

# The Deep End

JUL 2016

## Shool is Out-The Fun is On!!



**GREEN** products are available at Pool Patrol.

Do your part to save the environment.

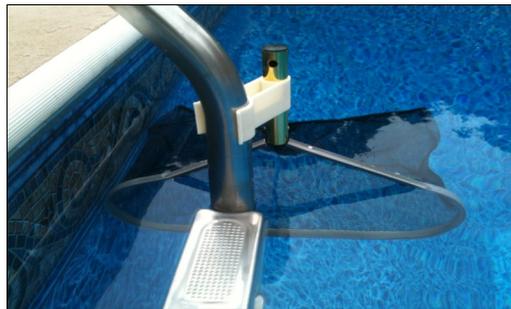
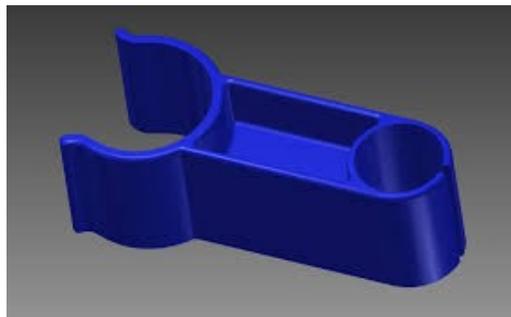
You get to save money at the same time!

\*\*\*Sign up for our digital newsletter for more info through our hyperlinks\*\*\*

[Speaking of saving \\$\\$\\$, Check our ECayOnline Site for weekly specials!](#)

The new **LEAF BONE** is a patented, simple device to help keep your pool clean. Simply attach to ladder or rail and snap in a net. Now your pool will skim itself in between cleanings.

Only \$11.95! In stock now!



Kids big and small will love the new **Seaside Riders** available exclusively at Pool Patrol.

Lilly the Frog, Sandy the Crab, Nails the Shark, Cruz the Stingray along with Happy and Beach Ball will bring smiles to everyone's faces. Stop in today and check them out!



## Summer Soak-A-Thon Is Back and Bigger and Better!



Our annual Summer Soak-A-Thon is back for 2016. This year we decided to go a little bigger and a little better.

Get your hydrotherapy tub this Summer and get:

- FREE delivery and installation= \$500
- FREE cover lifter= \$300
- FREE Color-matched Steps= \$225
- Total FREE Accessories= \$1025**



## Question Line

**Q** : Someone told me that pH is more important than the chlorine level in my pool. What do they mean by that?

**A** : Great question. Chlorine is obviously important because it sanitizes the water. But if your chlorine is low, the pool will just turn green; if your pH gets too low, it will begin to eat up your pump parts, filter parts, the lights, ladders, and any other metal part that it touches. Low pH means the

water is more acidic than it should be.

If your pH gets too high, it will become more basic, or "scaling", and begins to leave deposits everywhere: the plaster surface, pump and filter parts, and inside your heater blocking off the flow of water. High pH weakens chlorine.

The strength of your chlorine will be cut to only 25% as your pH makes it to 8.0. That may not seem all that high compared to 7.6, but pH works on a logarithmic scale so it is exponentially higher. Your reading of 3.0 ppm will only really be 0.75 ppm. This is below the minimum acceptable level to keep your pool water safe.

**HAPPY SWIMMING!**

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## Free Chlorine VS. Total Chlorine

Who knew that when you decided to get a swimming pool for the family you were also choosing to become a part-time chemist? At least that's what it feels like when the weekend rolls around and you have to test and rebalance the water chemistry for the new family pool.

The good news is that you have a 30-year expert right around the corner if you feel like you're in over your head. That's us here at Pool Patrol.

We have a few customers who like to clean the pool themselves and just have us come once a week to test and adjust the water chemistry. But you are the hands-on type and want to learn how to do it all; good for you. So let's take a look at the differences in the types of chlorine.

**FREE CHLORINE:** This is the good type of chlorine in your pool. This is the chlorine that is free and available to sanitize any *schmutz* that it may encounter in your pool water. Free chlorine is like the white blood cells in our body, going around looking for germs to fight off. Its job is to protect us from the bad things that

get into most any swimming pool. Ideally, we are looking for between 1.0 to 5.0 ppm level of free chlorine. Once free chlorine is able to fulfill its destiny and finds some invader to sanitize, it attaches to said culprit and becomes a chloramine. Chloramines are more



commonly referred to as:

**COMBINED CHLORINE:** As I mentioned above, once a chlorine molecule combines with a contaminant, such as nitrogen or ammonia, it becomes a chloramine. Chloramines have very reduced sanitizing ability compared to free chlorine. If you have too many chloramines in the

water, that's when you start to notice that strong, unpleasant chlorine smell.

While people commonly think there is too much chlorine in the water, at this point you actually need MORE chlorine: shock the pool to oxidize the chloramines and re-establish your free chlorine levels. You generally don't want more than 0.2 ppm of combined chlorine.

**TOTAL CHLORINE:** This is the sum of both free chlorine and combined chlorine.  $FC+CC=TC$ . If your test kit tests for Total Chlorine instead of Combined Chlorine, then it is:  $TC-FC=CC$ .

If your Free Chlorine and Total Chlorine are the same number, then that means you don't have any Combined Chlorine in your pool water. HOORAY! To make sure your pool is sanitized, your Free Chlorine should remain higher than your Combined Chlorine.

Just remember to test your water at least once a week to stay on top of things. It's much easier to keep a pool clear than it is to bring it back from being a green pool.