

Some Trouble-Shooting Tips For Automatic Cleaners

A few trouble-shooting tips that should guarantee successful cleaner operation:

- First check the flow or vacuum. If the flow is correct, then more than likely, the problem exists in the cleaner head. If the flow is low, check baskets, backwash or clean the filter, check hoses for cracks or breaks.

- Replace any worn or defective parts with the original equipment replacement part, especially hoses. Hose-dependent devices use the hose for propulsion and each manufacturer designs the hose to operate the cleaner in a special manner. Care should be taken when attempting to use an alternate or universal hose on a hose-dependent cleaning unit.

- If the hose has been coiled, disassemble the hose, and reassemble it in a different order to try to break up any memory that the hose may have retained. Individual hose sections can be placed in a tub of warm water until soft, and held straight until cool. This may help straighten the hose.

- Remove the cleaner from the pool at least once a week to allow the pool skimmer to operate at maximum effectiveness.

- If a large leaf load is expected, leave the cleaner out of the pool to prevent the pump from

burning out when the skimmer and pump baskets get clogged.

- Install a gate valve on the filter return line. If the pool has a vacuum filter, this valve should be installed downstream of the pump, not downstream of the filter. The gate valve acts as a throttle, which can be closed while you backwash the filter to prevent debris from entering the pool.

- The valve may also be used as a tool to "fine tune" the flow differential between the suction and pressure sides of the system if minor cavitation occurs.

- When taking a pressure reading to check the filter for dirt accumulation, always disconnect the cleaner and open the throttle valve, if there is one. This is necessary because when the cleaner is connected and the valve is closed, the pump pressure will be higher, which may or may not indicate that the filter needs to be cleaned. If the cleaner is in place with no throttle valve, the pump pressure will read lower, even if the filter is full of dirt.

- If the pool has eyeball fittings with small orifices, the eyeballs should also be removed when checking the pump pressure for possible dirt accumulation. The back pressure will always be higher with the eyeballs in place, and, again, this may or may not indicate a dirty filter. ■