

Backwashing a Sand Filter

POOL CARE SOLUTIONS

Sand filters clean pool water, removing dirt, fine debris, and particulates as water passes through a bed of specially graded sand. With proper maintenance, the sand in filters may last 5 to 10 years.

Backwashing reverses the flow through the filter by sending water down through the bottom laterals, then up through the sand, flushing out the dirt as the water is diverted to the waste/sewer line. Backwashing cleanses the sand of dirt and oil particles. Without proper backwashing, the filter will short-cycle, channel, and deliver poor filtration.

When to backwash:

Most filters need backwashing about once a week during the swim season; however, the following should be your primary indicators as to when to backwash:

- Your water is cloudy.
- Your filter's pressure gauge has increased by 5-10 psi from initial post-backwash readings.
- You have low flow through your skimmers and return inlets



How to backwash:

1. Turn off the pump.



2. Turn the control valve to BACKWASH and turn on the pump.

3. Backwash for 2-3 minutes and observe water in the sight glass. Backwash one minute after water appears clear.

4. Turn off the pump and set the control valve to RINSE.

5. Turn on the pump and RINSE for about 30 seconds.

Then, turn it off again.

6. Set the control valve back to FILTER, and then turn the pump back on. You're done!

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