



FACT SHEET 19

CLEANING SYSTEMS

A sparkling clean swimming pool is a joy, and with today's technology it is not hard to keep it that way.

There are a number of different types of cleaning systems, and it's a matter of choice to find the one that fits your requirements and your budget.

You could, of course, choose to manually vacuum your pool on a regular basis. But by far the most popular choice today is to use one of the many portable cleaning systems or a built-in cleaning and circulation system. Broadly, these can be broken into four categories:

- Suction cleaners
- Pressure cleaners
- Robotic cleaners
- Built-in in-floor systems.

SUCTION CLEANERS

In most cases, these systems are designed to plug into the pool's skimmer box, and are powered by the filter pump. They vacuum the floor in a random pattern, picking up debris and placing it in the skimmer basket for emptying later. Most manufacturers recommend they be removed when the pool is in use.

PRESSURE CLEANERS

In most cases, these cleaners are designed to use a separate boost pump. They take some of the filtered water from the pool return line, boost the pressure and return it to the cleaning system. This filtered high-pressure water is then used to jet into every corner of the pool. They use venture action to vacuum debris into a bag or their own body for emptying later.

The most beneficial thing about a pressure-side pool cleaner is that it doesn't suck stuff into your pool filter or pump basket (allowing you more time in between cleanings). Additionally, the method puts no load on the filter system, which makes it especially useful in very

leafy situations. Most manufacturers also recommend their removal when the pool is in use.

ROBOTIC CLEANERS

As the name suggests, these cleaners are independent devices operating under their own low-voltage power. They travel the entire floor of the pool, sweeping and vacuuming up debris. They have their own pump and drive motor as well as a small built-in filter, which cleans the water before returning it to the pool. This type of cleaner is more popular with commercial pool operators, as they can be installed at night after the pool has been closed for the day, and removed the following day.

IN-FLOOR CLEANING SYSTEMS

The in-floor cleaning system is the ultimate in low maintenance. At the same time as cleaning the entire pool surface, including steps, seats and swim-out areas, it improves heat and chemical distribution and general circulation.

They usually have a separate pump to circulate the water through a special valve to pop-up floor and step nozzles. These nozzles then direct debris toward various collection points for removal by the filter.

Being built in, the decision to install this type of system must be made before construction begins. Once installed, there is no maintenance required on most of the system. Some pool owners prefer to turn the system off during swimming; however, there is no requirement to do so as there are no hoses in the pool.

All the systems outlined here are designed to reduce the day-to-day maintenance of your pool, while keeping it in pristine condition. Prices of cleaning systems vary dramatically, but you should look upon your decision as an investment in your lifestyle.