

Alkalinity

Alkalinity in a pool measures its ability to resist pH changes, acting as a buffer for alkaline substances like bicarbonates; it keeps your pH stable to ensure sanitizer effectiveness, prevent corrosion/scaling, and maintain water clarity and comfort.

Alkalinity vs. pH:

- pH: A snapshot of how acidic or basic water is right now (concentration of H⁺ ions).
- Alkalinity: The ability to maintain a stable pH by neutralizing added acids or bases (buffer capacity).

Testing Alkalinity:

- How to test Alkalinity using Taylor K-2006 Test Kit:
[Testing Pool/Spa Water for Total Alkalinity Using Taylor's K-2006](#)
- WI Pool Code Requirements: *ATCP 76.14 (5)(d)*



| | ALL Pool Types | |
|------------|----------------|-------|
| | Min | Max |
| Alkalinity | 60.0 | 180.0 |

- Testing Frequency: *ATCP 76.18(1)(c)*

| | ALL Pool Types |
|------------|----------------|
| | 1x/week |
| Alkalinity | |

Why Alkalinity Matters:

- Too Low: Water becomes acidic, causing pH to swing wildly, irritating skin/eyes, and corroding pool equipment.
- Too High: Water becomes overly basic, leading to cloudy water, scaling, and difficulty in adjusting pH.

How to Adjust Alkalinity:

1. **Test Water:** Confirm alkalinity is out of range.
2. **Calculate and Add Chemical:** Use a pool calculator for precise amount of chemical to add to your pool to achieve the ideal concentration.
 - To raise Alkalinity: use sodium bicarbonate to increase it.
 - To lower Alkalinity: use muriatic acid or sodium bisulfate to lower it.
3. **Wait & Retest:** Wait a few hours, retest, and check alkalinity.