

Swimming Pool Maintenance

Thoroughly cleaning your pool on a weekly basis during the swimming season will ensure clean and safe swimming water.

Skim Off Leaves and Debris

Use a long-handled leaf skimmer to gather up leaves, insects, and any other debris floating on the surface of the pool. Try to remove debris before it sinks to the bottom of your pool where it becomes difficult to remove and may create stains.

Brush

Use a brush to remove dirt that has collected on the sides and bottom of your pool. Brush sediment toward the main drain so it can be easily vacuumed.

Vacuum

Submerge your vacuum head and hose, before hooking up the vacuum to the filter.

Clean Skimmer(s)

You should also clean out your skimmer(s) weekly or more often if necessary. Removing debris allows the skimmer to operate at maximum efficiency.

Check Water Circulation

Your pool's circulation system includes the skimmer, pump, pump strainer, drains, and filter. The system helps chemicals work effectively and ensures that water is properly filtered. Run your pump long enough each day to make sure the water is properly filtered and keep each item clean and in good condition.

Check Filter

The three most popular types of filters - sand, cartridge, and vertical grid DE - screen out debris and particles from your pool water. You should clean and maintain your filter according to the manufacturer's directions.

Shock

Test your pool water frequently (daily or weekly depending on use) and add chemicals if necessary, following manufacturers' directions. A regular shock treatment cleanses the water of algae, bacteria, dirt, and any other organic matter that may have entered the pool. Follow manufacturer's directions for shock treatments.

"How and When do I Backwash my Sand Filter"

When the pressure gauge on your sand filter is reading 8 - 10 lbs above the clean, starting pressure (after backwashing), it is time to backwash your sand filter. This process involves turning a valve

so that the water will flow through the filter backwards, flushing out the dirt - Hence the name "back-washing." Sand filters can have either a push-pull valve (also known as a slide valve) or a multiport valve. The multiport valve has multi-ports on the valve, usually 6 positions. **Always shut off the filter pump before turning the filter valve.**

1. **FILTER:** Keep it here all the time, except when backwashing, rinsing or wasting
2. **RINSE:** Use this setting for 15 seconds after backwashing to rinse the sand filter tank
3. **RECIRCULATE:** Use this if your filter's broken; at least you're circulating the water
4. **BACKWASH:** Use this setting to reverse the flow in the filter and send water out of the waste line. Make sure valves are open and your backwash hose is rolled out
5. **CLOSED:** Put here to close off flow from the pool, usually to work on the equipment. Do not operate pump with valve in the closed position
6. **WASTE/DRAIN:** Another filter bypass setting, but this setting sends the water out of the waste pipe (hose), instead of returning it to the pool. This setting is used to lower pool water level or to vacuum to waste.

So, to backwash a sand filter with a multiport valve;

- Shut off the pump motor
- Press down on valve handle, rotate valve from FILTER to BACKWASH position
- Roll out any backwash hose or open any waste line valves
- Open air bleeder assembly on top of sand filter, and turn pump on.
- Watch pressure gauge for backpressure and hose for kinks. Be prepared to shut off pump quickly if the pressure gauge spikes or if the hose kinks up.
- Let the pump run for 2 - 3 minutes on BACKWASH or until water runs clear
- Shut off pump motor and move multiport valve handle to RINSE position Run on rinse for 15 seconds.
- Shut off pump motor and move multiport valve handle to FILTER position
- Turn pump back on and note lower pressure. Roll up backwash hose

To Backwash a sand filter with a slide valve (push-pull valve);

- Shut off pump motor, roll out backwash hose (if you have it)
- Twist to unlock plunger T-handle, pull / twist plunger upwards 2 - 3" (PacFab valves are reverse)
- Open air bleeder assembly on filter, and turn pump on
- Watch pressure gauge for backpressure (+ 30 PSI) and hose for kinks. Be prepared to shut off pump quickly
- After hose fills with water, backwash your sand filter for 2 - 3 minutes or until water runs clear
- Shut off pump motor and push T-handle back down into locked position
- Turn pump back on and note lower pressure. Roll up backwash hose

A properly sized sand filter should, in most cases, be able to operate continuously for a period of 4 weeks between backwashings. A "Filter Run" of less than 4 weeks may indicate sand problems (or sizing problems). It's a good idea to mark the pressure gauge with "Clean" & "Dirty" marks, or write the numbers on the tank, i.e., 8/16 to serve as a reminder when you need to backwash your sand filter.