

## What is pH?

### pH – ( Abbreviation for Potential of Hydrogen)

We use pH as an index to express how acidic or Alkaline a solution is. A pH greater than 7.0 is Alkaline, and a pH lower than 7.0 is acidic. In pools and spas, it is important to maintain the water in the slightly Alkaline range of 7.2 to 7.6, the Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group (PWTAG) industry association in the UK, has set a standard of 7.2 to 7.4 for pools and 7.0 to 7.4 for spas, as stated in the 2017 third edition, as the ideal pH.

#### **If pH is Low: 6.8 to 0**

- The water can corrode surfaces, metal equipment or fixtures.
- Swimmers and bathers can experience discomfort from burning eyes and itchy skin.
- The chlorine may dissipate more quickly.
- The water may cause pitting and etching of plaster surfaces.

#### **If pH is High: 7.8 to 14**

- Calcium and metals tend to come out of solution (the opposite of dissolving) at high pH levels, creating the potential for staining and scale formation. The calcium and metals will actually create deposits and discoloration on pool walls and equipment, especially heating elements and gas boilers.
- Swimmers and bathers can experience discomfort from burning eyes and itchy skin.
- High pH can contribute to cloudy water and greatly reduces chlorine efficiency.

	14	Liquid drain cleaner, Caustic soda
	13	bleaches, oven cleaner
Chlorine Liquid Shock	12	Soapy water
	11	Household Ammonia (11.9)
	10	Milk of magnesium (10.5)
Chlorine Granular Shock	9	Toothpaste (9.9)
	8	Baking soda (8.4), Seawater, Eggs
Ideal Swimming Pool pH	7	“Pure” water (7)
Chlorine Stabilised Granules	6	Urine (6) Milk (6.6)
	5	Acid rain (5.6) Black coffee (5)
Bromine Mini Tablets	4	Tomato juice (4.1)
Chlorine Maxi / Mini Tablets & Aquabrome Tablets	3	Grapefruit & Orange juice, Soft drink
	2	Lemon juice (2.3) Vinegar (2.9)
	1	Hydrochloric acid secreted from the stomach lining (1)
	0	Battery Acid