

FAQS

Frequently Asked Questions

What causes swimming pool and spa leaks?

Several things can cause a leak, including soil subsidence (saturation, setting, a bad fill), trees (aggressive roots), construction mistakes, temperature change, chemical imbalance, settling, re-plaster/remodeling.

How can swimming pool and spa leaks be repaired?

Some leaks, such as small structural leaks, can be easily repaired without draining the swimming pool. Using underwater type epoxies or patching plasters is the most common way of dealing with this type of leak. Buried plumbing leaks require a more extensive repair. Broken or cracked pipes under decking usually call for cutting the decking to reach the repair site. Sometimes it is easier and less expensive to seal off the leaking system and install a new one.

What is a skimmer?

A skimmer is a device built into an opening in the side of the swimming pool at the water line. Its purpose is to allow the pump/filter system to draw water from the surface only. A floating door called a weir, directs the surface flow. Ideally, floating debris on the surface is removed before it sinks to the bottom. A basket is provided inside the skimmer to catch debris. Skimmers are manufactured in a variety of types and sizes.

Is there anything I can do to determine my pool has a leak?

Absolutely! You should first perform the bucket test as noted on the leak detection page of this website. (It is essential that the bucket test always be conducted with the pump on, then again with the pump off.)

- 1.) If the loss of water is greater when the pump is ON, the leak is likely in the plumbing or equipment.
- 2.) If the water loss is the same regardless of the pump being ON or OFF, the leak is likely in the structure or suction line(s).

For our purposes here, "structural" includes: skimmer throat, light, tile line, spillways, water features, and any place a pipe or conduit penetrates the outer concrete shell.

Where are common structural leak areas?

Common structural leak problem areas are the tile line, skimmer bond to the pool, the skimmer throat, lighting, pipe openings to the pool, cracks at vinyl liner corners, and the main drain.

I am interested in purchasing a home that has a pool. How do I know that the pool is not leaking?

You should know a little more about the swimming pool and spa inspections. You can speak with your realtor about contacting a qualified and expertly trained pool leak detection company such as The Right Way Leak Detection and Repair, Inc. Let us help you make your first swimming season in your new home enjoyable and remembered for years to come.

How much water am I losing with my leak?

Calculating surface area:

Length of Pool x Width of Pool = Surface Area of Pool

Example: $34 \times 16 = 544$ square feet (surface area)

Calculating make-up water (refilling due to leak):

(Inches of Water) x (Pool Surface Area in Sq. Ft.) x (.625) = gallons/water

Example: Oh My!! My pool dropped 4 inches last night.

$4 \times 34 \times 16 \times .625 = 1360$ gallons/water lost overnight = BIG Leak!

Why is it important to repair a swimming pool leak?

When a swimming pool or spa has a leak, fresh water must be added, sometimes continuously. Since tap water has much less chlorine than is required for a swimming pool or spa, it dilutes the swimming pool water. This means that sanitizers (chlorine, bromine, etc.) must be added in greater quantities with increased frequency to compensate for the imbalance. PH and other factors are also greatly affected, requiring frequent adjustment with acids or carbonate.

Constant refilling with water and chemistry adjustments can make a swimming pool seem like a liability instead of an asset. Water loss at these levels is expensive and damaging. The existing damage will start a domino effect as the leak damage progresses. A continuous small leak can eventually erode supporting soil behind the shell of the swimming pool, allowing the deck to sink - or worse - force the swimming pool shell to shift or tilt in the ground. This movement of the swimming pool shell, even if only millimeters can in turn strain and break the plumbing. Leaking swimming pool water usually kills surrounding vegetation.

Expenses for chemicals and wasted water can be high. Some water companies charge an extra premium for high volume users. Because the chemical balance is affected, sanitizer levels can become low, turning a swimming pool or spa into a giant Petri dish for communicable diseases and infectious bacteria. As you know, algae love to get their start in unbalanced water.

Is a salt water system better than the traditional chlorinated system?

Salt chlorinators do have many advantages over the traditional chlorinated system.

The salt chlorinator sanitizes swimming pool water by converting the salt in the water to a chlorine gas, sanitizing your water and then changing back to salt. Adding fresh water to the swimming pool will cause the salt levels to drop therefore salt pools require salt to be added, usually two to three times per year.

Also, the salt in the water works as a natural water softener, creating a much more comfortable environment for swimming in comparison to the harshness of a hand-chlorinated pool.

Safety is truly the greatest matter.

Chlorine does not have a long life, and even if you test the water for chlorine prior to swimming and find the level is correct, after an hour or so the chlorine may dissipate. This will leave the water open for dangerous bacteria. Because a salt chlorinator will continue to sanitize your swimming pool while the pool is in use, the chlorine in the water is constantly being replaced with "new chlorine", keeping the water sanitized at all times.

We hope that you have found this to be informational.