

Quartzon Care Guide

Get your pool off to a great start

TO THE POOL
OWNER.

QUARTZON[®]

BRILLIANT POOL COLOURS

Suggested Levels for Quartzon Swimming Pools

Test Item	Ideal Range
pH	7.2 – 7.6 (ideal 7.4)
Total Alkalinity (TA)	100 – 200ppm (ideal 120)
Calcium Hardness (CH)	200 – 300ppm (ideal 250)

*Make your life easier with Cal-Stop. See inside back cover for more details.
Please ensure pool water chemistry levels are within Australian Standards.*

Thank you for choosing to surface your pool with Quartzon

Your new pool surface is extremely durable and has been designed to retain its vibrant colour for many years. To prolong Quartzon's life, it is important to maintain your water balance. This booklet has been designed to give you a step-by-step guide on how to maintain your Quartzon surface. It is important that you read the information and follow the instructions – particularly during the first four weeks of the life of your surface as it cures.

Caring for your pool

Your pool's water will either be corrosive or scale forming if it is not kept in balance. The pH, Total Alkalinity and Calcium Hardness levels that are suggested opposite will help you maintain correct water balance. Regular trips to the local pool shop are the best insurance to safeguard your pool's surface and the safety of swimmers.

If you would like further information on water balance River Sands produces a Water Balance Indicator that we would be happy to mail to you.

Please contact your pool service professional in regard to balancing your pool water.

Glossary of Terms

To maintain healthy water, three factors need to be in balance – pH, Total Alkalinity and Calcium Hardness. To be able to maintain these levels it is important to have an understanding of each.

pH – is the measure of the acidity and alkalinity levels in the pool water. Adding too much acid causes the pH to drop and become acidic. Acidic pool water (pH less than 7) is corrosive, and can damage pool surfaces and metal fixtures and also cause stinging eyes and skin irritations. Water with a high pH (above 7.8) can cause scale to form on pool surfaces and create cloudy water, dry skin and eye discomfort.

Total Alkalinity (TA) – measures the total dissolved alkaline compounds in the pool water. The TA measures the resistance of the pool water to changes in pH. For example, if the Total Alkalinity is low then the addition of acid can lower the pH sharply and damage the pool surface and equipment. The higher the TA, the less pH fluctuates.

Calcium Hardness – is the measure of dissolved calcium compounds in the water. If there is low calcium in the water then the water will try to take it from the surface and equipment, which will cause erosion. A high calcium level can cause cloudy water or scale formation.

Tips for Adding Chemicals

- Check sanitiser levels and adjust prior to balancing pH and adding acid. E.g. add chlorine at night and acid in the morning.
- Always dilute or dissolve chemicals. Add chemicals to water not water to chemicals.
- Spread the diluted chemicals evenly over the entire surface of the pool while the pump and filter are operating to distribute the chemicals evenly. Leave the filter running for 30 minutes afterwards.
- Never mix chemicals and allow sufficient time between adding different chemicals as per manufacturer's instructions.
- The more you use your pool, the more regularly you need to check your water balance, and adjust accordingly.

Cheap chemicals can really cost you

Always use reputable brand-name pool chemicals, as cheaper products often contain impurities (such as metals), which can stain the pool surface and damage pool equipment. Before using any chemical products, read the container label carefully and always follow the manufacturer's guidelines. Particular care is needed when using copper based algaecides as these can stain a pool's surface.

Regular weekly water tests after the four-week start-up period will ensure your surface will perform at its best and provide a healthy swimming environment for you and your family to enjoy for many years to come.

For further advice please take this booklet and a water sample to a pool shop whose staff are experienced in the maintenance and care of Quartzon pool interiors.

Correct start-ups are important

Your pool is most vulnerable to calcium build-up during the start-up period. 'Cal-Stop' needs to be added as soon as possible after the pool has been filled to help prevent this from happening. Cal-Stop is an additive that has been specially designed to keep dissolved minerals, such as calcium, in their liquid form and prevent them from solidifying and 'scaling out' on the surface. Please ensure this product has been added in addition to the chemicals required to balance your pool.

Some waters used to fill pools have high metal levels. If this is present in your area a metal sequestering agent may be added as the pool is filling to avoid marking the surface.

For an average size pool, it is recommended that five litres of Cal-Stop be added to your pool every six months. This product can be purchased from your pool shop or by phoning Quartzon. Adding Cal-Stop will help to ensure that calcium scale doesn't become a problem for your pool.

Note: Cal-Stop does not remove calcium scale, it is a preventative.

It is preferable not to add salt in the first four weeks. Stabilised chlorine is the suggested sanitiser for the pool water whilst the Quartzon is in its early stages of curing. When adding salt, ensure it is spread evenly over the whole pool, then brush until it completely dissolves. Do not allow salt to sit in one place, as it may cause stains.

First 4 Weeks: Test pH, Total Alkalinity (TA) and Calcium Hardness Levels

Test your water and balance to the recommended levels as indicated in the front inside cover as soon as your pool is filled. We suggest you test the **pH** every day for the first week, every second day for week two, then every third or fourth day for weeks 3 and 4. Your pH will be inclined to rise rapidly over the first month, so lower it by adding hydrochloric acid as required. When adding acid, it is best not to add more than half a litre at a time. If you need to add more than half a litre, add it in equal amounts, one hour apart. Ensure that the acid is well diluted in water before adding to your pool, then spread the diluted mixture evenly over the entire pool. The reason for this is that acid is far heavier than water and will sink to the bottom of your pool and may have a detrimental effect on the surface.

Test **TA** weekly and adjust as necessary. If **TA** is lower than 100 ppm (parts per million), increase within recommended levels by adding total alkalinity increaser (refer to pool shop for detailed information).

Calcium Hardness: Your calcium hardness will increase over the first few weeks as the cement in your concrete shell, and in the Quartzon cures. With that in mind, we recommend that you **DO NOT** add calcium for the first 4 weeks. At the beginning of week 5, test your calcium hardness. If lower than 200 ppm, increase to within recommended levels by adding calcium hardness increaser.

Brush the walls and floor of your pool with a nylon pool brush to remove chemical and mineral residues from the surface daily. Allow the residue to settle then manually vacuum excess residue and backwash the filter

(Please record your start-up details in this table)

Day	Date	pH Level	Hydrochloric Acid added (mls)	Total Alkalinity (ppm)	Calcium Hardness (ppm)
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
9					
11					
14					
17					
21					
25					
28					

Week 5 Onwards: Test pH, Total Alkalinity and Calcium Hardness Levels

Test pH level and total alkalinity weekly and balance to the levels recommended on the inside front cover. Add hydrochloric acid and total alkalinity increaser as required.

Test calcium hardness *monthly* and balance to the levels recommended on the inside front cover.

Clean the walls and floor of your pool with a nylon pool brush *regularly* to remove chemical and mineral residues from the surface. Allow the residue to settle then manually vacuum excess residue to waste. Do this as long as residue continues to appear on the walls and floor.

If salt has not been already added, add and start the salt-water chlorinator in *week 5*. Spread the salt evenly around the pool (keep moving the salt in the water until it is fully dissolved).

(Please record your start-up details in this table)

Week	Date	pH Level	Hydrochloric Acid added (mls)	Total Alkalinity (ppm)	Calcium Hardness (ppm)
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					

Table B – Troubleshooting Guide

Problem	Presentation	Possible Cause	Possible Solution
Calcium scale or sharp surface	1. Deposit on surface, white, brown, grey or green discolouration, blotchy. 2. Sharp crystals	1. Poor water chemistry (i.e. water out of balance). 2. High Calcium Hardness >300 ppm	Calcium scale can be easily fixed by pool service professionals
Rust marks/metal stains	Small brown/black/yellow marks.	1. Rust from hair clips/other metal items. 2. No metal sequestering agent added.	1. Brush with nylon brush. 2. Use citric acid following manufacturers instructions
Leaf stains	Similar to rust marks or green/yellow/black marks	Decaying leaves left on surface.	1. Scrub with stain eraser block and/or bleach with stabilised granular chlorine . 2. Superchlorinate.
Salt stains	Light brown marks/spots running in channels to deep end.	Undissolved salt sitting on surface.	Add citric acid following manufacturers instructions, then brush and rebalance pool.
Spots/Lines	Raised spots/lines on surface. Usually white but can be brown or grey.	A calcium build-up that pushes through the surface.	Sand back the calcium using wet-and-dry sandpaper or a rubbing stone



Please complete Cal-Stop reminder/warranty card and post to:

Quartzon

PO Box 4127

Loganholme DC Qld 4129

Or fax to: (07) 3287 6445

Cal-Stop Reminder / Warranty Card

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr First Name: _____ Last Name _____

Pool Address: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Post Code: _____

Postal Address: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Post Code: _____

Email Address: _____ Installation date: _____

Name of Pool Builder _____

Name of Interior Applicator (if known): _____

Would you like to receive a 6 monthly reminder to add Cal-Stop to your Pool Yes No

Quartzon Colour White Beach Ice Blue Sky Bay Golden Star Santorini

Pacific Star Royal Blue Calypso Cosimo Unsure

Installation Type New Pool Renovation

How did you learn about Quartzon: Magazine Pool Show Pool Builder Pool Shop

Family/Friends SPASA Internet Other

CAL-STOP

Make life easier for yourself and insist on having CAL-STOP in your pool.

Calcium scale occurs when pool water goes out of balance. This causes the calcium in the water to deposit on the surface and the result is a blotchy looking pool interior or sharp crystals over the pool's surface.

*We understand that mistakes can happen
and that's why we're telling you about CAL-STOP.*

CAL-STOP inhibits the calcium from depositing on the surface even at moderately high pH levels. CAL-STOP lasts for up to 6 months, so all you have to do is pour a bottle of CAL-STOP in the pool water twice a year to keep your quartzon surface looking and feeling its best.

Want to know more? Contact us for more information and names of local stockists.

Need a 6-monthly Cal-Stop reminder? No problems... just tick 'Yes' to the Cal-Stop reminder question on the warranty card or alternatively, call, fax or email your request through to us.

(Contact details located on the back of this guide.)



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