. Dosing and range figures are estimates from standard pool-care formulas and are not a substitute for testing your own water. Educational only. Always follow the product label and local guidance.

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Closing & Winterizing Checklist

Winterize the right way and open clean next spring

Pool Name / Location:

Volume (US gal):

Dimensions (L x W x avg depth, ft):

Type (chlorine / saltwater):

Surface (inground / above-ground):

Date Started:

A good close is an investment in next year. Balance and clean the water, then protect every part of the system from freezing. Do it right and you open to clear water and intact equipment, instead of a cracked pump and a green pool.

Chemical safety, every time

- Never mix pool chemicals together, especially different chlorine types or chlorine and acid. Dangerous gas can form.
- Always add chemical to water, never water to chemical. Pre-dissolve or broadcast per the product label.
- Run the pump while you dose so the chemical circulates.
- Wait, then retest before re-dosing. Add in steps rather than all at once.
- Store chemicals separately, sealed, and away from kids and pets.

Closing & Winterizing Checklist

Close on a cool, sustained run of weather, with the water already balanced and clean. The whole job protects against two enemies of winter: algae taking hold and water freezing inside your pipes and equipment.

> **Freeze protection is the priority.** Water left in pipes, the pump, filter, or heater can freeze, expand, and crack expensive parts. Blow out or drain every line, and remove drain plugs, in any climate that freezes.

Balance before you close

- [ ] Test and balance the full set a few days ahead
- [ ] pH 7.2 to 7.8, TA 60 to 120, CH 200 to 400
- [ ] Bring FC to the high end of target for your CYA
- [ ] Add winter algaecide last, per label, with pump running

Clean the pool

- [ ] Brush and vacuum the entire pool
- [ ] Skim the surface clean
- [ ] Empty and clean skimmer and pump baskets
- [ ] Clean or backwash the filter

Lower water and blow out lines

- [ ] Drop water below the skimmer / returns (per your climate)
- [ ] Blow out or drain all plumbing lines
- [ ] Add pool antifreeze to lines if you are in a hard freeze
- [ ] Install skimmer and return freeze plugs

Winterize equipment and cover

- [ ] Drain pump, filter, heater, and chlorinator/salt cell
- [ ] Remove drain plugs and store them in the pump basket
- [ ] Remove and store the cleaner, ladders, and rails
- [ ] Install the winter cover, water tubes, or safety cover

Notes

Closing test readings, antifreeze used, plugs installed, mid-winter checks to do, and what to order before spring.

Freeze-protection needs vary by climate and equipment. Follow your manufacturer instructions. Dosing and range figures are estimates from standard pool-care formulas and are not a substitute for testing your own water. Educational only. Always follow the product label and local guidance.

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Equipment Log

Pump, filter, heater, and salt cell: models, service, and notes

Pool Name / Location:

Volume (US gal):

Dimensions (L x W x avg depth, ft):

Type (chlorine / saltwater):

Surface (inground / above-ground):

Date Started:

Your equipment is the most expensive part of the pool, and the easiest to neglect until it fails. A simple register plus a running service log keeps warranties valid, makes part orders quick, and warns you when something is wearing out.

Equipment Register

One row per major component. Record the model and serial, the install date, and the warranty so parts and claims are easy when something fails.

Component	Brand / model	Serial #	Installed	Warranty until
Pump				
Filter				
Heater / heat pump				
Salt cell / SWG				
Automatic / robotic cleaner				
Timer / automation				
Chlorinator / feeder				
Other				

Service & Maintenance Log

Filter cleans, o-ring and gasket changes, salt cell cleanings, motor service, parts replaced. A dated history shows wear patterns and protects warranty claims.

Date	Component	Service performed	Parts / cost	Next due

Filter Pressure Baseline

Note the clean pressure after each filter service. Backwash or clean again when the gauge rises 8 to 10 psi above this baseline.

Date cleaned	Clean psi	Backwash-at psi	Notes

Follow each manufacturer service schedule. Dosing and range figures are estimates from standard pool-care formulas and are not a substitute for testing your own water. Educational only. Always follow the product label and local guidance.

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Pool Cost Tracker

Chemicals, electricity, and repairs, month by month

Pool Name / Location:

Volume (US gal):

Dimensions (L x W x avg depth, ft):

Type (chlorine / saltwater):

Surface (inground / above-ground):

Date Started:

Pools cost more in dribs and drabs than most owners realize. Tracking the spend by month shows you the real number, highlights your biggest line item, and turns next year's budget into a plan instead of a surprise.

Monthly Cost Tracker

Log what the pool costs each month so the season total stops being a mystery. Track chemicals, the electricity your pump uses, and any repairs or parts.

Month	Chemicals	Electricity	Repairs / parts	Other	Total
January					
February					
March					
April					
May					
June					
July					
August					
September					
October					
November					
December					
Season total					

Where the money goes

Two easy ways to cut pool costs

- A variable-speed pump run longer at low speed usually turns the water over for a fraction of the energy of a single-speed pump on high.
- Stable water chemistry is the cheapest chemistry. Catching small swings with regular testing avoids the big, expensive shock-and-clarifier rescues.

Item	Supplier	Qty	Unit cost	Total

Notes

Big-ticket purchases planned, price changes, supplier notes, and ideas to bring next season's cost down.

Costs vary widely by region, pool size, and energy rates. Figures you record here are your own. Dosing and range figures are estimates from standard pool-care formulas and are not a substitute for testing your own water. Educational only. Always follow the product label and local guidance.

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Troubleshooting Quick Reference

Cloudy, green, smelly, irritating: symptom to fix

Pool Name / Location:

Volume (US gal):

Dimensions (L x W x avg depth, ft):

Type (chlorine / saltwater):

Surface (inground / above-ground):

Date Started:

When something looks off, this page gets you from symptom to solution fast. The pattern almost never changes: test the water, fix the chemistry, and keep the pump running. Reach for shock and clarifier only when the numbers say so.

Chemical safety, every time

- Never mix pool chemicals together, especially different chlorine types or chlorine and acid. Dangerous gas can form.
- Always add chemical to water, never water to chemical. Pre-dissolve or broadcast per the product label.
- Run the pump while you dose so the chemical circulates.
- Wait, then retest before re-dosing. Add in steps rather than all at once.
- Store chemicals separately, sealed, and away from kids and pets.

Troubleshooting Quick Reference

Match the symptom, check the likely cause, then act. Almost every pool problem traces back to chemistry or circulation, so test first and let the pump run.

Ideal ranges (backyard pools)

- Free chlorine (FC): set by your CYA. Target roughly 7.5% of CYA, so CYA 30 wants about FC 2 to 3, CYA 50 wants about FC 4 to 6. Salt pools run higher CYA, so dose to the cell and the FC/CYA ratio.
- Combined chlorine (CC): 0 to 0.5 ppm. Above 0.5 means it is time to shock.
- pH: 7.2 to 7.8. Lower with muriatic acid, raise with soda ash.
- Total alkalinity (TA): 60 to 120 ppm. Baking soda raises it.
- CYA (stabilizer): 30 to 50 for a chlorine pool, 60 to 80 for a saltwater pool. Lower CYA only by draining and refilling.
- Calcium hardness (CH): 200 to 400 ppm.
- Salt (saltwater pools): about 3,000 to 3,200 ppm, or whatever your salt cell calls for.

Symptom	Likely cause	What to do
Cloudy or hazy water	Low or zero FC, high pH, poor filtration, high CH, fine debris	Test and restore FC to target, lower pH to 7.2 to 7.8, run the pump 24/7, clean or backwash the filter, add clarifier only if needed.
Green water (algae)	FC dropped too low, sunny warm spell, low CYA letting chlorine burn off	Brush thoroughly, shock to the SLAM-level FC for your CYA and hold it, run pump 24/7, vacuum dead algae to waste, keep FC up until water clears.
Eye and skin irritation	pH off (too low or high), high combined chlorine (CC), not low chlorine	Test pH and bring to 7.2 to 7.8, check CC. If CC is above 0.5, shock to breakpoint. Irritation usually means imbalance, not too much chlorine.
Strong chlorine smell	High combined chlorine (chloramines), not enough free chlorine	Counterintuitive but true: shock the pool. Raise FC to breakpoint to burn off chloramines, then the smell clears.
Chlorine will not hold	CYA too low (no UV protection) or too high (locks chlorine), or organic load	Test CYA. If under 30, raise stabilizer. If very high, dilute by draining and refilling. Shock and keep FC at the target for your CYA.
pH keeps climbing	High TA, fresh plaster, aeration from features or salt cell	Lower TA toward 60 to 80 with acid and aeration, then maintain pH with small muriatic acid doses.
Scale or white crust	High CH and/or high pH and TA	Lower pH and TA into range. If CH is well above 400, partially drain and refill with softer water.
Stains on the surface	Metals in water (iron, copper) or organic debris	Identify metal vs organic with a stain test. Use a sequestrant for metals, ascorbic acid for stains, and keep leaves out.
Foamy water	Algaecide overdose, low CH, or cosmetics and oils from bathers	Stop adding algaecide, check CH is at least 200, and let the filter run. Foam usually settles on its own.
Short filter cycles / high psi	Dirty filter, fine debris load	Backwash or clean the filter when psi rises 8 to 10 over baseline. Replace worn cartridges or old sand/DE as needed.

Notes

Your pool's recurring issues and the fix that worked, so next season you skip straight to the solution.

Always test before dosing and add chemicals in steps, retesting between additions. Dosing and range figures are estimates from standard pool-care formulas and are not a substitute for testing your own water. Educational only. Always follow the product label and local guidance.