

Pool Care Without the Pool Guy: Saltwater Pool Routine

A practical first-month handoff checklist for salt chlorine generator pools.

PDF Purpose

A concise homeowner reference for a saltwater pool. It should make clear that a saltwater pool is still a chlorine-sanitized pool for practical homeowner care, but the chlorine is generated by equipment that also needs attention.

Page 1: Weekly Saltwater Pool Routine

Use this as a practical routine tracker for a pool with a salt chlorine generator. Follow your pool equipment manuals, generator/controller instructions, test-kit directions, product labels, safety data sheets, and qualified pool guidance. This checklist is not chemical dosing advice.

Equipment Needed

- Reliable pool-water testing kit or test strips appropriate for sanitizer, pH, salt, and other readings your pool professional, salt-system manual, or test-kit directions require.
- Pool log, notebook, or phone note for recording readings, generator settings, alerts, filter cleanings, weather, and recurring problems.
- Pool net or skimmer net.
- Pool brush appropriate for your pool surface.
- Telescoping pole.
- Manual vacuum, robotic cleaner, or other cleaning system already approved for your pool.
- Clean measuring tools used only for pool chemicals if product labels require measuring.
- Product-required PPE such as gloves and eye protection.
- Original labeled pool chemicals and salt-system supplies already used for your pool, stored dry and safely.
- Salt chlorine generator manual, controller instructions, cell-cleaning guidance, product labels, safety data sheets, and local disposal guidance for old or mystery chemicals.

The Chemistry Rhythm

- Test before changing settings or adding anything.
- Record the result.
- Compare the result with the test-kit directions, product labels, and salt-system manual.
- Check whether the generator is actually operating as expected.
- Make one deliberate adjustment at a time if an adjustment is needed.
- Let the pool circulate according to equipment and product guidance.

- Re-test or re-check according to the directions.
- Do not assume saltwater means chemical-free.

Water And Safety

- Test sanitizer.
- Test pH.
- Record results.
- Check salt-system indicators or alerts according to the manufacturer manual.
- Check salt, stabilizer, alkalinity, calcium hardness, or other readings only as directed by your test kit, pool professional, or equipment/product guidance.
- Read labels before handling any pool chemical.
- Wear product-required PPE.
- Never mix pool chemicals together.
- Keep chemicals away from children and pets.

Physical Cleaning

- Skim surface debris.
- Brush steps, benches, shelves, corners, and waterline areas.
- Empty skimmer baskets.
- Empty pump basket safely according to equipment guidance.
- Empty robotic cleaner or skimmer baskets.
- Check water level.

Equipment Awareness

- Confirm the salt chlorine generator/controller is on and behaving normally.
- Watch for warning lights, flow warnings, or output changes.
- Check return flow.
- Check filter pressure or indicator against the clean baseline.
- Look for leaks, air bubbles, cloudy water, scale, or unusual equipment sounds.
- Record filter cleaning/backwash if completed.
- Inspect or clean the generator cell only according to manufacturer guidance.

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Page 2: First 30 Days After Canceling Pool Service

Week 1: Baseline

- Photograph equipment pad, valves, pump basket, filter, cleaner setup, salt controller, generator cell location, and recurring problem areas.
- Identify filter type.
- Identify cleaner type.
- Identify the salt-system make/model from equipment labels or manuals.
- Test water yourself.
- Compare results with professional/store/reference testing if available.
- Write down normal pump schedule and generator setting.

Week 2: Take Over The Chores

- Skim.
- Brush.
- Empty baskets.
- Start a simple pool log.
- Note where debris collects first.
- Note any generator alerts or confusing settings.
- Practice the test-write-interpret-adjust rhythm without rushing.

Week 3: Review The System

- Inspect filter maintenance needs.
- Review cleaner performance.
- Watch for recurring cloudy water, algae, dust, scale, or surface debris.
- Confirm whether the generator cell requires inspection or cleaning according to the manual.
- Decide whether any task needs professional instruction.

Week 4: Decide The New Service Model

- Full DIY routine is realistic.
- Partial DIY plus occasional professional support is realistic.
- Full service still makes sense.
- Specific professional help is needed before canceling service.

Call-A-Pro Triggers

- You cannot keep sanitizer and pH in range.
- The generator has alerts you do not understand.
- The cell needs service and you do not know the safe procedure.
- Water is cloudy, green, unsafe-looking, or repeatedly drifting.
- Algae keeps returning.
- You suspect a leak.
- Pump loses prime.
- Equipment makes new noises.
- Electrical equipment, timers, automation, or wiring are involved.
- Filter pressure or flow changes and you do not know why.
- You are unsure how to open, close, prime, or restart equipment safely.
- Stains, scale, rust, or surface damage need diagnosis.
- Chemical labels are unclear or conflict with advice you received.
- A contamination event occurs.

Footer Disclaimer

This checklist is general homeowner education. Follow product labels, safety data sheets, test-kit instructions, equipment manuals, salt-system manuals, and qualified pool professional guidance. Do not use this checklist as chemical dosing, generator-repair, electrical, equipment-repair, leak-diagnosis, or surface-treatment advice.