
CLEANING YOUR POOL

Vacuumping: The filtration system provided with your swimming pool will remove the vast majority of foreign matter from your swimming pool water. However, from time to time, some dirt solids will settle to the bottom of your pool floor. This sediment is removed by vacuuming. To properly, understand the vacuuming process, you should familiarize yourself with the tools that you will be using. They are:

Vacuum Head (the type may vary)
Floating Vacuum Hose

Telescoping Vac-Handle
Vacuum Adapting Plate

The vacuuming procedure can be accomplished by following these seven steps:

1. Attach Vac-Head to Telescoping Handle using nuts and bolts. (Be cautious not to use a style that will rust or harm the liner.)
2. Attach one end of the Vac-Hose to Vac-Head. (Some hoses have a swivel end, use this end)
3. Remove floating debris from the skimmer.
4. Place Vac-Hose on Vacuum Adapter. (If available for your style pool.)
5. Place Vac-Head, with the hose attached, in the shallow end of your pool, resting it flat on the bottom.
6. Prime Vac-Hose. The Vac-Hose is primed by placing the end with the Vac-Adapter Plate over your pool return line wall fitting while the filter is still running. (If a Vac-Adapter is not used, place the end of the hose over the wall fitting.) The Vac-Hose will now fill the water, purging it of all air present.)

When the Vac-Hose is primed, lift it away from the wall fitting and place your hand over the operating opening to prevent water from running out of the other end. Carry this hose end to the skimmer and sit the adapter plate over the skimmer basket. (You may have a built-in skimmer adapter, if so; attach the hose end to it. If not, remove the basket and plug the hose into the bottom of the skimmer.) Be sure that the ridge of the underside of this skim Vac-Adapter plate is inside the basket ring and that the adapter plate flange is sitting flat on the basket rim. If the plate does not sit properly, it may be necessary to momentarily turn off the pump and reseal the adapter plate. Since many systems require slightly different procedures, it would be best to follow the manufacturer's suggestions on vacuuming.

COMMON POOL PROBLEMS

Algae: The most common forms of algae are green, yellow (mustard) and black. Algae is a form of plant life that thrives in water that is not properly maintained. Correct chemical balance is the best way to prevent the formation of algae. To avoid algae problems, be sure to maintain the proper chlorine, pH and alkalinity levels. Warm water, above 75 degrees, and hot humid weather can also contribute to the formation of algae. Shocking the pool water on a regular basis can do much to prohibit the growth of algae.

The easiest form of algae to eliminate are green and yellow algae. Normally, super chlorinating or shocking the water will knock these algae out. If there is a heavy accumulation of algae, an algaecide would be recommended. Be sure to brush the pool thoroughly and run the filter continuously when treating for algae. Keep watch on the filter pressure and clean when indicated. Algae left untreated can stain the pool.

Stains: It's like your laundry - no matter what you do, stains are a fact of life. But there are things that you can do to cut down the frequency and severity of the stains. Again, proper chemical balance is the most important. The alkalinity and hardness of the water can cause calcium deposits, which will turn gray or brown over a period of time. High iron content can cause ugly brown or rust colored stains to appear. In areas having hard water or high mineral content, be sure to use a stain preventative on a regular basis.

Cloudy Water: Improper chemical maintenance or lack of filtration can cause your pool water to be either milky or murky. The first step in solving this problem would be to test your pool water for chlorine, pH and alkalinity levels. If all these factors are in the correct range, check your pool filter system. The filter should operate long enough each day to turn the water at least once. A dirty filter restricts the water flow, so it may take much longer to filter the pool water. Inspect the filter media, grids, cartridges and sand bed to make sure that everything is clean and operating properly. Check the pump and skimmer baskets to ensure the water flow is not being impeded. If you have a DE filter, backwash. If you have a cartridge, take the cartridge(s) out and clean. In a sand filter, visibly inspect the sand bed to make sure it has not calcified and then backwash.