

CRYSTAL CLEAR POOLS

Pools, Spas, and Accessories!

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How To Adjust Your Pools Alkalinity Level

Your swimming pools alkalinity is a big part of your pool water chemistry; therefore it is very important that you test it on regular basis as in twice a week. When you are correcting your total alkalinity, it is recommended that you do so in small increments. Reason being, that it is much easier for you to adjust your Total Alkalinity Level slightly when it gets a little high or a little low.

You should not wait for your total alkalinity levels, to get way off and then try to bring it back under control all at once.

Since you are adjusting your pool alkalinity in increments, it is a good practice to re-test about 24 hours after each adjustment.

This process will let you know if you have reached your desired TA level or if you need to continue.

Raising your pools Total Alkalinity (TA) level

Your pool water care requires you to maintain a proper TA level at all times. In doing so, you may have to raise your total alkalinity so that you always have an alkaline environment in your swimming pool. Remember your total alkalinity governs your pH. To raise your alkalinity level, you will have to add ALKALINITY INCREASER.

Still you must be aware that ALKALINITY INCREASER will also cause an elevation in your pH levels as well. There are times when you may just want to raise your pH levels without affecting your total alkalinity. You can accomplish this by adding pH INCREASER to your pool water.

Soda Ash is by no means the same as Baking Soda. In other words, it is not sodium bicarbonate. The table below gives a clear indication of what amount of sodium bicarbonate you will need to add to achieve a proper level of total alkalinity.

**Caution!!! You will read and/or hear from unreliable experts online that Soda Ash and Baking Soda can be used in your pool for alkalinity adjustments. While technically true, certain compounds inherent in Soda Ash can have an adverse, if not disastrous, effect on other chemicals your pool requires! Soda Ash is by no means the same as Baking Soda. In other words, it is not sodium bicarbonate! Sodium bicarbonate is what is safe for your pool and the chemicals used in your pool!!!*

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Raising Total Alkalinity using Alkalinity Increaser

The recommended dosage when using ALKALINITY INCREASER (100% sodium bicarbonate) to raise your pool alkalinity for your pool water volume.

	Volume of Water					
	5,000 gal	10,000 gal	15,000 gal	20,000 gal	25,000 gal	30,000 gal
10 ppm	11 oz	1 ½ lbs	2 lbs	2 ¾ lbs	3 ½ lbs	4 ¼ lbs
20 ppm	1 ½ lbs	2 ¾ lbs	3 ¼ lbs	5 ½ lbs	7 lbs	8 ½ lbs
30 ppm	2 lbs	4 ¼ lbs	6 ½ lbs	8 ½ lbs	10 ½ lbs	12 ½ lbs
40 ppm	2 ¾ lbs	5 ½ lbs	7 ¼ lbs	11 ¼ lbs	14 lbs	17 lbs
50 ppm	3 ½ lbs	7 lbs	10 ½ lbs	14 lbs	17 ½ lbs	21 lbs
60 ppm	4 ¼ lbs	8 ½ lbs	12 ½ lbs	16 ¾ lbs	21 lbs	25 ¼ lbs
Increase in PPM						

Now you should never try to add more than 10 pounds of sodium bicarbonate at any given time. The correct procedure would be to add what you can get away with, re-test after about 24 hours and then if more is needed, then you add again. It is possible that you may need to test and treat your recreational water facilities, for metals in solution before you can add any sodium bicarbonate.

A good practice to get into is to premix or dissolve the baking soda in a bucket or mixing drum and then add the solution to the pool or spa. This procedure helps eliminate any signs of sodium bicarbonate from being visible at the bottom of your pool.

Decreasing Your Pool Alkalinity Using Acid

There will be cases where you will need to lower the alkalinity level of your pool. Question is...how can I lower the alkalinity in my swimming pool? This is usually accomplish using acids in liquid form as well in the form of acid salts. The most commonly used acids in the pool/spa industry, are MURIATIC ACID or HYDROCHLORIC ACID and pH INCREASER/SODIUM BISULFATE.

If you are face with a situation where you just want to lower your TA without seriously affecting your pH level, then you should pour the acid directly into the deep end of your pool.

Research has shown that by creating pockets of extremely low pH, you can burn off your alkaline materials and safely reduce your alkalinity levels.

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Before you can do any adjustment to your TA (Total Alkalinity) levels, you have to know exactly how much acid you will need to add to get your desired ppm level.

The table below can be used as a guide. Still you must add a small amount of muriatic at a time. This is usually 1 quart for every 10,000 gallons of water.

Below is a table with the recommended dosage for using muriatic acid (31.45%), to decrease your TA for a given volume of pool water.

Volume of Water in Gallons						
	1000 gal	5,000 gal	10,000 gal	15,000 gal	25,000 gal	30,000 gal
10 ppm	2 ½ fl oz	12 ¾ fl oz	1 ½ pts	1 ¼ qts	2 qts	2 ½ qts
20 ppm	5 ¼ fl oz	1 ½ pts	1 ½ qts	2 ½ qts	4 qts	4 ¾ qts
30 ppm	7 ½ fl oz	1 ¼ qts	2 ½ qts	3 ½ qts	6 qts	7 ¼ qts
40 ppm	10 ¼ fl oz	1 ½ qts	3 ¼ qts	1 ½ gals	2 gals	9 ½ qts
50 ppm	12 ¾ fl oz	2 qts	4 qts	1 ½ gals	2 ½ gals	3 gal
Decrease in PPM						

Whenever you attempt to lower your pool alkalinity, using muriatic acid, you should remember to add it at the deep end of your pool in pint size shots. Afterwards you should brush your pool/spa bottom to ensure that the acid does not settle in one area. The reason for this procedure is due to the fact that acid is heavier than water and will cause etching of pool surfaces.

Special Note: You should never mix two pool or spa chemical together because the potential for creating a chemical bomb is enormous.

If you have questions you can call us during normal business hours. 405-214-7665
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