

Houston Pool Maintenance Checklist

Weekly, monthly and seasonal care built for the Houston climate

CABANA POOLS AQUATECH

Family owned since 1976

(713) 467-3700

EVERY WEEK

Non-negotiable

- ☐ **Check the water level.** Keep it mid-skimmer. Low water cooks pump seals. Check weekly.
- ☐ **Test the water.** Free chlorine, pH and total alkalinity at minimum.
- ☐ **Balance to the test results,** not to last week's dose. Alkalinity before pH. Shock only as needed.
- ☐ **Skim the surface.** Remove debris before it sinks and breaks down.
- ☐ **Brush walls, steps and tile line.** Most skipped task. Algae starts as an invisible film.
- ☐ **Vacuum the floor,** or confirm the automatic cleaner works and cover the corners it misses.
- ☐ **Empty skimmer and pump baskets.** Full baskets restrict flow all week.
- ☐ **Check filter pressure.** Compare against your clean baseline.

EVERY MONTH

- ☐ **Test calcium hardness and stabilizer.** Neither shows on a basic test strip.
- ☐ **Deep clean the filter.** Backwashing alone is not a proper clean.
- ☐ **Inspect the equipment pad.** Seepage, corrosion, unusual motor noise.
- ☐ **Clean and lubricate the lid O-ring.** Silicone lubricant only, never petroleum jelly.
- ☐ **Check the tile line.** Early scale is far easier to remove than established buildup.
- ☐ **Inspect the pool surface.** Note rough patches, cracks or staining early.

AFTER ANY MAJOR STORM

Within 48 hrs

- ☐ **Clear surface debris** before it sinks.
- ☐ **Test everything.** Expect low chlorine and shifted pH.
- ☐ **Correct pH and alkalinity,** restore chlorine, and shock only if conditions call for it.
- ☐ **Empty the baskets.** They will be full.
- ☐ **Run the filter continuously** for at least 24 hours.
- ☐ **Recheck filter pressure** once the debris load clears.

THE HOUSTON SEASON

Local calendar

SPRING Feb to Apr

- Pollen season. Increase skimming through peak weeks.
- Watch filter pressure closely, pollen loads filters fast.
- Correct chemistry as water temperature climbs.
- Inspect equipment before heavy summer runtime.

SUMMER May to Sep

- Extend pump runtime for full daily water turnover.
- Test more often in heatwaves and after heavy use.
- Watch calcium hardness, evaporation concentrates it.
- Keep a storm plan ready.

FALL Oct to Nov

- Do not stop service. Water stays warm well into fall.
- Increase skimming as leaves drop.
- Retest calcium hardness after a summer of topping up.
- Service the heater before you need it.

WINTER Dec to Jan

- Maintain sanitizer at reduced demand, never zero.
- Keep circulating. Stagnant water means a green spring.
- Protect exposed plumbing before a hard freeze.
- Best window for resurfacing or renovation work.

LEAVE THESE TO A PROFESSIONAL

- Any electrical work. Texas law requires a licensed technician.
- Shaft seal replacement and impeller work.
- Cracked pump housings and hard-plumbed pipe repair.
- Leak detection and repair.
- Acid washing, draining and resurfacing.

Filter tip: standard sand only captures particles down to 20 to 40 microns, which is why some pools stay faintly hazy no matter how good the chemistry gets. Volcanic ash media filters to 2 to 5 microns and stays in the tank permanently.