PoolCrete Start-Up Guide

November 2017

Cemcrete believes, to the best of its knowledge, that the information contained herein is true and accurate at the date of issuance and is subject to change without prior notice. For further clarification of these instructions, contact Cemcrete.

An important step-by-step guide to the chemical treatment of new **PoolCrete** pools.

TEST THE SOURCE WATER

Before the pool is plastered, a sample of the tap water should be taken to a pool shop who will test it. (This is particularly important if borehole water is used)

- pH (not to be below 7.4)
- The presence of iron or copper in the solution. If metals are present, add metal remover. (See day 3 step 4 below). It is advisable to add a metal remover even if no metals are found to be present.
- Total alkalinity. The ideal is 100 ppm. Below this, alkalinity increaser (Sodium Bicarbonate) should be added. (See day 3 step 5 below). Correct Total alkalinity level helps stabilise pH and Low alkalinity will cause volatility with your pH level.
- Calcium hardness. The ideal is 250 ppm for start-up. Below this, calcium chloride should be added (See day 3 step 3 below).

Your nearest pool shop will recommend the appropriate products to remedy the quality of the water, but you will need to provide the correct volume of the pool for accurate prescriptions. (Your contractor can a provide volume, but you may want to take a meter reading if you are filling from one source with a water meter, just to verify and have an accurate number in future.) The water quality varies from area to area within the same town/city and rarely meets the requirements needed for a chemically well balanced pool.

APPLICATION AND FILLING THE POOL

Day 1

1. Prime the pool as per **PoolCrete** datasheet

Day 2

2. Plaster pool as per **PoolCrete** datasheet

Day 3

3. Commence filling the pool from the deep end. We recommend the use of a deflector on the end of the hosepipe to prevent damage to the surface. Fill the pool in one go to avoid a water-ring from forming. Damp down the exposed **PoolCrete** every hour to prevent premature drying. Protect the plaster from staining (particularly from mud splashes) until the pool is filled. Add the required calcium chloride in flake form (dissolved in a bucket of water – large quantities should be split and added in 2 or 3 doses an hour apart as the pool fills and starting when the water is ± 300mm deep).
4. Add metal remover while filling.
5. Once the pool is filled,
   5.1. Add the required alkalinity increaser (dissolved in a bucket of water – large quantities should be split and added in 2 or 3 doses an hour apart) and check again for metals, total alkalinity and calcium hardness.
6. Start filter. Do not introduce an automatic cleaner to the pool for 3 weeks. During this period use the pool brush only to remove dust and debris. Brush the **PoolCrete** surface with a soft pool brush and backwash at least once a day.
7. Ensure that the pH remains above 7.6 but not more than 7.8. This will aid the curing and hardening process of the **PoolCrete**. Do not use any acid for the first 3 weeks.
8. Dose only with small quantities of unstabilised granular dry chlorine, or unstabilised liquid chlorine during this period.

Day 22

9. After 3 weeks check the pH and add only 25ml hydrochloric acid per 10 000L of pool water (e.g.100ml per 40 000L pool) dissolved in a plastic bucket of the pool water in any single 6 hour period with the filter running. Repeat the dose until the pH reads between 7.4 and 7.6. It could take over a week before the pH is corrected. Never use sulphuric acid in the pool.
10. Follow the chlorine manufacturer's instructions for dosing from now on.
11. Stabilise the water if desired. Dissolve the stabiliser granules in bucket of water to form a slurry before slowly adding to the weir with the pump running. Do not add directly to pool and do not backwash for 48 hours.
12. If a salt water chlorinator is installed, add salt to the water and switch on the chlorinator. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions.
13. The automatic pool cleaner can now be introduced to the pool.

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Important information

Always follow the chemical manufacturers' instructions when adding chemicals to the pool. Chemicals should be added in a controlled way as it is not advisable to overdose with any chemical hoping that the effect will last two weeks rather than one.
Overdosing can damage the **PoolCrete** surface. Overdosing with acid causes etching of the **PoolCrete** surface and destroys total alkalinity. Always dilute acid before dosing, and add while the pump is running to ensure an even distribution.
Overdosing with calcium hypochlorite (dry granular chlorine) causes scale build-up and high pH.
Overdosing with trichloroisocyanuric acid (stabilised chlorine) causes a drop in pH and etching of the **PoolCrete** surface as it neutralises itself by leeching the calcium from the **PoolCrete**. Keep chlorine pills or granules well away from the immediate plaster surface of the pool. Also keep out of direct jet of aimflow and away from or near the weir.
The use of a gas chlorinator is not recommend. Due to the chemical reactions that take place where the gas is introduced to the water, HCl is formed which causes etching of the **PoolCrete** surface and results in serious staining.
We recommend the use of Sodium dichloroisocyanurate (pH neutral chlorine) as the best way to chlorinate with the least risk of radical pH changes.

Correct water balance is critical to ensure the proper performance of the pool products, protect your investment and obtain maximum enjoyment from your pool.