

Automatic cleaners help pools look best always

By Doug Walsh

Regardless of whether you're talking about a sweeper, a vacuum, a vacuum sweeper, a robot or an in-floor system, automatic cleaners have developed to the point that they truly help keep the pool looking its best all of the time.

Even with the array of buyouts and mergers in recent years, there remains an abundance of choices when it comes to choosing what's best for your pools.

In this and adjoining articles, we'll take a look at the types of units available on the market with an eye on some key installation, service and repair tips.

Sweepers are designed to "sweep" debris from the pool to the main drain for collection into a main drain basket, pump basket and the filtration system. Power is generated from the pressure

created from a booster pump or the system's filter pump.

Vacuums collect dirt and debris by sucking the foreign matter into the skimmer basket, pump basket and the pool's filter. They operate on suction through the skimmer from the filter pump.

Vacuum sweepers are a combination of the two, vacuuming debris into a self-contained filter bag and suspend the debris for collection into the pool's filtration system. They operate on pressure, again from either a booster pump or the filter pump.

Robots are self-contained units that vacuum debris into a filter bag on the unit. They are powered by batteries or electricity.

In-floor systems are generally installed at the time of the pool's original

construction and operate on pressure from the filter pump, sending debris to the main drain and onto the pump basket and filter.