



TROUBLE SHOOTING CAN ELIMINATE HEADACHES AND SAVE MONEY

Article submitted by Andrew Walker
PoolWerx

IN A WORLD WHERE STRATA MANAGERS ARE INCREASINGLY IN DEMAND AND ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE ON EVERY TOPIC IMAGINABLE, IT IS A WELCOME RELIEF TO KNOW AUSTRALIA HAS A WORLD LEADER IN MOBILE POOL AND SPA MAINTENANCE STANDING READY TO SUPPORT THE STRATA INDUSTRY.

Following is the third in a series of brief articles by Australia's nationally recognised expert in commercial pools maintenance.

Following are the 10 most frequently asked questions and answers to pool and spa problems as a quick reference to you.

Why is my pool green?

Answer: As a pool is basically a body of still water, it can easily become contaminated by things such as, body discharges, dirt carried by bathers, hair dislodged from the body and dirt and leaves blown into the pool. If the water is left unchanged or untreated for a period of time, bacteria, viruses and other organisms are allowed to develop.

These organisms can cause health problems as they multiply at a tremendous rate. Once growth starts, one algae spore can turn into ten million in approximately 10 hours.

The easy way to eliminate this problem is to ensure continuous and efficient recirculation of the water through a filter. In addition to this, it's necessary to destroy any organism that exists by injecting a disinfectant agent such as chlorine to the water.

When added to the pool in sufficient quantity, chlorine will effectively kill any bacteria that may be present. However, in order for it to work effectively the acid alkaline balance or pH value must be correct.

To ensure your pool stays clear and clean of any bacteria you must have a balance between chlorine and pH along with adequate filtration. With all of these elements acting together your pool should clear up within 24 hours.

PoolWerx can be contacted on 1800 009 000 for further information.





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A very green pool will require the services of your local PoolWerx franchisee to rectify.

I have a noisy pump, what could be the problem?

Answer: There are three basic reasons for a pump making excessive noise. The first of these is that bearings are starting to wear and are not as efficient as they should be. The simple course of action to take here is to have them replaced.

The second problem is that the impeller may have picked up a stone or debris and the pump may need to be cleaned to remove any foreign obstacles.

A low water level or poor water flow could also cause this.

An ongoing maintenance program from your local PoolWerx franchisee will pick up any of these problems early and ensure you have minimal risk with your pump.

My salt-water chlorinator is not working well, what could be wrong?

Answer: There are a number of things that will cause your salt-water chlorinator to be inefficient. The water pressure could be low, the cell could be dirty, the filter could be blocked or there may be a low water level in the cell.

It's also a good idea to frequently check the salt level; if the level is low it will cause your chlorinator to be inefficient. Check your skimmer basket and pump basket as well, they may be blocked with leaves and restricting water flow.

You could also have a worn cell in your chlorinator that needs replacement.

The water level in the pool is dropping, why would this be happening?

Answer: If you've been experiencing a number of very hot days you'll notice that nature will take its course and cause the level of the water in the pool to drop naturally by evaporation.

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Of course, if it continues to drop at an accelerated rate you need to look for other problems that may be occurring. These would include a leaky pool liner, possibly the hydrostatic valve in the main drain at the bottom of the pool floor is leaking or the multiport valve on the filter is leaking down the backwash or a connecting pipe is leaking. You could also have problems with your pump as it could be leaking or there could be a more serious problem of a cracked pipe underground.

The basic rule of thumb is that through the Summer months two to three centimetres of evaporation in any pool over a week is quite normal. A good way to eliminate this evaporation is to install a smart water marked approved pool blanket, which will reduce evaporation by 97% and conserve water.

The pool is cloudy, why would that be?

Answer: There are a number of causes for your pool to be cloudy and all with different treatments. You could possibly be experiencing early algae growth, the solution to that would be to do a super-chlorination of your pool. Your pool water balance could also be the cause of cloudiness, if this is the case, check and adjust your chemical levels. Poor filtration is another cause of cloudy pools, to rectify this simply clean or repair your filter and baskets.

Why would there be black spot algae in my pool?

Answer: The two simple causes of black spot algae are a lack of chlorine, or your pH level is too high.

To rectify black spot algae you will need to consult your PoolWerx franchisee as this is a specialised treatment and treatment can vary depending on the extent and spread of the algae.

What causes poor water flow and high pressure?

Answer: This is mainly a filtration problem; your filter or baskets could be dirty or drawing air.

You could also have a faulty pump or low water level.

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My automatic cleaner is not very efficient, why?

Answer: Leaves blocking skimmer baskets or pump baskets mainly cause inefficient auto cleaners. Your filter could also need a clean or the auto cleaner itself may be choked with leaves. You should check the hose for proper connection and cracks.

Other solutions include adjusting the auto cleaner speed and water outlet sockets, or your auto cleaner may need replacement parts.

What are the causes and effects of your pump sucking air?

Answer: A few of the more common reasons for a pump sucking air are the pump lid is cracked, or maybe the O-ring under the rim could be nipped, broken or dirty. The inlet could be cracked; your auto cleaner may have a hole in the hose or the water level maybe too low.

A swirl in the skimmer box will indicate a low water level, which could also be the reason why your pump is sucking air.

The skimmer box weir door may also be jammed, rather than floating.

What are the causes and effects of the constant blocking of filter baskets and filter cartridges?

Answer: With filter baskets, the constant short term blocking of your filter will cause the pump to burnout through poor water flow. It could also cause the mechanical seal to fail. Other things that it will affect will be your automatic cleaner, it simply won't work.

A constant blocking of cartridges will cause high water pressure and poor water return; it will also indicate poor suction so your auto cleaner once again won't work. This could be the result of a burst filter or poor plumbing.

Oils, lotions and calcium residues will also cause poor filtration and blocking of the cartridge.

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