

Which Pool & Spa System is Right for You?

Your pool or spa should be easy to enjoy – not a chore. This guide shows how the top water treatment methods work in real-world conditions so you can choose the best fit for your home, routine & lifestyle.

	Hydroxyl-Based AOP	Ozone + UV AOP	Ozone	UV	Nanobubble	Salt Water <i>(Used Alone)</i>	Chlorine <i>(Used Alone)</i>
Water Clarity	✓ Crystal-clear, consistent	✗ Varies, needs extra chlorine	✗ Inconsistent	✗ No improvement	✗ Inconsistent	✗ Standard	✗ Cloudy in heavy use
Heavy-Use Performance	✓ Handles heavy use, stays clear	✗ Struggles, needs extra chlorine	✗ Struggles, needs backup chlorine	✗ No lasting protection	✗ Struggles, needs chlorine backup	✗ Struggles, corrosion risk & high upkeep	✗ Struggles, needs extra use & upkeep
Chemical Use	✓ Minimal (0.5 - 1 ppm)	✓ Low (1 - 2 ppm)	✗ Medium (1.5 - 3 ppm)	✗ High (2 - 4 ppm)	✗ Medium (1.5 - 3 ppm)	✗ High, less noticeable (2 - 4 ppm)	✗ High (3 - 5 ppm)
Health & Comfort	✓ Feels like fresh water	✓ Less irritation	✗ Some irritation	✗ No irritation improvement	✗ Some irritation	✗ Softer feel, still chlorine-based	✗ Standard
Odor Control	✓ Odor-free	✓ Less odor	✗ Slight odor	✗ No impact	✗ Slight odor	✗ Odor present	✗ Strong odor
Ease of Maintenance	✓ Minimal, 1 cartridge exchange (5 minutes / year)	✗ High, both ozone & UV upkeep (10 - 15 hours / year)	✗ High, service generator (8 - 12 hours / year)	✗ High, clean & replace lamp (8 - 10 hours / year)	✗ Medium, clean & replace parts (6 - 8 hours / year)	✗ Regular, clean & replace cell (10 - 15 hours / year)	✗ High, constant dosing & balancing (10 - 15 hours / year)
Surface & Equipment Effects	✓ Protects	✗ Slight wear overtime	✗ Corrosive	✗ Neutral	✗ Neutral	✗ Corrosive & scales	✗ Corrosive, speeds up wear
Environmental Impact	✓ Minimal chemicals, recycles cartridges	✗ High energy use, low chlorine	✗ Moderate, harmful ozone byproducts	✗ High energy & chlorine use	✗ Moderate energy use	✗ Salt waste harms ecosystems	✗ High chemical pollution
Costs Over Time <i>Chemicals & Upkeep</i>	\$ Low	\$ \$ Medium	\$ \$ \$ High	\$ \$ \$ High	\$ \$ Medium	\$ \$ Medium	\$ \$ \$ High
Overall Experience*	★★★★★ Strongest Oxidation <i>Silky feel, always clear & low-touch</i>	★★★★☆ Good Oxidation <i>Better feel, good clarity & high maintenance</i>	★★★☆☆ Mild Oxidation <i>Less irritation, decent clarity, high maintenance</i>	★★☆☆☆ No Oxidation, Disinfects <i>No feel or clarity benefit, high maintenance</i>	★★★☆☆ Weak Oxidation, Indirect <i>Softer feel, clarity varies, moderate maintenance</i>	★★★☆☆ Weak Oxidation <i>Soft feel, corrosion risk, needs upkeep & back up</i>	★★☆☆☆ Weakest Oxidation <i>Harsh & drying, highest maintenance, needs backup</i>

***Why does oxidation matter?** It keeps water clean, clear & safe by breaking down contaminants. Systems without oxidation need more chlorine, while those that do oxidize work differently. For example, chlorine oxidizes everywhere in the water, while Hydroxyl-Based AOP oxidizes in microseconds within the plumbing – never touching swimmers, surfaces or equipment.