First 28 Days Start-Up Checklist for New Pool Interior Surfaces & Resurfacing

New concrete swimming pool surfaces can take up to 4 weeks to cure completely. During this time we recommend only the use of chlorine to sanitise the water and hydrochloric acid to maintain correct pH levels. Following a basic start-up guide will ensure you are not congesting the pool water with unnecessary chemicals. After this time (4 weeks), and if all water chemistry levels are correct and under control, you may then start to add additional chemicals as required. Please note if liaising with your local pool shop regarding chemicals, it is vital to advise that the pool has just been resurfaced, this will ensure the correct advice is given regarding chemical addition.

DAY 1

1. Fill the pool all the way to the top in one continuous fill (do not stop).
2. Start the filter system once full and run it continuously for 3 days.
3. Add sequestering agent such as Scale & Stain Eliminator or similar as directed by the manufacturer. It is recommended that a quality sequestering agent be used in the initial start-up in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and then a recommended maintenance dosage as per the sequestering agent's manufacturer instructions.

DAY 2

1. Brush the pool walls and floor twice daily.
2. Test pH → Adjust to between 7.2–7.6.
3. Test Total Alkalinity (TA) → Adjust to between 80–120 ppm.
4. Do not add chlorine.
5. Calcium Hardness → Maintain calcium hardness at a minimum of 125 ppm for the first 3 days, then adjust to 200-250ppm thereafter.
6. Always dissolve chemicals in water prior to dispersing throughout the pool water.
7. Do not add salt until at least the first 4-6 weeks (only once plaster/render has fully cured).

DAY 3

1. Brush the pool walls and floor twice daily.
2. Test pH and adjust if needed (7.2–7.6).
3. Test TA and adjust if needed (80–120 ppm).
4. Add and adjust free chlorine to reach 1-3 ppm.
5. Calcium Hardness → Maintain calcium hardness at a minimum of 125 ppm for the first 3 day then adjust to 200-250ppm thereafter.
6. Always dissolve chemicals in water prior to dispersing throughout the pool water.

DAY 4

1. Brush the pool walls and floor twice daily.
2. Test pH and adjust if needed (7.2–7.6).
3. Test TA and adjust if needed (80–120 ppm).
4. Add chlorine to reach 1-3 ppm free chlorine.
5. Calcium Hardness → Adjust to 125 ppm minimum for the first 3 days then adjust to 200-250ppm thereafter (day 5).
6. Always dissolve chemicals in water prior to dispersing throughout the pool water.
7. Adjust circulating pump to normal operating hours of recommended 8-10 hour per day.

DAYS 5–7

1. Checks: Day 5 & Day 7
    - pH → 7.2–7.6
    - TA → 80–120 ppm
    - Chlorine → 1-3 ppm free chlorine
    - Calcium Hardness → 200-250ppm.
2. Adjust as required.
3. Brush walls and floor daily.
4. Always dissolve chemicals in water prior to dispersing throughout the pool water.

DAYS 8-14

1. Checks: Twice weekly
    - pH → 7.2–7.6
    - TA → 80–120 ppm
    - Chlorine → 1-3 ppm free chlorine
    - Calcium Hardness → 200-250ppm.
2. Adjust as required.
3. Brush walls and floor daily.
4. Vacuum pool. Do not use a wheeled vacuum for the first 14 days or an automatic mechanical cleaner for the first 28 days. These may leave wheel marks or tracks in the new plaster.
5. Always dissolve chemicals in water prior to dispersing throughout the pool water.

DAYS 15-21

1. Checks: Weekly
    - pH → 7.2–7.6
    - TA → 80–120 ppm
    - Chlorine → 1-3 ppm free chlorine
    - Calcium Hardness → 200-250ppm.
2. Adjust as required.
3. Brush walls and floor weekly.
4. Vacuum pool. Do not use an automatic mechanical cleaner for the first 28 days. These may leave wheel marks or tracks in the new plaster.
5. Always dissolve chemicals in water prior to dispersing throughout the pool water.

DAYS 22-28

1. Checks: Weekly
    - pH → 7.2–7.6
    - TA → 80–120 ppm
    - Chlorine → 1-3 ppm free chlorine
    - Calcium Hardness → 200-250ppm.
2. Adjust as required.
3. Brush walls and floor weekly.
4. Vacuum pool. Do not use an automatic mechanical cleaner for the first 28 days. These may leave wheel marks or tracks in the new plaster.
5. Always dissolve chemicals in water prior to dispersing throughout the pool water.

BEYOND 28 DAYS: TARGET CHEMISTRY LEVELS

- Free Chlorine: 1–3 ppm (weekly if dosing system is not installed)
- pH: 7.2–7.6 (weekly if dosing system is not installed)
- Total Alkalinity: 80–120 ppm (monthly or fortnightly if dosing system is not installed)
- Calcium Hardness: 200–250 ppm (monthly)
- Add sequestering agent such as Scale & Stain Eliminator or similar as directed by manufacturer. It is recommended that a quality sequestering agent be applied every 6 months as a recommended maintenance dosage as per the sequestering agent's manufacturer instructions.
- Notes: All other chemicals to be monitored and adjusted (if applicable). The pool water must be tested regularly and documented, we recommended fortnightly testing by a reputable company using a computerised system or monthly if an auto dosing system is installed. Monitoring the pool water regularly will not only affect the new finish but will keep it looking new. Improper water chemistry will void the limited warranty.

LONG-TERM GOAL

- Keep Langelier Saturation Index (LSI) slightly positive (+0.1 to +0.3) — this means water is balanced, not aggressive, not scaling.
- This prevents etching or scale, giving the plaster a chance to harden and last its full lifespan.

Why It Matters

- Low pH / Low TA (too acidic): Can eat away at plaster, causing rough spots and colour fading.
- High pH / High Calcium: Can leave white scale or blotches on the new finish.
- Balanced water: Lets the plaster cure evenly, keeping it strong, smooth, and long-lasting.

For the first 28 days, keeping water in balance and brushing the pool interior regularly is the key to a perfect finish. After the first 28 days regular testing and adjusting of the pH, alkalinity, chlorine and calcium will assist in preventing problems occurring and ensure your pool surface looks beautiful for years.

WATER CHEMICAL BALANCING FOR PEBBLE POOL INTERIORS

- pH 7.2 - 7.6 (Weekly Testing)
- Total Alkalinity 80 - 120 ppm (Monthly Testing)
- Calcium Hardness 200 – 250 ppm (Monthly Testing)

pH should be maintained within the range of no less than 7.2 - 7.6. This is important because the lower the pH value means there are higher acidic levels in the water. It is also best to avoid exceeding this limit as it may result in stains going unnoticed & untreated. Total alkalinity (TA levels) should be adjusted closer to 110 ppm and maintained within the range 80 – 120 ppm. Calcium Hardness should ideally be kept between 200 – 250 ppm, this can be maintained by adding a small amount of calcium chloride regularly if the level drops below 200 ppm. However, it is crucial to ensure it is fully dissolved and spread consistently around the pool if added. If the calcium hardness level exceeds 250 ppm, it can be reduced by pumping out some water and adding fresh tap water.

Calcium is the most complex and difficult of all the pool stain issues to treat because calcium can form in a pool for a variety of reasons. White calcium (or scale) can form because pool owners often have difficulty keeping their pH in balance – particularly when their pool is new. High pH is a major reason for calcium formation and growth. Once a thin layer of calcium has formed, it continues to grow because it attracts more calcium to it over time. Eventually, the calcium will become bigger and sometimes harder than the concrete pool surface. If you have calcium spots or scale, we strongly recommend you do something about it as soon as possible by visiting your local pool shop. Calcium that is left untreated can lift, crack, and break up your cement pool surface over time causing serious and costly damage to your pool.

Disclaimer: The chemical balancing instructions are the recommended levels by the manufacturer of the Pool Render product. Our recommended pool care guide has been generated in accordance with Australian Standard 3633 (1989) – “Private Swimming Pools – Water Quality”. **Always consult with a pool maintenance professional regarding long-term water balance requirements based on local conditions.** Never empty your swimming pool without first contacting your local pool builder or local pool shop for advice. We recommend having your pool water tested weekly to ensure appropriate chemical levels are maintained. Failing to adhere to the above instructions may void your warranty.

This product can contain traces of organic matter that may appear visible on the final trowelled surface. Acid or water exposure will visibly remove in the final acid washing and water washing process.