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Soda Ash



Soda ash (sodium carbonate, also called pH Up) is one of the most effective chemicals for raising pH and total alkalinity in swimming pools, making it essential when your pool water becomes too acidic. It's widely used by pool owners across Australia—including on the Sunshine Coast—to restore water balance quickly and safely.

What Soda Ash Does in a Pool

- **Raises pH** efficiently when water becomes acidic.
- **Increases total alkalinity**, helping stabilise pH and prevent rapid fluctuations.
- **Improves swimmer comfort** by reducing eye and skin irritation caused by low pH.
- **Protects pool equipment** from corrosion due to acidic water.
- **Helps maintain clear water**, as proper pH improves chlorine effectiveness.

When You Should Use Soda Ash

Use soda ash when:

- Your **pH is below ~7.2**.
- Your **total alkalinity is low** (typically below 80 ppm).
- You notice **corrosion, etching, or irritation** symptoms.
- The water becomes **cloudy due to low pH**.

How to Add Soda Ash (Step-by-Step)

1. **Test your pool water** using a reliable test kit to confirm low pH or alkalinity.
2. **Calculate the dose:** Most pools need **~150–300 g per 10,000 L** to raise pH, but always adjust based on test results.
3. **Pre-dissolve the soda ash** in a bucket of warm water to avoid clouding or surface damage.

4. **Slowly broadcast the solution** across the deep end while the pump is running.
 5. **Circulate for at least 1–2 hours.**
 6. **Retest pH and alkalinity** and adjust if needed.
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Why Water Sometimes Turns Cloudy After Adding Soda Ash

- Soda ash is highly alkaline and can cause **temporary cloudiness** if added too quickly or in high concentration.
 - Cloudiness usually clears within a few hours as the water circulates.
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Safety Tips

- Wear **gloves and eye protection** when handling.
 - Never mix soda ash with other pool chemicals.
 - Add chemicals **to water**, not water to chemicals.
 - Store in a dry, sealed container away from moisture.
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