



*SoftSwim*<sup>®</sup>

**3 STEPS** to a  
**LUXURIOUS**  
pool



guarding more than your pool.

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# The SoftSwim® System Overview

## SOFT. CLEAR. CHLORINE-FREE.

That's SoftSwim®. Just ask anyone who uses BioGuard's® complete, non-chlorine SoftSwim sanitizing system consisting of just three products. They'll tell you their pool water never felt so luxuriously soft or looked so sparkling clear. Better still, this system makes routine maintenance simple. But what is it about SoftSwim that makes it so different from other programs?

SoftSwim's superior performance is the result of three main components.

- SoftSwim A contains a patented algae preventative that is unique to SoftSwim.
- SoftSwim B provides the biguanide-based sanitizer that makes this program chlorine-free. Gentle yet effective, biguanide is the reason SoftSwim is so easy on skin, hair and eyes.
- And SoftSwim C has the highly effective, dual formulation of a powerful clarifier and a hard-working oxidizer—a patented combination that keeps chemicals in your pool longer for sparkling clear water.

An advantage SoftSwim offers is access to other BioGuard products that can take your pool care system to a greater level of performance. You have an expert to guide you through the system, product application, or maintenance steps—your nearby BioGuard Dealer.

As you'll see, there are certain pools—and even particular types of pool owners—especially well suited for SoftSwim. Read on to see how compatible our non-chlorine system is with you and your pool. Then prepare yourself to swim in the softest water you've ever experienced.



## The Ideal SoftSwim Pool And Owner

### THE PERFECT MATCH

While SoftSwim® is great for most in-ground and above-ground pools, some are ideally suited for this system. Based on 20 years of biguanide chemistry use, we've compiled a list of characteristics for the ideal SoftSwim swimming pool.

- Not more than 25,000 gallons
- Excellent circulation, using a sand filter
- Pump operates for 10 – 12 hours per day
- Pool has a bottom drain
- Any surface type, but especially great for vinyl-lined pools
- Excellent for above-ground pools

Remember, you don't have to be an exact match with these descriptions to be a good candidate for SoftSwim. It's best to talk with your BioGuard® Dealer. They'll direct you to the best system for you and your pool.

# Five Keys To A Beautiful SoftSwim® Pool

## WHAT EVERY POOL OWNER SHOULD KNOW

No matter what pool care system you choose, there are five keys to pool maintenance you need to follow. Here's how they apply to SoftSwim.

### Key 1: Circulation

The pool must have minimal dead spots, good water movement and preferably a bottom drain. The more your water is in motion, the harder it is for bacteria and algae to take hold. The best time to circulate water is during the day, for 10 – 12 hours or more. Circulation can also be improved by brushing the pool with a BioGuard pool brush at least once a week.

### Key 2: Filtration

The filter removes both visible debris and microscopic matter, so a properly functioning filter is essential. Sand and D.E. filters need to be backwashed about once each week. The filter needs to be chemically cleaned every four to six weeks. The media itself (cartridge or sand) should be replaced every year.

### Key 3: Cleaning

All swimming pools have certain areas (dead spots) that have little or no circulation. This is where algae and bacteria can begin to grow. At least once a week, you should brush and vacuum the walls and floors with a BioGuard pool vacuum to remove debris that may be clinging to these surfaces.

### Key 4: Proper Water Maintenance

Another step in a total pool maintenance program is the right application of products in a timely manner. When you're balancing your pool water, these are the ranges for a properly balanced SoftSwim® pool:

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| pH               | 7.2 – 7.6 ppm |
| Total Alkalinity | 125 – 150 ppm |
| Calcium Hardness | 200 – 275 ppm |
| SoftSwim B       | 30 – 50 ppm   |
| SoftSwim C       | 20 – 60ppm    |

Use this chart as a quick reference for applying the three main SoftSwim products. Always read and follow the label directions for best results.

| Product    | Composition                      | Dosage  | Frequency                                    | Benefits   |
|------------|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| SoftSwim A | 40% Quaternary Ammonium Compound | 2 ounces for every 5,000 gallons                        | Every 2 weeks                                | Inhibits and controls the growth of algae.                                       |
| SoftSwim B | 20% Biguanide                    | 1 pint for every 10,000 gallons to raise PHMB by 10 ppm | Test and Add                                 | Kills bacteria; helps stop transmission of disease through pool water.           |
| SoftSwim C | 27.5% Hydrogen Peroxide          | 1 gallon for every 10,000 gallons of water              | Once a month or as needed to maintain 20 ppm | Destroys body oils, perspiration and other unwanted compounds. Clears the water. |

### Key 5: Testing

Every pool has certain chemical levels which must be measured regularly. Most important are the pH and the level of active sanitizer. By testing these two factors at regular intervals, you'll be able to understand how bathers, weather and product application affect the water.

Test your pool water at least once a week with SoftSwim® Test Strips. Plan to bring a sample of pool water to your BioGuard® Dealer at pool opening, then every four to six weeks, and at closing. This will help maintain proper balance and greatly reduce the potential for problems.

Every key is very important. When you follow all of them you can enjoy your SoftSwim pool even more.

# ABC's of SoftSwim®

## SOFTSWIM'S AS EASY AS ABC

Three products are at the center of our non-chlorine pool care system. These liquid products provide easy application with no mixing or pre-dissolving requirements.



### SoftSwim A

Prevents algae growth. This is the first step to beautiful water. Use SoftSwim A regularly and algae will have no chance to grow in your pool. SoftSwim A contains a special ingredient that works more effectively than any other algicide in the non-chlorine category. Our algicide gets more active when temperatures rise and the sun won't evaporate it.

### SoftSwim B

Sanitizes pool water, preventing the growth of bacteria. Not only is SoftSwim's biguanide sanitizer effective, it's stable. That means the sun's UV rays will not decrease its effectiveness (and no stabilizer is needed). These factors make SoftSwim B a long-acting sanitizer. Usually, applications of SoftSwim B are only required every two weeks; however, test regularly to make sure the level is maintained in its proper range: 30 – 50 ppm.



### SoftSwim C

Keeps water sparkling clear by removing contaminants that cause cloudiness. This powerful clarifier and oxidizer also contains a stabilizer to help keep the chemicals in your pool water longer. Only SoftSwim has this winning dual formulation. Pool owners can be confident of the highest quality product, formulated to last up to 30% longer in the water after application. This can be a real money-saver! When testing SoftSwim C, keep clarifier level at 20 – 60 ppm.



# Other Essential SoftSwim Products

## GET THE MOST FROM SOFTSWIM WITH SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

You can add extra beauty and brilliance to your SoftSwim pool by using three other SoftSwim products that are formulated to work specifically with biguanide chemistry. REMEMBER: Chlorine and biguanide do not mix. Never use chlorinating products in your SoftSwim pool. Here's what you can use.



### SoftSwim® Filter Cleaner

This is the single-most important specialty product for preventing cloudy water. SoftSwim Filter Cleaner is uniquely formulated to work with any kind of filter media used in a SoftSwim pool. It helps your filter remove particles specific to the SoftSwim chemistry, along with allowing for better circulation and water clarity by removing dirt, oils and deposits from the filter.

**We strongly urge you to chemically clean your filter with SoftSwim Filter Cleaner at start-up, or at closing, every four to six weeks, and after algae blooms.**

### SoftSwim Filter Aid

SoftSwim Filter Aid is a dual-purpose product that works as a filter aid, giving the filter a hand in removing suspended particles in the water. In addition, it works as a flocculent, binding tiny particles together so they drop to the bottom of the pool for easy vacuum removal.



### SoftSwim Stain Control

SoftSwim Stain Control is a product that prevents metals in the water from staining pool surfaces. Use it in pools of any surface type or anywhere dissolved metals like iron, copper and manganese are present. Reference the product label for complete directions.







### SoftSwim Start-Up Kit

Another step in our continuing quest for more convenient pool care! You'll appreciate the handiness and ease of our all-in-one kit containing everything you'll need to get a 10,000 gallon pool started on the SoftSwim system. The kit contains SoftSwim A and B; SoftSwim Stain Control; SoftSwim Pool Care Guide; test strips; water test bottle; and quick start reference card.

(SoftSwim C sold separately.)



### Optimizer Plus®

Recommend this product as a valuable addition to any of the BioGuard 3-Step pool care programs. Works in chlorinated, brominated or biguanide treated pools to suppress algae growth. It enhances water quality, softens water and creates sparkling blue pool water. It also provides improved buffering in the water, making it easier to maintain the proper water balance. This product also reduces the likelihood of cloudiness, algae growth and other problems.

(Not available in California.)

23914BIO 4x8 lb. | 23518BIO 45 lb.

## Starting On SoftSwim

### GET A FRESH START WITH SOFTSWIM®

The perfect time to commit to SoftSwim® is when you are a new pool owner and filling your pool for the first time. Since SoftSwim products are incompatible with chlorinating products, it makes the process that much simpler. Follow the steps below to get your pool ready for swimming:

- If metals are present, use SoftSwim Stain Control followed by BioGuard Sparkle-Up® and Soft Swim Filter Cleaner.
- Clean the pool by brushing the pool walls and bottom, then vacuum all surfaces to remove dirt and debris.
- Run the filter overnight, then backwash as needed.
- Have your local BioGuard Dealer balance the water by performing a water analysis. Follow their instructions to correct any out-of-balance parameters before proceeding.
- Test the chlorine level because source water may be chlorinated. Before adding SoftSwim chemicals, use BioGuard Chem-Out® to neutralize chlorine that is present.
- Add BioGuard Optimizer Plus® at a rate of 2 lbs. per 1000 gallons to establish a 30 – 35 ppm residual. Refer to label for proper addition directions.
- Add SoftSwim Stain Control. Even if water analysis shows no metals present, use Stain Control before the other chemicals. If it's a plaster pool, always use Stain Control first.
- Add initial dose of SoftSwim A – one quart for every 25,000 gallons of water. Allow the water to circulate 2 hours.
- Add initial dose of SoftSwim C – one gallon for every 10,000 gallons of water. This oxidizing step will only work effectively if the dirt and debris have already been removed from the pool. Circulate for 3 hours.
- Add initial dose of SoftSwim B – half a gallon for every 10,000 gallons of water.
- Run the filter for 24 - 48 hours.
- Test SoftSwim B, Total Alkalinity, SoftSwim C and pH. Adjust to bring factors into the proper ranges.

## Switching To SoftSwim

### OUT WITH CHLORINATION OR BROMINATION... IN WITH SOFTSWIM

If converting a pool to SoftSwim®, it is essential to remove all sources and traces of chlorine or bromine before beginning our biguanide system. Visit your BioGuard Dealer for more details on the best way to make sure no amount of chlorine remains in the pool.

# Off-season Pool Care

## HOW TO WINTERIZE A SOFTSWIM® POOL

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

- Go to your BioGuard Dealer for a complete water analysis.
- Balance pool water according to the Dealer's winter instructions.
- Brush and vacuum pool with BioGuard pool accessories.
- Backwash and chemically clean filter with SoftSwim Filter Cleaner.
- Add initial dose of SoftSwim A (1 quart per 25,000 gallons of water).
- Add SoftSwim C (1 gallon per 10,000 gallons). Wait 3 hours.
- Add SoftSwim B to top up to 50 parts per million.
- Run filter continuously for 24-48 hours.
- Winterize equipment according to manufacturer's directions.
- Follow recommended water draining and covering procedures appropriate to weather conditions in your area.

## Troubleshooting

### PROPER MAINTENANCE IS YOUR BEST PREVENTATIVE

Consistent maintenance with SoftSwim products is your best choice for avoiding trouble with your pool. Sometimes even the most well-maintained pools can experience a problem. This is because your pool is exposed to elements like wind and rain that can introduce algae, bacteria, mold and other contaminants.

The following information can help you spot potential trouble.

#### Algae

Green algae is the most common type of algae. If your pool water has a green tint and green deposits, you might be looking at green algae. Mustard algae shows up as yellow or brown deposits in your pool. It brushes away easily but returns quickly. Mustard algae also likes to infest equipment. Black algae grows on pool walls and floors, particularly in plaster pools. These algae have a heavy outer coating, so you will need to brush vigorously to remove it. If you have algae, consult your BioGuard® Dealer for treatment recommendations.

#### Almond Smell Or Bad Taste

If the SoftSwim B level is too high, your pool water may smell strange or taste bad. The simplest way to fix this problem is to let the SoftSwim B level drop on its own. Simply wait until the level is 30 ppm before adding more.

#### Cloudy Water/Haze

If water becomes cloudy or hazy, there are two ways to fix it. The first way is to use BioGuard Polysheen® Blue in the water along with Sparkle-Up® for the filter. The second is to use SoftSwim Filter Aid & Flocculent.

#### Foaming

Foam has a number of possible causes. It could be an air leak, so always check circulation first. If that's not the problem, it may be the result of excessive body oils, detergents or an overdose of SoftSwim A or B. The best cure for foam is BioGuard Anti-Foam.

#### Metals

If there are not any slick deposits in pool water with a green tint, the problem is likely metals in the water. It could also be organic contaminants. Have your water analyzed by your BioGuard Dealer to find out for sure. If it is metals, you need to remove them right away or they could stain your pool and increase consumption of SoftSwim C. SoftSwim Stain Control is designed to "tie-up" metals and, in the process, prevent stains.

#### Slime/Mold

Slime grows on pool surfaces. It shows up as pink or red deposits around lights, skimmers and in the circulation system. Mold looks like wisps of tissue paper and usually starts growing inside pipes, working its way into the pool. If you have mold or slime, consult your BioGuard Dealer for treatment recommendations.

# Safety Tips

## HANDLE CHEMICALS WITH CARE

When you're handling any kind of chemical – from insect spray to pool care products – there are certain precautions you should take.

### Read And Follow Label Directions

Check for details on proper handling, storage, usage and clean-up of SoftSwim® products.

### Keep Products Away From Children

In case of accidental swallowing or contact, follow the emergency advice on the product label and call your doctor or local Poison Control Center.

### Store Products Safely

SoftSwim® products should be stored upright, in their original containers, with the lids closed tightly. Store the products in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area. Once you open SoftSwim C, use the entire bottle; never store partially used SoftSwim C.

### Be Extra Careful With SoftSwim C

The clarifier part of the SoftSwim Program has a high level of hydrogen peroxide. It should be handled very carefully. For your protection, every bottle of SoftSwim C has a vented cap and comes sealed in a plastic bag. If there is any liquid in this bag, carefully pour it into your pool, along with the entire contents of the bottle. Always add complete container to pool. Never use partial container.

### Clean Up Spills Properly

Never use a vacuum to clean up spills. Don't put spilled materials back into the original containers or throw them directly into the trash. Instead, consult the SoftSwim product labels for instructions on the proper way to clean up and dispose of spills.



# Glossary

## POOL TERMS HELPFUL TO KNOW

### Algae

Microscopic plants deposited in pool water by wind, rain and dust. They thrive in sunlight and warm water, clogging pool equipment and causing slippery surfaces and green water.

### Algicide

A product added to pool water to kill algae.

### Anti-Foam

A product added to the pool to reduce excessive foaming caused by warm temperature, body oils, and excesses of certain chemicals.

### Backwash

Reversing the flow of water through a sand or D.E. filter to clean the elements and filter material.

### Bacteria

Microscopic organisms that can cause infections, disease and cloudy water.

### Bactericide

A product added to pool water that kills bacteria.

### Balanced Water

Pool water that has the proper pH reading, proper total alkalinity, and the proper mineral content to prevent corrosion and scaling.

### Biguanide

The active non-chlorine ingredient in SoftSwim B used for swimming pool sanitation.

### Calcium Hardness

The amount of dissolved calcium in pool water.



## Clarifier

A product used to bind together smaller particles into larger ones so they are easier to filter.

## Filter

A device that removes particles from the pool as water passes through a porous substance called the filter medium. The most common types of swimming pool filters are sand, Diatomaceous Earth (D.E.) and cartridge.

## Hydrogen Peroxide

The active ingredient in SoftSwim® C. Used to oxidize swimming pool water contaminants in non-halogen systems.

## Make-Up Water

Fresh water used to fill the pool or to top it off to the normal level. Also called source water.

## Metals

Iron and copper are the most commonly found metals in swimming pools. If left untreated, they may cause stains and increase consumption of SoftSwim C.

## Organic Matter

Pool contaminants derived mainly from living organisms. These include leaves, lotions, cosmetics, urine, perspiration and other undesirable swimmer compounds and environmental debris.

## pH

A measurement that indicates the acidity in pool water. On a scale of 0 to 14, values below 7 are acidic and values above 7 are basic. The ideal pH range for SoftSwim pools is 7.2 to 7.6.

## Plaster

A mixture of white cement and white marble dust applied as an interior finish on concrete and gunite pools.

## ppm

Parts per million is a unit of measurement used in product application. It indicates the amount by weight of a product in relation to the weight of one million parts of water.

## Reagents

Chemical test solutions that can be used to test for levels of various chemicals or conditions in a pool.

## Skimmer

A device in the pool wall that continuously directs debris and surface water to the filter.

## Total Alkalinity

The amount of alkaline bicarbonate in pool water. It acts as a buffer to prevent fluctuations in pH.

## Winterizing

The procedure for protecting pools from freezing conditions and long periods of off-season inactivity. It includes physical and chemical protection of the pool and equipment.



# About My Pool

## COMPLETE THIS FORM AND BRING IT TO YOUR BIOGUARD® DEALER.

The information will help your dealer give you the best possible pool care.

### Dimensions:

Average Width: \_\_\_\_\_

Average Length: \_\_\_\_\_

Average Depth (waterline to bottom): \_\_\_\_\_

To calculate: (Shallow end depth + deep end depth ÷ 2 = average depth)

Volume (gallons): \_\_\_\_\_

### To calculate:

Rectangular (Average length x average width x average depth x 7.5 = approximate pool gallons)

Round or oval (Diameter x diameter x average depth x 5.9 = approximate pool gallons)

Shape (circle one):    rectangle    round oval    free-form    above-ground    in-ground

Interior Finish & Color (i.e., vinyl, plaster, fiberglass, paint): \_\_\_\_\_

Filter Type:    Sand    Diatomaceous Earth (DE)    Cartridge    Other

Filter Make & Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Pump Make & Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Horsepower: \_\_\_\_\_

Heater Type:    Natural Gas    Electric    Propane (LP)    Oil    Solar

Heater Make & Model: \_\_\_\_\_

BTU: \_\_\_\_\_

Chemical Feeder (make & model): \_\_\_\_\_

Automatic Pool Cleaner (make & model): \_\_\_\_\_

### My Customized Pool

Care System: \_\_\_\_\_

System Designed By: \_\_\_\_\_

Dealer Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

|          | su | m | t | w | th | f | s | dealer<br>visit | test results |   |   | filter | amount added |   |   |  |
|----------|----|---|---|---|----|---|---|-----------------|--------------|---|---|--------|--------------|---|---|--|
|          |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |                 | pH           | b | c |        | a            | b | c |  |
| january  |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |                 |              |   |   |        |              |   |   |  |
|          |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |                 |              |   |   |        |              |   |   |  |
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| february |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |                 |              |   |   |        |              |   |   |  |
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| march    |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |                 |              |   |   |        |              |   |   |  |
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|          |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |                 |              |   |   |        |              |   |   |  |
| april    |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |                 |              |   |   |        |              |   |   |  |
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| may      |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |                 |              |   |   |        |              |   |   |  |
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| june     |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |                 |              |   |   |        |              |   |   |  |
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|           | su | m | t | w | th | f | s | dealer<br>visit | test results |   |   | filter | amount added |   |   |  |
|-----------|----|---|---|---|----|---|---|-----------------|--------------|---|---|--------|--------------|---|---|--|
|           |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |                 | pH           | b | c |        | a            | b | c |  |
| july      |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |                 |              |   |   |        |              |   |   |  |
|           |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |                 |              |   |   |        |              |   |   |  |
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| august    |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |                 |              |   |   |        |              |   |   |  |
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| september |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |                 |              |   |   |        |              |   |   |  |
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| october   |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |                 |              |   |   |        |              |   |   |  |
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| november  |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |                 |              |   |   |        |              |   |   |  |
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| december  |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |                 |              |   |   |        |              |   |   |  |
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