

# **SOPREMA**POOL

Maintenance instructions for reinforced membrane

Waterproofing





# The SopremaPool reinforced membrane

To preserve the long-term aesthetics of a pool and ensure the durability of the membrane, it is essential to follow these key instructions and apply the proper maintenance practices.

#### **ADVANTAGES**

- + Excellent weldability.
- + High resistance to atmospheric agents and UV rays.
- Resistance to microorganisms thanks to the "Bio Shield" treatment.
- + Puncture resistance.

- Outstanding mechanical performance.
- Withstands the chemical products used for water treatment in pools with reinforced PVC membrane.



\*It is essential to keep the product label for warranty issuance.

\*\* Stains caused by bacteria.

# Filling the pool

## 01 Use public water supply

It is strongly recommended to fill your pool with water from the public water supply and to avoid using well water. Well water most likely contains heavy metals (iron, copper, manganese, etc.), which can cause stains on your reinforced PVC membrane.

## 02 Analyze your water

Once the pool has been filled, the water should be tested to ensure there are no traces of iron or copper. If the concentration exceeds 0.02 mg/L, it is recommended to perform a corrective treatment using a metal sequestrant product.

▲ Regardless of whether it is a new installation, post-winterising, or another scenario, it is not advisable to leave the pool empty. Without water protection, the reinforced membrane will be exposed to UV radiation and possible falling objects. Additionally, if water infiltrates between the membrane and its support (due to heavy rainfall, rising groundwater levels, etc.), it may shift or even form folds.

# Winterising the pool

Winterising is recommended when the water temperature drops below 13°C. The process should start with cleaning the pool and its accessories. Proper winterization helps maintain the longevity of the membrane.

# Whether choosing active or passive winterising, follow these steps:

- 01 Prepare your pool.
- **02** Perform a shock chlorination (do not cover the pool).
- 03 Run the filtration system for 24 hours.
- 04 Add winterising products.

### **Active winterising**

 $\rightarrow$  Keep your pool's filtration system running: 2 x 1 hour per day at 8-hour intervals.

#### **Passive winterising**

→ Lower the water level by a few centimeters: 5-10 cm below the return jets, vacuum intake, and skimmers.

 $\rightarrow$  Drain the equipment and pipes to prevent stagnant water from freezing during winter.

ightarrow Place floating devices in the water to reduce ice pressure on the walls and membrane.

 $\rightarrow$  Never winterise a pool by completely draining it.

 $\rightarrow$  Never leave the pool empty throughout the winter period.

#### Did you know?

Regardless of the winterising method you choose, it is still important to regularly check parameters like pH, TAC, and others, as changing weather conditions can affect water quality.

# Water balance

Maintaining proper water parameters is essential to prevent premature deterioration of the membrane. It is recommended to analyze these parameters once a week.

# 01 pH

pH (Potential Hydrogen) measures the hydrogen ion activity in water, indicating its acidity or alkalinity. The value should be between **7.2 and 7.6**.

### 02 Water treatment

The treatment of pool water serves several purposes:

 $\rightarrow$  Disinfect the water and maintain its disinfectant properties.

- $\rightarrow$  Keep the water clear.
- → Facilitate routine maintenance of equipment (filters, waterline, etc.), prolonging their service life.

Depending on the chosen treatment, certain concentrations must be observed:

#### Chlorine

**Unstabilized chlorine** should be between **0.3 and 1.0 mg/L**.

To limit the water's oxidation power (ORP/ Redox), 20-30 ppm of stabilizer (cyanuric acid) should be added.

Automatic treatments, such as dosing pumps or electrolyzers, generate powerful and aggressive chlorine that must be stabilized. The use of a production or injection controller with a Redox (ORP) probe is highly recommended to prevent over-chlorination (especially due to the closure of covers or other protective systems).

Stabilized chlorine should be between 0.7 and 1.5 mg/L.

**Excess chlorine** can cause membrane discoloration.

**A low pH** will make the water more corrosive to the lining and may cause irritation.

#### Bromine

**Bromine** levels should be between **1 and 2 mg/L**. With this type of disinfectant, the pH can rise up to 8.

#### Ozone

Residual ozone should not exceed 0.01 mg/L in the water.

▲ Whether liquid or solid, **no chemical product should come into direct contact with the membrane**. Chlorine tablets, for example, must be placed in the skimmers, and filtration must be left running until they are completely dissolved. Stopping the filtration system can cause a high concentration of chemicals near the main drain, which may damage the lining.

Floating dispensers are highly discouraged as they tend to remain in the same spot, leading to a high concentration of chemicals in a single area.

# 03 Tac

TAC (Total Alkalinity Correction) determines your pool water's ability to dissolve certain acids, balance, and stabilize its pH level. This is also known as the buffer effect. It is essential to know the TAC level before making any pH corrections.

An incorrect TAC can have harmful effects, particularly on the membrane, such as scaling or corrosion. The water may become cloudy and even irritating to the eyes and skin. An improper TAC level will also affect the effectiveness of the maintenance products used in your pool.

The recommended TAC value should be between **100 and 140 ppm**.

## 04 Limestone

Limestone, also known as TH (Total Hardness or Water Hardness Level), is naturally present in water, and its concentration varies depending on the region. When the TH level is high, the water is considered «hard», whereas a low TH level means the water is «soft».

→ Soft water can be corrosive, leading to the deterioration of equipment and pool linings.

→ Hard water can make the water cloudy, prematurely damage pool equipment and pipes, and cause white deposits on the membrane.

To prevent these issues, it is recommended to use a calcium sequestrant.

The ideal TH level should be between **175** and **230 ppm**.



# Best practices for your pool and membrane durability

# Warning



**Disinfection systems** or other treatments containing copper should be avoided. These products react, especially with sunscreens, and can cause irreversible discoloration of the waterline.



The **waterline** should be cleaned with appropriate brushes or sponges, such as the SopremaPool Magic sponge, to ensure effective and safe cleaning. Avoid using corrosive sponges, metal brushes, or high-pressure cleaning, as they can damage the membrane.



Sunscreens and tanning oils can create stains on the waterline, which become even harder to remove when combined with calcium deposits.

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The **water temperature** should **not exceed 32°C**. The higher the temperature, the greater the chemical-related issues on the membrane, such as the formation of wrinkles, creases, and discoloration.

# **Best practices**



Take a shower before swimming to remove oils and creams.



The daily filtration cycle should be adjusted according to the water temperature:

20°C	6 hours
20 - 24°C	8 hours
24 - 26°C	12 hours
26 - 28°C	14 hours
>28°C	24 hours



**Monitor water balance values** (chlorine and pH) regularly, at least once or twice a week.



#### Uncover the pool when absent

for several days to promote better water circulation and aeration.

SOPREMA is member of some of the leading swimming pool federations and associations:







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Since 1908, SOPREMA has been improving people's well-being and protecting their environment with innovative and sustainable waterproofing, insulation, soundproofing, and vegetated solutions for builders in the roofing, building envelope, civil engineering and swimming pool sectors.

## **SOPREMA**POOL

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A dedicated team to answer your technical and commercial questions.

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