

Letts Swimming Pools

Vacuuming your swimming pool

No matter how efficient your pool pump and filtration system are, there will always be leaves, dust, pine needles, grit and numerous other contaminants settling on the floor of the pool. Following an algae attack, and its elimination by shock chlorine treatment, the dead algae will also settle on the floor of the pool. Although there are a host of automatic cleaners available, the most thorough method of removing this debris is by manual vacuuming.

Normally, water is drawn from the pool through the sump, or main drain, and from the skimmers, through the filtration system, and back to the pool. Many pools have a third place to suck water from the pool: the vacuum port. When vacuuming, water is drawn from the floor of the pool through a long flexible hose attached to a vacuum head on the end of a long pole, and through the filtration system.

Equipment

Vacuum head

There are many, many designs available. Some are designed for tiled pools, some for liner pools, and some for both. They can be heavy or light, simple or complex. Most vacuum heads are secured to the pole using a two projecting pins on the head which clip into two holes on the pole. This is a standard design so that accessories from different suppliers are compatible.



Telescopic pole

The pole should be long enough to allow all sections of the pool floor to be reached. The minimum length should reach to the centre of the pool although longer poles are more versatile. Poles supplied by Letts are telescopic and lockable.

Vacuum hose

Hoses are available in various lengths. The minimum length should obviously allow all parts of the pool floor to be reached. Most hoses float on the surface of the water and are very flexible, making movement easier. Each end of the hose is designed to attach easily to the vacuum head and the vacuum point.

Vacuum point connections

There are several methods of connecting one end of the vacuum hose to the filtration system.

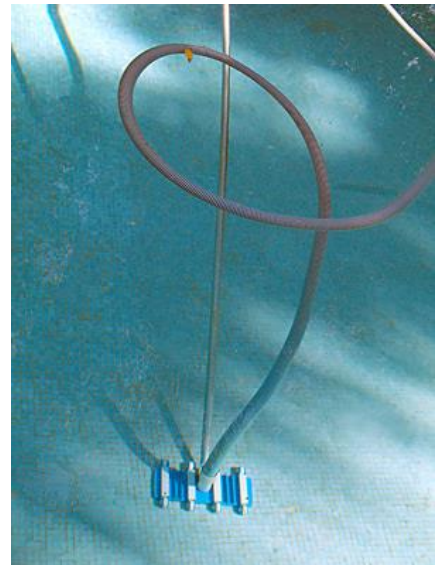
- The vacuum point in the pool wall accepts the hose directly
- A hose adaptor can be screwed into the vacuum point onto which the hose can be pushed.
- Some pools aren't equipped with a dedicated vacuum point and use skimmers as a source of suction. Some allow the hose to be attached to the port in the bottom of the skimmer, some need an adaptor disc fitted on top of the skimmer pot.



Skimmer adaptor discs

Setting up equipment ready to vacuum.

1. Attach the vacuum head to the end of the pole. Extend the pole to a suitable length and lock in position.
2. Attach the vacuum hose to the head.
3. Lower the vacuum head to the bottom of the pool. Water will flood into the hose.
4. Feed the hose carefully into the pool water so that it fills with water and all air is expelled.
5. Attach the free end of the hose to the vacuum point, or to the skimmer.
6. In the plant room, open the vacuum valve and close the skimmer and sump/drain valves. If the vacuum hose is connected to the skimmer, leave only this valve open. Switch on the pump if not already on. The multiport valve should be set to "Filtration" (see also next section about vacuuming to waste).
7. Water is now being drawn from the bottom of the pool. Return to the poolside and begin vacuuming.



Vacuuming to waste.

When dead algae is lying on the bottom of the pool following shock treatment, this should be vacuumed to waste. This sediment is very fine and will eventually find its way back into the pool. It should be put straight down the drain.

1. Switch off the pool pump.
2. Move the handle on the filtration multiport valve to the waste position.
3. Open the waste valve, if fitted.
4. Switch on the pump.



Vacuumping the pool floor

Start in the shallow end and move the vacuum head across the width of the pool.

It should be moved slowly and steadily enough not to stir up the debris lying on the pool floor. Move toward the deep end whilst drawing the vacuum head backwards and forwards across the width of the pool.

Returning the filtration to normal

Once vacuuming is finished, return the skimmer and drain valves back to their original positions and close the vacuum valve.

Note: if the sediment has been vacuumed to waste, the pool water level will be low. Leave the skimmer valve closed, and draw from the main drain/sump, until the water level is back to normal and flowing into the skimmer pot. This will prevent air being drawn into the system stopping the pump from working properly.

Backwashing

After vacuuming the floor of the pool, the filter should be backwashed to get rid of the newly acquired waste.

Loss of suction

There are a number of causes for loss of suction during vacuuming:

- Blockage in the pump leaf basket. Switch off the pump, close the vacuum or skimmer valve and clear out any leaves, etc.
- Blockage in the skimmer basket if vacuuming through skimmer adaptor disc.
- Too much fine debris in the filter. Backwash if required.
- Blockage in the hose or vacuum head.
- Drawing in of air causing the pump to lose its prime.

Letts Swimming Pools hold a wide range of pool maintenance products and can offer advice and guidance on all aspects of pool ownership.

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.

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