

Pool Maintenance




SWIM-MOR
P O O L S & S P A S

Lake Drive in Mt. Ephraim or 450 Tilton Road in Northfield
Toll Free 800-SWIM-MOR • Fax 856-456-7782

www.swimmor.com



Welcome to the joys of owning your own backyard vacation. Now that your dream has been realized and constructed it is time to enjoy your new custom Swim-Mor Pool.

We, at Swim-Mor, know that owning a new pool can be intimidating. However, the pool is there for your enjoyment, not for you to work on and worry about maintaining. This booklet is designed to go over pool maintenance and water chemistry to make it easy for you to understand.

So now lie back,

relax

and enjoy.

Remember, We are only a phone call away.

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Glossary of Terms

- A** **Algaecide:** strong chemicals that prevent the growth of algae.
Alkalinity: a measure of how resistant pH is to change. High or low levels of alkalinity can cause the pH to fluctuate and make the water more susceptible to scaling.
Automatic Pool Cleaner: an automatic pool vacuum that will do the hard work for you.
- B** **Backwash:** the act of cleaning out a d.e. filter by reversing the flow of water, which removes dirt and debris from the filter elements and pushes them out through a waste hose.
Broadcasting: A means of distributing chemicals by scattering them over the surface of the water.
- C** **Calcium Hardness:** A measure of the level of calcium salts dissolved in the water. Helps determine how scaling or corrosive the water is.
Cartridge Filter: A filter that has pleated elements that traps debris. No backwashing is possible with this filter.
Chlorine: A sanitizer and an oxidizer. As a sanitizer it kills bacteria, as an oxidizer it burns off organic matter and kills algae.
Clarifier: A chemical used to remove haze from water.
Coping: the edge of the pool that runs the entire perimeter of pool.
- D** **DE-Diatomaceous Earth:** DE is a white organic powder added to DE Filters to purify and filter water. It coats the elements inside of the filter and allows very little to pass through. DE filters are able to be backwashed.
Directional fitting: "eyeball" fittings used for pool returns allowing the water to be moved in any direction.
Diverter Valve: Placed in bottom of skimmer to adjust flow between main drain and skimmer suction.
- E** **Elements:** The inside of the filter that filters or aids in filtering debris and particles from the pool water.
- F** **Fiber Optic:** Lighting system, which has light generated from a remote source, and travels along fibers.
Filter: The tank which is used to remove fine debris from pool water.
- P** **pH:** potential Hydrogen- a measure of how acidic or basic the water is. Proper pool pH is between 7.2-7.6.
Pressure Gauge: A round gauge on top of the filter tank that tells you the pounds per square inch in the filter tank. This will indicate when to backwash on a d.e. filter.
Priming: filling the pump with water to help push water out of the lines.
Pump: Moves water through the filter and around the pool
- R** **Returns:** The point at which water returns to the pool from the filter.
- S** **Shock:** An oxidizer that burns off the organic waste by super chlorinating the water.
Skimmer: The opening on the side of the pool that skims/filters the top of the water. This is from the suction of the pump drawing water through the leaf basket inside of the skimmer.
Slide Valve: A manually controlled valve used to backwash on d.e. filters.
- T** **Telescoping Pole:** adjustable pole upon which a vacuum head, brush or leaf net can be attached.
- V** **Vacuum Hose:** a hose attached to suction line and used to manually vacuum bottom and side of pools (needed in place of automatic pool cleaner).

General Maintenance

Now that we know some general terminology, we will walk you through caring for your pool. The following table shows you time tables of when to perform varying aspects of your pool maintenance.

MAINTENANCE	TIME FRAME	SOLUTION
Check Skimmer Basket	2-3 per week	Remove and clean out basket.
Check hair-lint basket	Once/month	Remove and clean out basket
Check water level	Once/week	Fill pool to the middle of tile
Skim surface of pool	1-2/week	Use leaf skimmer to clean to pool
Check filter pressure	Once per 2 weeks	If pressure up 10psi from normal, backwash the system
Backwash	Once/month	Also when pressure increases
Polaris bag	Once/week	Remove debris then reattach
Water Chemistry	Once/week	Use test strips, then balance water accordingly
Check chlorine tabs	Once/week	Fill as necessary (2-3/skimmer) in skimmer
Check for dirt on pool bottom <i>(pools without Polaris)</i>	Once/week	Manually vacuum if you do not have a Polaris

You now know when to check all of these issues, but the big question now is **HOW**. The following will explain how to maintain your pool.

FILTRATION

Filtration is the complete water cycle, from start to finish, which cleanses the water. It will first travel through the AUTOMATIC SKIMMER BASKET. Next it will pass through the HAIR/LINT BASKET that is located at the pump both of these collect large pieces of debris. After leaving the pump the water travels to the FILTER. In the filter it will be further purified by passing through cartridges in a cartridge filter or D.E. covered elements in a D.E. filter. This removes very fine particles. It will then be returned to the pool through pool returns.

Checking baskets in the skimmer and pump will help maintain proper flow of water.

FILTER OPERATION

Set the time clock and run during normal swimming hours. The filter is set to operate between 6 and 12 hours per day, depending on swim load and time of the season. It is best to let the filter run from 8 am to 8 pm. You can

set the time clock to allow the filter equipment to run any length of time you desire by pulling the dial face outward and aligning silver arrow to the correct time and adding the time clips to desired starting and stopping points.

AUTOMATIC SKIMMER

The automatic skimmer is located on the side of the pool, and serves three basic functions. First is to clean debris from the surface of the pool. Secondly the diverter valve on the bottom of the skimmer adjusts the flow of water between the maindrain and skimmer. Thirdly, it is used for manually vacuuming.

To Clean the SKIMMER BASKET, simply remove top of skimmer located on the deck, pull out basket, dump out debris, rinse basket and replace. It is that easy.

HAIR AND LINT BASKET

This basket is located in the front of the pump. This basket serves as a secondary collector of debris.

To clean this basket, first turn off pool equipment. Next unscrew the clear lid on the top of the pump. When the top is off, remove the basket from inside of the pump, dump debris, rinse off basket and return. Screw the lid back in place and turn system back on.

FILTER

This is the final step in the filtration system. This is where the fine particles are filtered out of the water that the two baskets could not filter out.

The filter has no way to clean itself, therefore it periodically needs to be cleaned by you.

CLEANING YOUR FILTER

Before you do anything you need to establish what the normal running pressure of your filter is. This is done very easily. When the filter is first turned on, mark the pressure or PSI on the gauge on top of the filter. This is the normal running pressure. (On the new Jandy filters, there is a cover on the pressure gauge, move the "clean" label to where the pressure is.)

NOTE: Starting operating pressure is different between systems because of different lengths and sizes of plumbing lines. Make a note of the starting pressure of your filter system.

To clean, first you need to determine if the filter is dirty or not. Look at the pressure gauge, if it is 10-15 psi above normal running pressure, then the filter is considered dirty. Dirty indicates that the elements or cartridges have been coated or saturated with dirt and debris.

For D.E. Filters, to clean/backwash follow these 14 easy steps:

1. Turn off filter equipment
 2. Unroll backwash hose
 3. Turn the backwash plunger counterclockwise until it stops
(This is located on the front of the filter)
 4. Pull the plunger straight up until it stops
 5. Turn filter equipment back on
 6. Let it run for approximately 2 minutes or until water is clear
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7. Turn off filter equipment
 8. Push plunger straight back down until it stops
 9. Turn plunger clockwise until it stops
 10. Roll up backwash hose
 11. Turn filter equipment back on
 12. Open pressure relief valve attached to pressure gauge on filter, let air escape until a steady stream of water escapes
 13. Go to skimmer and remove the lid and basket
 14. Slowly add six pounds of D.E. directly into skimmer
 15. Once D.E. is no longer visible replace skimmer basket and lid
 16. Look at the pressure on pressure gauge, it should be back to your normal running pressure

NOTE: ON A NEW POOL OR SPRING START-UP YOU SHOULD BACKWASH ONCE A WEEK FOR TWO WEEKS REGARDLESS OF THE PRESSURE. IMPURE WATER WILL NECESSITATE BACKWASHING.

For **Cartridge Filters** cleaning is a little different, but if you follow these steps it will make it just as easy.

1. Turn off filter equipment
2. Unscrew and remove black clamp/band around middle of the filter tank
3. Remove cartridges by lifting them straight out of the tank
4. Hose off cartridges and inside of tank
(If possible soak cartridges in cleaner over night)
5. Remove any and all debris from inside of the tank
6. Replace cartridges into filter
7. Replace top of filter and attach the clamp/band around middle of filter tank
8. Start up filter equipment
9. Open pressure relief valve attached to pressure gauge, let all the air out and wait until a steady stream of water emerges

NOTE: Cleaning of a cartridge filter only needs to be done once or twice per season.

HEATER

The heater comes with operating instructions posted on the inside panel. **READ THEM CAREFULLY.** Here are a few pointers:

1. If the heater is not working, first check to see if the gas valve is open and or propane tanks are full.
 2. Be sure the pump has not lost its prime; check pressure and backwash if high. The heater will not operate without adequate water flow.
 3. If the filter is extremely dirty, the heater will not operate because not enough water is passing through it.
 4. To return the heater off, simply turn temperature control down as far as it will go. If the heater is being turned off for a long period of time, the gas valve should be turned off.
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BRUSHING

This is needed for new pool customers, and after the pool is started after each summerization. Before you start, close the diverter valve flap in base of the skimmer pot, this will maximize suction from floor of pool. Brush the walls and bottom of the pool from the shallow end, working your way slowly to main drain.

LEAF SKIMMER

The leaf skimmer is attached to your telescopic pole for manually cleaning the surface of the water.

MANUAL VACUUM

People who do not have an automatic pool cleaner will need to follow these steps in order to clean the pool.

1. Attach vacuum hose to vacuum head and to pole.
2. Completely submerge the hose and vacuum head in water removing all air from the line.
3. Remove the skimmer basket and diverter valve.
4. Insert the open end of the vacuum hose into the skimmer suction opening. This is the opening closest to you.
5. Once suction is initiated, begin systematically vacuuming the pool. Excess dirt may require that you stop and clean basket inside of pump housing.
**NOTE: if suction/prime is lost, bleed the air out of the filter using the pressure relief valve at filter.*
6. Upon completion remove hose and replace diverter valve and basket to skimmer.

TILE CLEANING

Simply wiping tiles with a sponge or soft cloth, using an approved tile cleaner.

NATURE 2

This is a mineral purification system. This system drastically reduces the amount of chlorine needed to purify the water. Inside of the canister is a cartridge that is what purifies the water. Once per season this cartridge will need to be replaced. The old cartridge needs to be removed and thrown away first. Two weeks prior to installing the new cartridge the water chemistry needs to be balanced.

The main thing you need to concern yourself with is the chlorine level. For the first two weeks you should have a chlorine level of 3 on your test strips, after cartridge is installed the reading should be a 0.5 or 1.

General Chemistry

COMMON POOL CHEMICALS

Chlorine:	Used to kill bacteria
Shock:	used to keep water clear, burn off organic waste, and kill algae
pH adjusters:	used to raise or lower pH to correct level, which help chlorine work better, reduces scaling and corrosion.
Total Alkalinity adjusters:	used to raise or lower total alkalinity which keeps pH from bouncing around
Calcium hardness increaser:	helps prevent deterioration of plaster
Algaecide:	attacks and kills existing algae cells and prevents future growth.
Clarifier:	clears up hazy or cloudy water
Sequestering Agents:	prevent staining of pool surfaces and water discoloration caused by metals in the water
Cese-Iron:	binds to iron in water, which in turns allows it to be filtered out.

WATER TESTING

After your initial start up a water sample should be brought to Swim-Mor Pools for an initial water test.

Following this water test, a water sample should be brought into Swim-Mor as needed for a professional water test. This will allow you to maintain the balance of the water and have professional aid at your fingertips.

WATER TEST STRIPS

You should test your pool water every other day once it is opened. After approximately two weeks you can begin to test once a week. Do not test everyday, water chemistry can change slightly daily. If you check it everyday it will drive you crazy to get it perfect everyday.

After you test the water you can adjust the water chemistry. Water treatment may seem complicated but our experts will advise through the use of our free computerized water analysis. Proper chemical treatment will protect your investment and insure sparkling water for your enjoyment.

NOTE: IMPURITIES IN YOUR WATER SUPPLY WILL NECESSITATE IMMEDIATE CHEMICAL TREATMENT TO PREVENT STAINING AND SCALING.

Chlorine

2-3 Chlorine tablets should be placed in the skimmer basket and should be checked and maintained on a weekly basis.

Shock

The pool should be shocked on a routine basis of once every week, two weeks if your pool is equipped with Nature 2. For every 10,000 gallons of water in your pool one 1lb bag of shock should be broadcast in.

After a rain storm the pool should be tested then shocked the following day.

pH

Maintaining a proper pH is important to the longevity of the pool and equipment. If the pH falls below 7.0 the acidic water will tend to damage the pool and equipment through corrosion of metal pipes and fixtures. In addition, the chlorine and other disinfecting agents dissipate rapidly in overly acidic water before they can perform their vital functions.

pH should be kept between 7.2 and 7.8, the ideal is 7.6.

Alkalinity

Alkalinity and pH run hand in hand and if one is adjusted the other will be affected.

In highly alkaline water serious scaling or calcification can form on the plaster, in the lines, and in the heat exchanger tubes from the heater. Constant pH adjustments are necessary to keep the pH and alkalinity at its proper level.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The best thing you can do for your pool is to allow Swim-Mor Pools to test your water on a routine basis. Remember, we are just a phone call away and are always willing to help you with your chemistry needs.



1-800-SWIM-MOR