

Maintenance Procedures

Guidelines to assist you in establishing a routine to maintain your pools pristine appearance. These are guides only, they are designed to remind and enable you to remember vital areas that routinely require you to check and act on in order to maintain a clean, well-functioning and healthy pool. We have found that each pool is a unique environment unto itself. Your pool water chemistry will be different than all the pools around you and will have its own personality and requirements. As you get familiar with the characteristics of your pool these can assist you as reminder of things to check and be aware of to ensure the good health of your pool water.

Water Level: Try to keep approximately midway up the waterline tile. Water level will normally lose approximately ½" a day due to evaporation. This can increase significantly with the use of water features such as fountains, waterfalls and sheer descents.

Weir: Skimmer weir should be in place (at opening from pool to skimmer) and be able to move freely. Properly functioning weir will enable the skimmer to do the job it was designed to do. The weir will create a "waterfall" effect, greatly increasing water flow into the skimmer.

Water Flow Diverters in the bottom of the skimmer(s) should be used to adjust water flow in skimmers. Optimum goal of water flow diverters is to obtain "equal" water flow through all skimmers. This is most usually obtained by restricting opening in the skimmer nearest to the pump and increasing opening in the skimmer farthest away from the pump.

Pump lid O-ring should fit tight and be lubed at least once a quarter, more often in hot weather. Pump pot should be full of water before starting pump. Hair and lint strainer (basket in pump pot) should always be in place and cleaned daily. If hair and lint strainer cracks, it should be replaced immediately. **(Water damage to motors Voids all warranties on motors)** Check often around pump for leaks and repair immediately, as a leaking seal will ruin the bearings in a motor. If air bubbles show up in pump, filter or pool, cause should be repaired. Always release air in filter before shutting off pump. This accomplished by utilizing the **air release valve** located at the top of the filter.

Backwash Valve O-ring should be lubed often, approximately every 3 months. When worn or loose they should be replaced. Also inspect all moving parts and clips for deterioration.

Chlorinators: The most used chlorinator is the Rainbow type. Be sure chlorinator inlet is plumbed between pump and filter, and the chlorinator outlet is plumbed after the heater on the pool return. If pool has no heater outlet can be plumbed after filter on the pool return. If you lube the O-ring on chlorinator lid once a month it will make opening the lid easier. Once a month check the L check valve at the bottom of the chlorinator to make sure it is open.

Salt Chlorine Generator: Check generator regularly, reverse polarity prior to backwashing filter help clear plates. Remove plates as required for cleaning per manufacturer's instructions.

Sand Filter: Backwash at least once a week or when pressure gauge changes 10± points from normal. Change sand every 3-5 years.

D.E. Filter: Clean grids with good quality filter cleaner after you backwash out the old DE and before recharging it with new DE. Filter should be dismantled a minimum of once a year. Check grids for wear, broken ribs or holes in grid media. If ribs or holes are found grids should be replaced immediately. Grids should be cleaned with a good quality filter cleaner.

Cartridge Filter: Spray or soak cartridge in a good quality filter cleaner, rinse and let dry. To prolong filter's life, keep a separate set of cartridges and alternate when possible. Always clean the filter with biodegradable cleaner that will remove both oils and algae. Remember phosphates will provide food for algae.

CAUTION- Using acid as a filter cleaner will set oils into cartridge element or DE grids.

When performing maintenance and cleaning it is a good idea to develop a system that you follow that covers all the areas that need to be addressed on a routine schedule as well as ensure that you get all areas cleaned and inspected on a regular basis. Everyone has their own style and system, the following is a list, in no particular order that need regular attention.

- Clean Skimmer basket(s)
- Clean out Hair and Lint Strainer on front of pump.
- Brush entire pool & spa, 3 times a week.
- Vacuum once a week.
- Scrub tile every 2-3 weeks to clean
- Inspect equipment, i.e. Pump, filter, chlorinator, heater and additional pumps for leaks, unusual noises or air bubbles in pump pot.
- Monthly lube O-rings on pump, backwash valve etc.
- Backwash filter weekly.
- Test water chemistry 2-3 times a week. Take water sample to be tested by professionals once a month, test for metals.
- Replace reagents in test kit annually. Recommend using a Taylor K-2005 or LaMotte 2056 ColorQ Pro 7

As you work with your pool on maintaining it you will easily recognize when issues are starting to develop and how to take corrective action. Practicing preventive maintenance will assure that it remains healthy and pristine.

Good Luck

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