

# PoolCrete Start-Up Guide

**November 2025**

Page 1 of 2

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, please 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 must be taken to a pool shop that will test it for:

- pH (not to be below 7.4).
- The presence of iron or copper in the solution. If metals are present, add a 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 level is 100ppm. Below this, an alkalinity increaser (sodium bicarbonate) should be added (see Day 3, step 5 below). A correct total alkalinity level helps stabilise pH, and low alkalinity will cause volatility in your pH level.
- Calcium hardness: The ideal level is 250ppm 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 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 for future reference.) Water quality varies from area to area within the same town or city and seldom meets the requirements needed for a chemically well-balanced pool.

## APPLICATION AND FILLING THE POOL

---

### Day 1

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

### Day 2

2. Plaster the pool as per the **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 divided and added in 2 or 3 doses an hour apart, as the pool fills, and starting when the water is  $\pm$  300mm deep).
4. Add metal remover while filling.
5. Once the pool is filled, add the required alkalinity increaser (dissolved in a bucket of water – large quantities should be divided and added in 2 or 3 doses an hour apart) and check again for metals, total alkalinity and calcium hardness. Brush the pool using a nylon vacuum pool brush. Vacuum to waste to remove dust and debris.
6. Start the filter. Do not introduce an automatic cleaner to the pool for 3 weeks. Using a soft vacuum pool brush, brush the pool regularly to remove dust, chemical precipitation and debris.
7. Ensure that the pH remains above 7.6 but not higher than 7.8. This will aid the curing and hardening process of the **PoolCrete**. Small amounts of acid can be used to maintain a pH of 7.8. Add only 25ml hydrochloric acid per 10 000 litres of pool water (e.g. 100ml per 40 000 litre 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.
8. Dose only with small quantities of unstabilised granular dry chlorine, or unstabilised liquid chlorine during this period.

Cemcrete provides a comprehensive technical service based on over 4 decades of experience in the field of surface applications and cement technology. 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.

# PoolCrete Start-Up Guide

**November 2025**

Page 2 of 2

**Day 22**

9. The water should be balanced to the following parameters:

- Total Alkalinity: between 80ppm and 125ppm
- Calcium hardness: between 200ppm and 275ppm
- pH: 7.4 to 7.6
- Chlorine: between 1 to 3
- Stabilizer: between 40ppm and 70ppm

10. Follow the relevant manufacturer's instructions for dosing from now on.

11. If a saltwater chlorinator is installed, the following should be observed:

a) Turn off your pool's salt chlorine generator before adding the salt ( $\pm 1$  bag for every 20 000 litres of water). Only high quality, evaporated, granulated, food-grade salt free of iodine, caking agents, and metal oxides should be used. Do not use rock salt. Some salt chlorine generators may need to continue running during treatment to process the salt. Refer to the literature included with your generator to determine whether to turn it off or leave it on.

**Tip:** Make sure you leave the pump on. The gentle circulation of the water will help the salt dissolve faster.

b) Snip the corner of a bag of salt and begin shaking it (to avoid lumps) while you slowly pour the salt in a little at a time, while walking around the pool. This will help distribute it more evenly throughout the water. Try to sprinkle the salt about 0.5m away from the edge of the pool to keep it from piling up around the walls or drifting into the skimmers. Do not dump bags of salt directly onto the pool surface, as this may discolour the **PoolCrete** and cause surface deterioration.

c) Use a brush to disperse any salt that has settled at the bottom of the pool. Focus on low-lying spots, such as the area around the main drain. The motion of the brush will also encourage the salt to dissolve more rapidly.

d) Continue running your pool's filter until the salt dissolves completely. For most average-sized home swimming pools, this will take 18 - 24 hours, depending on the water temperature and strength of circulation. Larger pools will take longer, depending on the size of the pump and filtration system type.

12. The automatic pool cleaner can now be introduced to the pool.

**Important information**

- Always follow the chemical manufacturers' instructions when adding chemicals to the pool. Chemicals should be added in a controlled manner, as it is not advisable to overdose with any chemical in the hope 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 it while the pump is running to ensure an even distribution.
- Overdosing with calcium hypochlorite (dry granular chlorine) causes scale build-up and a high pH.
- Overdosing with trichloroisocyanuric acid (stabilised chlorine) causes a drop in pH and etching of the **PoolCrete** surface, as it neutralises itself by leaching the calcium from the **PoolCrete**. Keep chlorine pills or granules well away from the immediate plaster surface of the pool. Also keep out of the direct jet of airflow and away from or near the weir.
- The use of a gas chlorinator is not recommended. Due to the chemical reactions that take place where the gas is introduced into the water, hydrochloric acid (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 pool products, protect your investment and obtain maximum enjoyment from your pool.

Cemcrete provides a comprehensive technical service based on over 4 decades of experience in the field of surface applications and cement technology. 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.