



LEAK DETECTION

It's normal for a pool to lose a small amount of water to evaporation (typically 1/4 inch per day). If the water level drops more than the usual evaporation rate, there may be a leak.

Step 1: Assess Water Loss (Bucket Test)

Place a bucket on the pool steps and fill with water to the same level as your pool. After 24 hours, compare the water level in the bucket to the pool's water level. If the water level in the pool drops more than the water level in the bucket, there may be a leak.

Step 2: Visually Inspect the Pool Area and Equipment

Inspect around the skimmer, equipment, returns, and plumbing. Look for cracks, damaged seals, water leaking, or signs of water pooling. Ensure that the connections to the plumbing are secure and there are no leaks from the valves. Look for cracks or chips in the pool shell or tears in the vinyl liner, especially near pool steps, ladders, and faceplates. Check for wet spots on the pool deck or in the surrounding yard and check around any lights for wetness or corrosion.

Step 3: 48 Hour Test

Fill the pool to the normal level and use tape to mark on the pool wall where the waterline is. Run the system for 24 hours and measure how far the water level dropped. Refill the pool back to the normal water level and turn all equipment off. After 24 hours with the system off, note the water loss. If you lose more water with the system running, it is likely that the leak is somewhere in the plumbing /equipment. If there is no difference in water loss between the two 24 hour periods, the leak is likely in the pool liner/shell.

Step 4: Dye Testing

If you suspect a leak but can't locate it, you can use a dye test to help pinpoint it. With the pump turned off, use a dye kit to slowly apply dye near suspected leak areas. If the dye is sucked in towards where you believe the leak may be, you have found the leak.

Step 5: Advanced Leak Detection

If you can't locate the leak, seek assistance from a professional. Pool professionals use advanced techniques, like ultrasonic leak detection and camera inspection, to locate leaks. Contact your local pool professional for more information.

Step 6: Repair the Leak

Once you've found the leak, there are many different options for repair. Leaks in the pool liner can be repaired with a vinyl patch. Leaks around equipment may be caused by faulty gaskets or seals. Replacing these parts often resolves the issue. If the leak is coming from within your pool heater, contact your local pool professional since this can be a sign of damage to the internals of the heater. For significant repairs, it's best to consult a pool professional.