

## Cleaning Salt Cells

### *Why does a salt cell need to be cleaned?*

As a salt-to-chlorine generator operates, the plates inside the electrolytic cell can form deposits and reduce the efficiency of the production. It is recommended that the cell be removed for visual inspection and cleaning of any buildup on these plates every 4 to 6 months.

To clean a salt cell, turn off the power to the salt to chlorine generator and the main pool pump. Disconnect the union at each end of the electrolytic cell to remove it from the plumbing. Visually inspect the plates inside the cell for a white in color build up that would be stuck to and between each plate. If there is no visual build up, simply reinstall the cell using care to make sure it is installed in the proper direction with any flow arrows pointed with the path of the water flow. Most unions are designed to be tightened with hand tight pressure and possibly an additional quarter turn.

If there is build up found on the plates of the electrolytic cell, unplug the cell from the power source and soak it in a cleaning solution. The cleaning solution should be made up of one part muriatic acid to two parts water. Always wear proper eye protection and use chemical resistant gloves when handling muriatic acid. Be sure to use a bucket deep enough and a sufficient amount of cleaning solution to completely cover the plates inside the cell with room for the

cell to be submerged without spillage. Some manufacturers have cleaning stands available to make this process easier and reduce the amount of cleaning solution needed. Always add the muriatic acid to water before submerging the cell. Once the plates of the cell are submerged, the cleaning solution will begin to react and bubble with the buildup. Let the plates soak until the reaction and bubbling subside. This can take anywhere between a couple of minutes to a couple of hours, depending on the severity of the buildup.

Once complete, properly dispose of the cleaning solution. It may be best to pour it directly into the pool, as muriatic acid is a strong acid that can damage anything it touches. This solution will lower the pH and alkalinity of the pool water. Following that, rinse the cell with clean water. Plug the cell back into the power supply and reinstall the cell back into the plumbing. Again, make sure the cell is installed in the proper direction with any flow arrows pointed with the path of the water flow. Most unions are designed to be tightened with hand tight pressure and possibly an additional quarter turn.

***How to prevent salt cell buildup*** To reduce the need and frequency of cleaning of the electrolytic cell, it is important to test the pH and alkalinity of a salt pool on a weekly basis. The pH must be kept between 7.2 and 7.6. The total alkalinity should be kept between 80ppm and 100ppm. The lower end of each of those ranges will provide the best results for reducing deposits on the cell

and less frequent need of cleanings. Consult with your water test kit guide or a Gohlke Pools staff member on what products to add to properly adjust the balance of the swimming pool water.

### **Note:**

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