



POOL CARE GUIDE



WHAT MAKES BIOGUARD® UNIQUE? OUR DEALERS.



THE RIGHT ADVICE

BioGuard dealers receive our unique H₂Know pool and spa training on the latest tools and methods, making these certified professionals the undisputed water care experts in your local community.



THE RIGHT PRODUCTS

Tested and proven effective, BioGuard products are known for delivering reliable results and making pool care less complex. BioGuard dealers carry an extensive line of pool solutions different pool systems to match your unique needs.



THE RIGHT SOLUTIONS

BioGuard experts use our exclusive ALEX® software for in-depth water analysis, so they can recommend the right time-saving solutions and best remedies for any pool challenge you might have.

THE SYSTEM ADVANTAGE

Pool care should be easy. Don't know where to start? Well we've got you covered. Follow one of our BioGuard systems and you'll be enjoying your pool instead of maintaining it. Answer the questions below to see what system works best for you.

TYPICAL USAGE

Do you use your pool about once a week or less?



HEAVY USAGE

Do you use your pool 3-7 times a week or more?



SALT POOLS

Does your pool use a saline (salt) chlorinator?



NON-CHLORINE POOLS

Do you prefer not to use chlorine?



TYPICAL USAGE

THE ONCE-A-WEEK 3-STEP PROGRAM

From start to finish, the Once-A-Week 3-Step program takes just minutes of your time, only once-a-week!

BioGuard's Once-A-Week 3-Step Program is ideal for:

- Above-ground and in-ground pools
- Pump circulation 10 to 24 hours per day*
- Proper water flow through skimmers, with adequate skimmer basket area
- Any surface type
- Pools that use skimmer chlorination

What is SILKGUARD®?

SilkGuard® is a BioGuard exclusive technology that

- Makes water soft and smooth
- Protects equipment (prevents corrosion)
- Prevents scale formation

What makes it SMART?

Our SmartGuard® technology allows our sanitizer to last twice as long when compared to other skimmer applications.



*If pump circulation is more than 12 hours per day, Smart SilkGuard Sticks may need to be applied more often than once per week

Sanitize to clean the water

Keep pool water sanitized with Smart SilkGuard® Sticks containing SilkGuard® Technology.

STEP
1

- *Extra long-lasting chlorine sanitizer that dissolves slowly and all but stops dissolving when pump is off*
- *Kills and prevents bacteria, while maintaining proper chlorine levels*
- *Easy to apply to skimmer, no special feeder required*
- *Apply once a week*

Shock to remove contaminants

Keep pool water clear with Smart Shock®.

STEP
2

- *Keeps water sparkling clear*
- *Multi-functional product shocks, oxidizes, buffers and clarifies*
- *Kills bacteria*
- *Unique blue algae-fighting crystals*
- *No need to mix or pre-dissolve*
- *Apply once a week*

Algae killing and prevention

Prevent algae before it starts with Back-Up® 2.

STEP
3

- *Highly effective formula prevents wide variety of algae growth*
- *Stable in sunlight and will not evaporate*
- *Activity increases as water temperature rises (and you need protection the most)*
- *Will not affect pH levels*
- *No need to mix or pre-dissolve*
- *Non-staining*
- *Apply once a week*

HEAVY USAGE

3-STEP PROGRAM

We think pool care should be easy and with our 3-Step program it is just that. Keep your pool sparkling clear by following three easy steps.

BioGuard's 3-Step Care System is ideal for:

- Consistently heavy pool usage
- Pools of any size or surface type
- Pools that use chlorinators or skimmers with proper water flow
- Pump circulation 10 to 24 hours per day

What is SILKGUARD®?

SilkGuard® is a BioGuard exclusive technology that

- Makes water soft and smooth
- Protects equipment (prevents corrosion)
- Prevents scale formation



Sanitize to clean the water

BioGuard's SilkGuard Tabs® and SilkGuard Sticks® enhanced with SilkGuard® Technology keep pool water sanitized and velvety smooth. They are available in 3" tabs, 1" tabs and sticks.

STEP
1

SilkGuard Tabs and SilkGuard Sticks:

- Kill bacteria
- Control algae
- Slow-dissolving sanitizers
- Contain SunShield® Technology so that chlorine is protected from sunlight for long-lasting sanitization of pool water

Shock to remove contaminants

Keep pool water clear with Smart Shock®.

STEP
2

- Kills bacteria
- Kills algae; contains blue algae-fighting crystals
- Clarifies the water using a filter enhancer
- Buffers pH to provide brilliantly clear water with no cloudy residue and without increasing pH
- No need to pre-dissolve

Algae killing and prevention

Prevent algae before it starts with Back-Up® 2.

STEP
3

- Highly effective algae preventative
- Keeps water clear and free of visible algae
- Activity increases as water temperature rises (and you need protection the most)
- Will not evaporate
- No need to pre-dissolve
- Non-staining

SALT POOLS

Saltwater pools are favored for their simpler and gentler approach to pool care, but they do have some unique needs when compared to traditional chlorine pools. BioGuard offers two unique pool care programs that enhance the saltwater experience.



SALT POOLS

A SIMPLE PROGRAM THAT DELIVERS GREAT RESULTS THE MINERAL SPRINGS® PROGRAM

The Mineral Springs system utilizes easy-to-apply minerals and a saline (salt) chlorinator to produce a chlorine sanitizer. It takes only five minutes a week to maintain — in fact, once you've begun the system, you only have to add the Renewal® product once a week. That's it!

BioGuard's Mineral Springs Program is ideal for:

- Pools equipped with any saline (salt) chlorinator
- Frequent travelers or vacation-takers
- Those looking for the luxuries of a mineral pool
- Pools of any size or surface

2 EASY STEPS!

STEP 1

Beginnings®

A proprietary blend of minerals added to pool water at start-up



STEP 2

Renewal®

Replenish mineral levels and adjust pH, keeping water soft and clear



ACCESSORY

Stain and Scale

Protects your pool and equipment from scale formation



SALT POOLS

DESIGNED TO MEET THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF SALTWATER POOLS THE SALTSCAPES® SALTWATER POOL CARE SYSTEM

SaltScapes Saltwater Pool Care System was designed specifically for saltwater pools and provides everything you need to keep your saltwater sparkling and protect your equipment and pool surfaces. It adds the basic prevention and remedy solutions that saline (salt) chlorinators require with an eye to keeping maintenance requirements to a minimum.

BioGuard SaltScapes Saltwater Pool Care System is ideal for:

- *Those looking for “salt-specific” products intended for use in saltwater pools only*
- *Easy maintenance and treatment of salt pool needs*
- *Pools equipped with any saline (salt) generator and pools of any size or surface*

SaltScapes® Chlorine-Free Shock Oxidizer

- *Eliminates contaminants without using chlorine*
- *Treats up to 20,000 gallons*
- *Use weekly for clear fresh odor-free water*



SaltScapes® Algae Remover

- *Kills all types of algae*
- *Highly effective, non-staining algicide*
- *Suitable for saltwater pools of all surfaces and filter types*



SaltScapes® pH Reducer

- *Combats high pH that results from the saltwater to chlorine conversion process*
- *Use to lower pH to ideal range of 7.2-7.6*
- *Protects pool surfaces and equipment from damage due to high pH*

SaltScapes® SunShield® Stabilizer

- *Generated chlorine lasts longer to work more efficiently*
- *Test and use on a monthly basis or as needed*



SaltScapes® Scale Defender

- *Prevents scale from adhering to your pool surfaces*
- *Increases life of chlorine generator cell*
- *Use monthly to ensure a clean and efficient cell*

SaltScapes® Cell Cleaner

- *Strong and highly effective formula*
- *Removes chalky white-calcium scale deposits from cell*
- *Works in as little as 15-30 minutes*
- *Easier to handle than other acid cell cleaners*



NON-CHLORINE POOLS

THE SOFTSWIM® PROGRAM

Soft, clear, chlorine-free water is easy to achieve. That's the philosophy behind SoftSwim.

BioGuard's SoftSwim Program is ideal for:

- *Not more than 25,000 gallons*
- *Excellent circulation, using a sand filter*
- *Pump operates at least 12 hours per day*
- *In-ground or above-ground*
- *Any surface type, but especially great for all vinyl-lined pools*

You don't have to be an exact match with these descriptions to be a good candidate for SoftSwim. Talk with your BioGuard® Dealer and they'll direct you to the best program for you and your pool.



Prevent Algae Growth

Using an effective algicide is an important first step in your pool care regimen for inhibiting and controlling the growth of algae.

STEP
A

- *Add it to your pool every two weeks to keep algae in check*
- *Withstands evaporation from direct sunlight*
- *Works harder in high temperatures*
- *Supports the effectiveness of other SoftSwim products when used on a regular basis*

Sanitize to Kill Bacteria

This is a step you don't want to miss when keeping your pool primed for good times in the sun.

STEP
B

- *Kills bacteria*
- *Contains biguanide — the key ingredient that makes this program so different than chlorine-based sanitizers*
- *Will not degrade in sunlight*

Oxidize and Clarify for Sparkling Clear Water

Use SoftSwim C on a monthly basis to maintain clarity. Our powerful clarifier and oxidizer helps you keep the sparkle in your water longer by removing contaminants that can cause cloudiness.

STEP
C

- *Stabilized formula lasts longer*
- *Clears your pool water by eliminating body oils, perspiration and other undesirable contaminants that can affect clarity and sparkle*

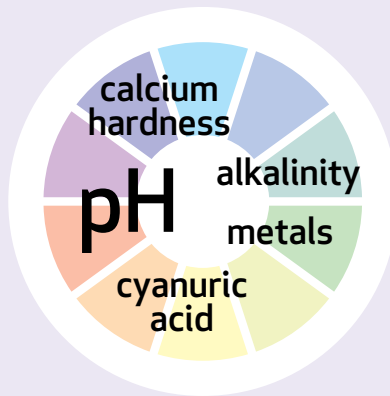
WATER BALANCERS

BALANCE YOUR WATER TO PREVENT PROBLEMS

BioGuard Care Systems work best in water that is properly balanced. Keeping the right balance in your swimming pool water is important. Balancers control scale, prevent metallic stains, adjust pH and total alkalinity and correct mineral imbalances.

HOW IMPORTANT IS pH REALLY?

Having the correct pH in your pool is crucial to your swimmers' comfort and also protects your pool equipment and surfaces from corrosion, staining and etching. The ideal pH range is 7.4–7.6. If the pH is too high or too low it can cause those pesky red, itchy eyes!



REDUCE YOUR pH AND TOTAL ALKALINITY

Lo 'N Slo®

- For lowering pH and total alkalinity
- Quick-dissolving and easy-to-measure
- Safer to store, transport and handle than liquid muriatic acid



INCREASE YOUR TOTAL ALKALINITY, pH OR CALCIUM HARDNESS

Balance PAK® 100

- For raising total alkalinity
- Prevents pH change
- Prevents corrosion and vinyl liner wrinkling due to improper pH
- Dissolves quickly when added directly to water



Balance PAK® 200

- For raising pH level
- Protects pool equipment from corrosion, plaster etching and wrinkling of liners due to improper pH
- Prevents eye irritation due to low pH

Balance PAK® 300

- For raising calcium hardness levels
- Dissolves quickly
- Protects pool equipment from corrosion, plaster etching and wrinkling of liners



PROTECT YOUR CHLORINE FROM SUNLIGHT SO YOU USE LESS

Stabilizer 100

- Prevents free chlorine residual loss due to sunlight
- Reduces maintenance costs and chlorinating product consumption
- Skimmer use for outdoor, chlorinated pools only



FIVE KEYS TO POOL CARE BASICS

Get the most out of your pool by following the five keys to basic pool maintenance.

1

Circulation

Run your pump for a minimum of 10-12 hours per day.

The more your water is in motion, the harder it is for bacteria and algae to take hold. Maximize your sanitizer's efficiency by circulating your pool water, preferably during the day, for a minimum of 10-12 hours.

2

Filtration

Backwash per manufacturer's instruction.

Chemically clean every 6 weeks.

Your filter removes both visible debris and most microscopic matter. Check the manufacturer's guidelines on backwashing — a process that removes materials trapped on or in the filter media. A regular chemical cleaning is necessary approximately every 6 weeks since backwashing will not remove oils and deeply embedded debris.

3

Cleaning

Brush and vacuum your pool every week.

Algae and bacteria can begin to grow in areas that have little or no circulation. At least once a week, brush and vacuum the walls and floor of your swimming pool. Brushing is a must, even if you use an automatic pool cleaner or retain a weekly service.

Testing

Test weekly for active sanitizer and pH.

Bring a water sample to your BioGuard dealer monthly.

4

Certain pool parameters must be regularly measured and adjusted, including active sanitizer (free available chlorine, bromine, or biguanide), total alkalinity and calcium hardness, among others. Most important are pH and active sanitizer levels — both should be tested weekly.

**Take a sample to your BioGuard Dealer when you open and close your pool.*

Free chlorine residual	1 to 4 ppm for chlorinated pools
Total bromine residual	1 to 3 ppm for brominated pools
Sanitizer residual ("B")	30 to 50 ppm for SoftSwim pools
pH	7.4 is ideal pH (7.4-7.6 is acceptable)
Total alkalinity	125 to 150 ppm (80-150 ppm for saltwater pools)
Calcium Hardness	200 to 275 ppm for plaster & SoftSwim pools 175 to 225 ppm for all other pool types

Chemistry

Apply the right products to your pool water at the right time.

5

Timing and accuracy is important, be sure to follow label directions for the optimal outcome. Your BioGuard Dealer can give you precise instructions on what to do. It's just one of the many valuable benefits you'll receive as a BioGuard customer.

ROUTINE POOL CARE SUMMARY

DAILY

- *Test and adjust the pH and sanitizer levels*
- *Run your filtration system 10-12 hours a day during summer; 12 hours is better*

WEEKLY

- *Test the total alkalinity level*
- *Shock to remove contaminants with your preferred BioGuard® shock treatment product*
- *Add a preventive dose of your preferred BioGuard® algicide*
- *Remove leaves and other debris from pool*
- *Empty skimmer and pump baskets*
- *Brush pool floor and walls*
- *Check water level and top up if necessary*
- *Check filter pressure and backwash only if required (follow manufacturer's recommendations)*

MONTHLY

- *Take a pool water sample to your BioGuard® Dealer for an in-depth ALEX® water analysis*

VACATION MAINTENANCE

While on vacation, debris and bacteria can collect in your pool and upset the water balance. Consider a “vacation plan” to prevent problems so you can come home to a clear pool.

- 1. CONTACT YOUR BIOGUARD DEALER FOR A VACATION MAINTENANCE PLAN**
(Your dealer can give you instructions based on your specific BioGuard Program.)
- 2. CLEAN YOUR POOL THOROUGHLY, BRUSHING AND VACUUMING WALLS AND FLOORS**
- 3. TEST POOL WATER AND MAKE SURE IT'S PROPERLY BALANCED**
Anything that's out of balance — total alkalinity, pH, calcium hardness, etc. — will likely get worse when left unattended.
- 4. RUN YOUR PUMP AT LEAST EIGHT HOURS A DAY**
Maximize your sanitizer's efficiency by circulating your pool water.
(Either set your timer or ask a neighbor to turn it on and off.)
- 5. UPON RETURNING, HAVE YOUR BIOGUARD DEALER PERFORM A WATER ANALYSIS**
You'll want to be sure your pool is properly balanced and ready for swimming.

OPENING YOUR POOL

Avoid a summer filled with headaches by opening your pool the right way. With a well-ordered system, you can prevent future problems and lay the groundwork for a pool care plan that's simple to maintain. We've outlined six important steps to help ensure a smooth, carefree opening for your pool. Of course, your local BioGuard Dealer is always ready to assist with information tailored to your specific pool care needs.

1. REMOVE THE POOL COVER

If you use a solid cover, drain off the water — but not into the pool. Sweep the cover and clean it with BioGuard Stow Away® to prevent sticking and unpleasant odors. Store it in a dry place that's free of debris and protected from the elements.

2. FILL THE POOL

Your pool must be filled to the middle of the skimmer opening to circulate properly.

3. CHECK YOUR PUMP, SKIMMER BASKET AND FILTER

Make sure all equipment is clean and in working order. Start the circulation system and remove debris from the pool. If the filter (sand, D.E. or cartridge) is dirty, remove grease and oil with BioGuard Strip-Kwik®. For scale build-up, use BioGuard Kleen It®.

4. BRING IN A WATER SAMPLE FOR TESTING

Circulate the water 24-48 hours before taking a water sample. Using a clean plastic container (or one provided by your dealer), scoop about a pint of water at elbow-depth from the pool away from skimmers and returns. Seal the container and take it to your BioGuard Dealer for testing and analysis. You'll get personalized instructions for starting up your pool.

5. TEST SANITIZER AND pH LEVELS

Use one of the BioGuard Test Kits or Test Strips to regularly check the sanitizer residual and pH levels. To maintain proper balance, you should follow the ranges on page 15.

6. ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

Now that you're into the swim of things, follow routine maintenance recommendations for your selected pool care system. Your BioGuard Dealer can also help you with a maintenance plan.

CLOSING YOUR POOL FOR THE OFF SEASON

Preparing your pool for the off season is the most important thing you can do to make your spring pool opening as easy as possible. There are enormous benefits to correctly closing your pool, including:

- *Protecting your pool surfaces and equipment*
- *Keeping water looking its best all winter long*
- *Protecting equipment from freeze damage*
- *Saving money on extra maintenance when you open your pool*

Whether you completely cover your pool or just reduce maintenance, BioGuard® can make winterizing painless. Convenient Arctic Blue® Winter Kits include the products you need for cold weather care. Check BioGuard.com for more information or simply consult your BioGuard Dealer prior to closing.



HOW TO WINTERIZE A 3-STEP, MINERAL SPRINGS®, OR SALTSCAPES™ POOL

Follow the steps below when you're ready to close your pool for the cold weather season.

1. GO TO YOUR BIOGUARD DEALER FOR A COMPLETE WATER ANALYSIS.
2. BALANCE POOL WATER ACCORDING TO THE DEALER'S WINTER INSTRUCTIONS.
3. BRUSH AND VACUUM POOL.
4. CLEAN THE WATERLINE WITH BIOGUARD OFF THE WALL®.
5. CHEMICALLY CLEAN THE FILTER WITH STRIP-KWIK®.
6. CLEAN THE SALINE (SALT) CHLORINATOR WITH SALTSCAPES CELL CLEANER.
7. ADD ARCTIC BLUE® SHOCK THEN ARCTIC BLUE ALGAE PROTECTOR. USE BOTH PRODUCTS ACCORDING TO LABEL INSTRUCTIONS.
8. RUN THE FILTER CONTINUOUSLY FOR 24-48 HOURS.
9. WINTERIZE EQUIPMENT ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURER'S DIRECTIONS.
10. FOLLOW RECOMMENDED WATER DRAINING AND COVERING PROCEDURES APPROPRIATE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS IN YOUR AREA.

HOW TO WINTERIZE A SOFTSWIM® POOL

Follow the steps below when you're ready to close your pool for the cold weather season.

1. GO TO YOUR BIOGUARD DEALER FOR A COMPLETE WATER ANALYSIS.
2. BALANCE POOL WATER ACCORDING TO THE DEALER'S WINTER INSTRUCTIONS.
3. BRUSH AND VACUUM POOL.
4. BACKWASH AND CHEMICALLY CLEAN FILTER WITH SOFTSWIM FILTER CLEANER.
5. ADD INITIAL DOSE OF SOFTSWIM A (1 QUART PER 25,000 GALLONS OF WATER).
6. ADD SOFTSWIM C (1 GALLON PER 10,000 GALLONS). WAIT 3 HOURS.
7. ADD SOFTSWIM B TO TOP UP TO 50 PPM.
8. RUN FILTER CONTINUOUSLY FOR 24-48 HOURS.
9. WINTERIZE EQUIPMENT ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURER'S DIRECTIONS.
10. FOLLOW RECOMMENDED WATER DRAINING AND COVERING PROCEDURES APPROPRIATE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS IN YOUR AREA.

SAFETY TIPS

When used correctly, pool water maintenance products safeguard the health of your entire family. If they're mishandled, they can be hazardous. Please keep the following guidelines in mind for a safer more enjoyable pool environment.

For more safety tips contact your BioGuard dealer or visit our website at BioGuard.com.

YOU SHOULD ALWAYS ...

- *Read labels and follow directions carefully*
- *Store chemical products safely and out of the reach of small children and pets*
- *Keep your pool maintenance products in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area away from other household or garden chemicals*
- *Keep chemical product containers tightly closed when not use*
- *Dispose of all chemicals according to label directions. It's hazardous to throw chemicals into the trash or put spilled materials back into the original container*
- *Follow emergency advice on the product label should accidental contact occur. In case of poisoning or chemical exposure, call (800) 222-1222 and speak to the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center*

YOU SHOULD NEVER ...

- *Never mix chemicals of any kind together. Always add maintenance products to the pool separately and in different areas*
- *Never add water to chemicals. Always add pool chemicals directly to the pool*
- *Never interchange measuring scoops or place wet scoops back into a chemical container*
- *Never store liquids directly above sanitizers and oxidizers. They could accidentally leak and contaminate other products*



ROUTINE POOL CARE SUMMARY

Your BioGuard® Dealer will recommend a pool care program based on your individual pool and your personal preferences. Fill out the form below with your dealer.

ABOUT YOUR POOL

SHAPE RECTANGULAR SQUARE ROUND
 OVAL FREE-FORM

POOL TYPE ABOVE-GROUND IN-GROUND

FINISH & COLOR
(vinyl, plaster, fiberglass, paint)

POOL VOLUME

To calculate rectangular or square pools:
Average length x average width x average depth x 7.5 = approx. pool gallons

To calculate round or oval pools:
Diameter x diameter x average depth x 5.9 = approx. pool gallons

AVERAGE WIDTH (FT)

AVERAGE LENGTH (FT)

AVERAGE DEPTH (FT)

Shallow end depth + deep end depth ÷ 2 = average depth

VOLUME (GALLONS)

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