

## Letts Swimming Pools

### Priming a swimming pool pump

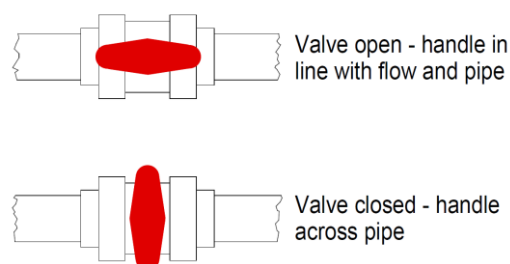
A swimming pool pump will only pump water. So if the leaf basket and the surrounding pipework are full of air, the pump will rotate, but no water will be moved.

The reasons for a pump being air locked are numerous. If, for example the pump lid is not fitted correctly, or the sealing ring is damaged or missing, air will leak into the pump, and no water can be seen leaking out. When the pump is switched off, the weight of water in the pipes will pull air in and the pump will empty of water.

#### Simple method

Usually it is easy to prime a pump.

- First make sure that the pump is switched off.
- Close all of the valves carrying water from the pool. There are usually three: the skimmer, vacuum point and the sump or main drain.
- Remove the pump lid and full the basket with water from a hose or bucket. Replace the lid ensuring that the seal is in place.
- Switch on the pump and immediately open the sump or skimmer valve.
- Once a flow of water is established, set the sump and skimmer valve to their normal running positions.



#### Repeat-fill method

Usually the process described above is sufficient to prime a pool pump. However, occasionally there is too much air in the pipework for the pump to remove in one go. If the level of water in the pump basket drops to the point that it is trying pump air, all flow will stop. A more involved process is required.

The pump has to be used to remove all of the air in the system. When the pump empties its basket, there is a need to stop the water flowing back to the pool when the pump lid is opened.

1. First make sure that the pump is switched off.
2. Close all of the valves carrying water from the pool. There are usually three: the skimmer, vacuum point and the sump or main drain.



3. Remove the pump lid and full the basket with water from a hose or bucket. Replace the lid ensuring that the seal is in place.
4. Switch on the pump and immediately open the sump or skimmer valve.
5. Watch the level of water in the pump fall and close the valve when the water reaches the bottom.
6. Switch off the pump.
7. Repeat the sequence from point 3 above until water from the pool starts to refill the basket.
8. Once a flow of water is established, set the sump and skimmer valve to their normal running positions.

If the pump refuses to prime there must, of course, be some underlying issue.

There may be a large opening allowing air to enter the system. This may be one of the following conditions:

- Low water level at the skimmer, and the skimmer pot is empty.
- Major breakage in the pipework from the pool.
- Missing or damaged pump lid seal.
- Distorted pump lid
- Loose valve union or damaged valve or seal
- Loose pump union or damaged seal
- Blocked or damaged pump impellor (particularly if the water level was dropping slowly in the basket when trying to prime.
- Closed or damaged multiport filter valve.

If the pump still refuses to move water, please call Letts Swimming Pools for additional help.

These instructions are a guidance only when addressing specific problem(s) with your pool. Without knowledge of all the variables in a given situation we cannot take responsibility for any damage that may be caused by non-Letts personnel when carrying out these tasks.

## **Letts Swimming Pools**

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