

How to Clean Your Salt Cell



How to clean your salt cell using muriatic acid.

Most saltwater chlorination systems are "self-cleaning". This means that after every few hours of use, they reverse the current across the cell plates to throw off any scale that has built up. Periodically, however, your salt cell should be removed and manually cleaned. This article describes just how to do that.

There are four possible scenarios in which the "add salt" light can go on:

1. The water is really cold
 2. The cell is worn out
 3. The salt level is actually low
 4. The "add salt/check cell" light automatically comes on every 500 hours (Hayward)
- Most saltwater chlorinators (except for Jandy AquaPure) do not actually measure the salt level of the pool water. Instead they monitor the amp draw of the salt cell and extrapolate a salt reading off of that amp draw.

Here is the logic behind this:

- More salt in the water makes the water more electrically conductive
- More conductive water will draw more amperage across the cell plates

THEREFORE: The salt level in the water directly correlates to the amp draw.

Here is the flaw in this logic . . . there are some other things that can cause a low amperage reading.

- A bad cell - will not conduct much electrical current across the cell.
- Cold water - will also not be as conductive.
- A little timer inside the system that turns the "check salt" light on every 500 hours

Here is the moral of the story . . . **ALWAYS HAVE YOUR WATER TESTED MANUALLY BEFORE ADDING SALT.**

We could tell you a bunch of stories about people who got the salt level in their pool above 5000 ppm because they kept adding salt when they did not need it, and then they had to drain most of the water out of their pool to keep the high salt level from damaging their equipment.