

# POOL TILE MAINTENANCE GUIDE





Proper care and maintenance is crucial to the long-term appearance and performance of pools and water features. The following information outlines recommended products and techniques for the cleaning, sealing and protection of most pool and exterior tile and is general in nature.

## WATER BALANCE

**Start-Up:** Source water should be tested prior to filling and adjusted per industry guidelines such as the National Plasterers Council's "Swimming Pool Start-Up Procedures" available at [www.npconline.org](http://www.npconline.org). Fill water low calcium hardness, low pH and/or low alkalinity can be corrosive to plaster, grout, thin-set mortar, concrete, natural stone and metals.

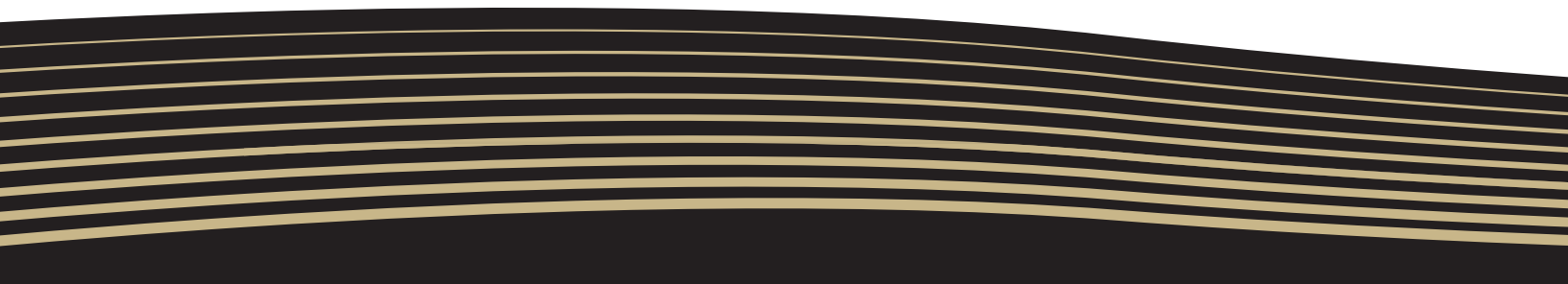
**Ongoing Maintenance:** Proper water balance and chemistry is critical for controlling calcium deposits (mineral scale). Water balance is calculated via the Langelier Saturation Index (LSI). The water's LSI is a numeric expression of the water's balance and takes into consideration multiple factors. When water is balanced the LSI equals zero and variation between 0.0 and 0.5 is considered acceptable. LSI levels greater than 0.5 may lead to water cloudiness and accelerated mineral scaling. Negative LSI levels may lead to corrosion of cement-based materials (e.g. plaster & Grout) and metal surfaces. Pool water chemistry should be measured and maintained by a pool-maintenance professional.

## SEALING POROUS MATERIALS

Sealers are beneficial for natural stone, masonry (i.e. coping) and cement-based grouts. To protect porous materials and ease maintenance, we suggest sealing installations with either Oceancare High Performance Penetrating Sealer (natural look) or Oceancare High Performance Enhancing Sealer (color enriching).

## PREVENTING CALCIUM BUILD-UP

To inhibit the bond of calcium deposits, we suggest applying Oceancare Glass & Tile Shield to new and/or clean pool tile. Protected tile surfaces will be easier to maintain and most calcium deposits can be removed with regular brushing or scrubbing, dramatically reducing or even eliminating the need for chemical cleaners or aggressive cleaning methods. For optimum protection, we suggest applying Glass & Tile Shield to pool tile every 6 months.



## GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Pool tile should be brushed or scrubbed as part of a weekly pool maintenance program. Avoid the use of pumice stones or wire brushes, which can damage tile surfaces.

To remove waterline scum and grime, we suggest applying Oceancare All Purpose Cleaner & Degreaser to tile surface and scrub with a nylon bristle scrub brush or a 3M White or Blue nylon scrub pad.

To remove mineral scale and calcium deposits, we suggest applying Oceancare Calcium Releaser to tile surface and scrub with a nylon bristle scrub brush or a 3M White or Blue nylon scrub pad. Do not use abrasive or acidic cleaners.

## MEDIA-BLASTING

In cases of heavy calcium deposits, mineral scale or neglected tile, media-blasting may be necessary. Media-blasting is a process in which an abrasive material is pressurized and shot at a surface to remove heavy deposits. This is generally performed by pool tile cleaning specialists through the use of portable media-blasting equipment. An array of blasting media is available, ranging from glass bead (aggressive) to baking soda (mild). Generally, baking soda or similar hardness blasting media (i.e. kieserite) is aggressive enough to remove scale but is safe for tile (including glass tile). As with all cleaning procedures, this process should be tested in an inconspicuous area to ensure the results will meet your expectations and not damage the tile surface.

Once media-blasting is complete, pool tile installations should be sealed, protected and regularly maintained.

***WARNING Certain acids will damage tile glaze and iridescent glass tile. Care should be taken to protect tile surfaces when using acids in the pool finishing process and when adding acid to the pool water. DO NOT allow products that contain hydrofluoric, hydrochloric, muriatic or phosphoric acid to come in direct contact with the tile. In the case of accidental contact, neutralize immediately with baking soda and water (1 lb: 3 gallons).***

***NOTE: Always wear personal protection equipment, follow instructions for product use and protect surrounding surfaces when using cleaning or sealing products. Test all products in an inconspicuous area for desired effect.***



# SEALING, PROTECTION & MAINTENANCE SYSTEMS FOR GLASS TILE

## NEW TILE

- 1** Seal grout with Oceancare  
**High Performance Penetrating Sealer**  
(prevents staining)
- 2** Protect tile & grout with Oceancare  
**Glass & Tile Shield**  
(inhibits calcium build-up)
- 3** Clean tile & grout regularly with Oceancare  
**All Purpose Cleaner & Degreaser**
- 4** Every 6-12 months clean tile & grout with  
Oceancare **Calcium Releaser** and reapply  
**Glass & Tile Shield**




## EXISTING TILE

- 1** Remove calcium deposits with Oceancare  
**Calcium Releaser**  
(heavy deposits may need to be media blasted)
- 2** If needed, restore faded/etched tile with  
Oceancare **Pool Tile Restorer**
- 3** Protect tile & grout with Oceancare  
**Glass & Tile Shield**  
(inhibits calcium build-up)
- 4** Clean tile & grout regularly with Oceancare  
**All Purpose Cleaner & Degreaser**
- 5** Every 6-12 months clean tile & grout with  
Oceancare **Calcium Releaser** and reapply  
**Glass & Tile Shield**





# What's in your pool?

A close-up photograph of a person's hand, palm up, holding a small amount of water. The hand is positioned over a pool of water, which is visible in the background. The water in the pool is a deep blue color, and the hand is a light skin tone. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the skin and the ripples in the water.

Most people don't think about the chemicals they use to service their pool tile. However, many common pool tile cleaners contain toxic chemicals and aggressive acids, which can damage tile and pose serious health risks to users. We believe maintenance products should do more than remove calcium or prevent stains. Low VOC sealers and all natural, biodegradable, non-toxic, acid free cleaners are essential for providing peace of mind and superior performance.