

An Ounce of Prevention

THE BENEFITS OF FILTER CLEANING ARE WELL WORTH THE OFT-OVERLOOKED TASK.



THE WEATHER'S WARM AND THE WATER LOOKS ENTICING, but before you do that cannonball into the pool, be sure to take time out to check on one of the most commonly overlooked activities in pool maintenance: filter cleaning. More than your regular backwashing and rinse routine, filter cleaning is the process of chemically cleaning your filter. Regular attention to your filter will result in better circulation in your pool or spa, effective distribution of chemicals and less opportunity

for corrosion and scaling. All in all, the result will be improved water clarity, which is what we all strive for all season long, so remember to give your filter a little TLC this season.

Not sure if your filter needs cleaning? A few surefire signs, including a cloudy appearance and a rise in pressure, will alert you when your filter needs some attention.

"You can see a pressure rise just from debris collecting on the filter," said Ellen Meyer, technology manager at Arch Chemicals. And in this case, "it's harder and harder to push the water through the filter."

Whether you use a chlorine-based or chlorine-free sanitization system in your pool, it's important to maintain regular filter cleaning to keep all systems and products

performing at their optimum. "The point of the filter is to get rid of the particles in the water, so you're not going to do as good of a job if your filter is all gunked up," Meyer said. Backwash when the pressure increases 8-10 psi above the starting pressure. For sand filters, be aware that backwashing too frequently will reduce the sand filter's performance, since a sand filter will trap smaller and smaller particles over time.

So how do you best clean your filter? Every sand filter needs the addition of chemicals to "break down all the oils and greases," Meyer said. "A cartridge filter needs to be hosed off, then soaked." To optimize filter operation, chemically clean the filter twice a season. A clean filter ensures better circulation, which means clearer, cleaner water. And who doesn't want that? Also keep in mind the importance of cleaning your spa filter, since spa water is enjoyed at higher temperatures and often includes a higher bather load.

And while it is true that backwashing and rinsing will eliminate grime that becomes stuck in the filter element, it just isn't enough. "You can backwash on a regular basis, but you also need to clean (the filter)," Meyer said. Using a filter cleaner such as BAQUACIL® D.E. & Cartridge Filter Cleaner, BAQUACIL Sand Filter Cleaner, POOLIFE® Filter Cleaner or Pool Breeze® Filter Cleaner dissolves and unplugs D.E. filter grids and cartridge elements. Though often overlooked, filter cleaning is a simple pool care procedure that, when performed, yields many benefits. An ounce of prevention equals a pound of cure, so give the filter the care it deserves and then get ready to make a splash. For further information, contact your authorized dealer today.