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3 Smart Moves to Save Money on Your Pool This Weekend

(By Avoiding What Most People Do Wrong)

1. Don't Dump Chemicals in Panic Mode — Check Your LSI First

Saturday morning rolls around, you glance at your pool, and something feels... off. Maybe the water looks a bit dull, or it just doesn't feel "right." So, like many pool owners, you start tossing in chemicals — a little pH down, some calcium, a splash of algaecide... maybe even shock for good measure.



But here's the truth: that kind of guesswork costs your money, messes with your water balance, and often creates more problems than it solves.

Instead, take a moment to check your LSI — the Langelier Saturation Index. It's like a health check for your pool water, showing whether it's balanced, aggressive, or scaling. If the LSI is off (outside -0.3 to +0.3), your water may start eating away at your surfaces or leave crusty scale behind. Either way, it's bad news for your equipment — and your wallet.

There are free LSI calculators online. Just plug in your test numbers (pH, temp, hardness, etc.) and see where you stand. You'll know *exactly* what needs adjusting, and you'll avoid panic-dosing chemicals that might not be necessary.

Start with balance, not reaction. Your pool — and your bank account — will thank you.

Want to know more about LSI... head here: pooladvise.com.au/resources and get your pool water balance, balanced!

2. Skip the “Just in Case” Shock — Test, Don’t Guess

Pool water looks a little cloudy? Smells weird? Time to shock it, right? Well... maybe not.

Most pool owners have been trained to treat shock like a weekly ritual — toss in a few bags “just in case.” But overusing shock is like overcooking your food because you forgot to check the oven. It wastes money, ruins balance and can even shorten the life of your liner or equipment.

Instead, pull out your test kit and check your chlorine levels first. If there's still chlorine present and the pool is clear, you likely don't need to be shocked at all. A high chlorine demand might mean something else is going on — like poor filtration or high stabiliser levels.

If shock *is* needed (like after a party, storm, or algae bloom), be precise. Use the right amount for your pool size and do it at night when the sun won't burn it off.



Think of shocking as a targeted reset button — not a habit. You'll save money, avoid unnecessary chemical juggling, and keep your water stable for longer stretches.

3. Stop Throwing Algaecide at a Problem That Needs a Brush

Ah, the dreaded algae bloom. It shows up when you least expect it — and before you know it, you're at the pool store dropping \$60 on copper algaecide, clarifiers, and a bottle that promises miracles.



But here's the catch: algaecide doesn't actually *kill* algae that's already blooming. That job belongs to good old-fashioned chlorine — and a scrub brush.

If your pool has gone green, the smartest approach is:

- Brush all surfaces to break algae's grip
- Clean or backwash your filter
- Raise your chlorine level to kill spores
- Maintain circulation until the water clears

Algaecide is best used **after** you've solved the problem — as a prevention tool, not a fix-it bottle. And be careful with copper-based ones if you've got a saltwater pool; they can stain surfaces and corrode fittings over time.

In short: don't rush to the chemical shelf. Spend 30 minutes with a brush and your test kit. You'll do more to fix the problem and spend a lot less trying.



Want to understand more, save more and enjoy more?

Dive in here: www.pooladvise.com.au

You won't regret it- and you'll enjoy your pool a whole lot more with less money, less energy and with better pool water balance.