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Step-by-Step Guide to Adding Soda Ash in Your Swimming Pool

Maintaining the correct pH level in your swimming pool is crucial for the comfort of swimmers and the longevity of pool equipment. Soda ash, or sodium carbonate, is a common additive for raising the pH levels in pools. Here is a comprehensive guide on how to properly incorporate soda ash into your pool maintenance routine:

Step 1: Test Your Pool's pH

Before you add any chemicals, it's vital to test your pool water to understand the current pH level. Ideally, swimming pool water should have a pH between 7.2 and 7.8. If the pH is below 7.2, it's time to add soda ash.

Step 2: Calculate the Required Amount of Soda Ash

The amount of soda ash needed depends on the volume of water in your pool and the current pH level. Generally, to raise the pH by 0.2 units in a 10,000-gallon pool, you'll need about 6 ounces of soda ash. Always refer to the manufacturer's recommendations for precise dosing.

Step 3: Prepare the Soda Ash Solution

Instead of adding powder directly to the pool, dissolve soda ash in a bucket of water to create a saturated solution. This helps it to distribute more evenly and reduces the risk of clouding the pool water.

Step 4: Turn Off the Pool Heater

Before adding chemicals, it's a good practice to turn off the pool heater to prevent damage or uneven chemical distribution caused by localized heat.

Step 5: Add Soda Ash to the Pool

Pour the soda ash solution into the pool, distributing it across the surface to allow for even dispersal. It's best to do this in the deep end to avoid concentrated areas of high pH.

Step 6: Run the Pool Pump

After adding soda ash, run the pool pump for at least 1-2 hours to circulate the water and distribute the chemical thoroughly.



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Step 7: Re-Test and Adjust if Necessary

Wait at least 6 hours before re-testing the pH level. If the pH still needs adjustment, repeat the process. Avoid adding large amounts of soda ash in a single application; it's better to make gradual adjustments.

Step 8: Monitor Alkalinity

Adding soda ash can also raise the total alkalinity. Ensure that total alkalinity remains within the range of 80-120 ppm to prevent potential scaling and maintain the efficacy of chlorine.

Step 9: Keep Safety in Mind

Always handle soda ash with care. Use gloves and eye protection, and avoid inhaling the dust. Store it in a dry, safe place, away from children and pets.

Step 10: Document Your Maintenance

Keep a log of all pool maintenance activities, including pH adjustments. This can help you understand your pool's unique chemistry over time and make more informed decisions about chemical additions.

By following these steps, you can effectively use soda ash to maintain the optimal pH level in your swimming pool. This is essential not only for the health of swimmers but also to ensure the efficiency of other chemicals, such as chlorine. In our next section, we'll explore best practices for handling and storing bulk soda ash, especially when purchasing wholesale sodium carbonate for pool cleaning in large quantities.

