



GREAT BLUE POOL SUPPLY, LLC

2014 ROBOTIC CLEANER SPECIFICATION CHART

Below is the key to the 2014 Robotic Cleaner Specification chart. Please be aware that the same chart is used for both commercial and residential cleaners, and that some benefits or features may be more important for one group than the other. Furthermore, please note that cleaner specification change from year to year and even between years. Also, specifications change from one piece of literature to another and may not coincide with manufacturers web sites. I have done my best to post the most accurate data. My opinions are sometimes stated, but others may have just arguments for disagreements. That's fine.

There is a lot of data here and I hope it isn't more confusing than it is educational. Not all manufacturers cleaners on the market are listed, just the ones that I sell and service. What is important is that you decide what benefits or features are most important to you to make an educated decision about a specific cleaner.

There are no recommendations here to answer the question of "What cleaner do I purchase?" simply because I don't know *your specific pool*. On our website there is a Pool Survey Questionnaire with typical questions we would ask. You can fill it out and email it to us for review and suggestions, or you can give us a call and we can discuss your pool specifics and make suggestions.

CHART KEY

BRAND

Please take note that some manufacturers not only make their own brand products, but OEM products for other companies.

MODEL NAME

This is the specific model of the cleaner. Color may vary, but other specs usually remain constant.

MODEL NUMBER

This allows for a better comparison between cleaners than just the model name.

RECOMMENDED FOR POOLS UP TO XX FT

Please note that this is a generalization based on many variables. One of the most important factors is the pools bather load. Bather load is defined as "the total number of swimmers using the pool during any given day".

CLEANER BODY DIMENSIONS

The width of the vacuum roughly correlates to its cleaning path. A wider cleaner generally cleans a pool faster than a standard width cleaner at the same travel speed and program.

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BODY CONSTRUCTION

The majority of cleaners are made out of plastic composite, but some are made out of alloy. Plastics durability and resistance to chemicals does vary from manufacturer to manufacturer. The plus side of a composite body cleaner is their comparative light weight.

CABLE LENGTH (Ft.)

Typically the longer the cable length, the easier a larger the size pool can be cleaned. Look for a cable length of 1.5 to 2 times the length of the pool. I talk more about this topic in my Buyers Guide. Reported here is the cleaner's cable length in feet.

CABLE SWIVEL

One of the major complaints about a pool cleaner is a tangled cable. The cable swivel is a device that allows the cable to move freely and eliminates many of the tangling issues. Cordless cleaners are in the works, but typically offer limited run times due to battery limitations.

NUMBER (#) OF DRIVE MOTORS

Typically pool vacuums utilize one or two drive motors. Cleaners with two motors cost more and offer better performance, including the ability to be controlled remotely.

NOTE-Some manufacturer's motors (pump and drive) are enclosed in a single watertight housing. Individual motors, although present, will not be visible.

DRIVE SYSTEM

A drive system consists of either bushing or ball bearings. It's my opinion that ball bearing systems results in less wear, longer life and are easier to repair.

BRUSH TYPE

Most cleaners are equipped with a multi surface brush. Some surfaces, such as vinyl or steel may require a foam brush. Cleaners without brushes are perceived to clean less thoroughly.

NUMBER (#) OF PUMP MOTORS

In general, cleaners with two (2) pump motors as opposed to only one will filter more water and are designed for large commercial pools or pools with higher bather loads.

PUMPING CAPACITY

Pumping capacity is quantified as gallons per hour or "GPH" and it is a good indicator of a pumps performance. Many other factors are as important to a cleaner's efficiency, such as a dirty or old filter bag.

IMPELLER CONSTRUCTION

The majority are made of plastic, which can break under stress. Some impellers are made of aluminum alloy or steel and provide better performance.

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HOSE DISCHARGE OPTION

This gives the cleaner the option of directing pumped water to waste, to the main filter, or anywhere else. This is great for removing sand or filtering media from a pool.

FILTER TYPE

Typically employed is a filter bag. They are available in various porosities such as “fine” or “leaf”. Filter bags work well, have adequate capacity, but are usually more difficult to clean than cartridge type filters.

FILTERS AVAILABLE

The filters available for the cleaner specified. Some have a fine, standard and leaf filters.

FILTER CAPACITY

Most filters are adequate in size for their purpose. They should be emptied and cleaned after every use. Cleaners are not recommended for opening a pool where removing bushels of leaves is required. Large commercial pools and pools with bather loads of 200 bathers or more should consider a cleaner with multiple bags.

FILTER ACCESS

Top access to a filter is usually easier, but I would not make it the deciding factor in a purchasing decision. Bottom access cleaners are not difficult to operate.

FILTERED PARTICLE SIZE

It is my opinion that not enough independent testing has been done on the subject. Generally “fine” filters will remove most sand, where “course” filters are best for leaves and twigs. Claims of removing algae from a pool, etc. are overrated as pressure relief grommets are present on many manufacturers filter bags. Some algae may get filtered out, but certainly not all.

CYCLE TIMES

A variety of cycle times allow the user to better tailor the cleaner’s actions to a specific pool’s needs.

CLEANING PATTERNS

Cleaning patterns include “floor only”, “walls only”, “floor and wall”, or “waterline only”. I recommend the “floor only” pattern. This is where most of the debris settles and climbing a wall is typically the most stressful task that a cleaner has to perform.

MAPPING/SCANNING

Cleaners that cover pool surfaces in a systematic pattern eliminate “wasted time” covering surfaces repeatedly. This allows the cleaner to work more efficiently.

REMOTE CONTROL

Great for spot cleaning, but typically this feature increases the cost of the unit.

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DELAY TIMER

The delay timer pauses the cleaner for an hour or more and allows debris to settle to the pool floor prior to cleaning.

WEEKLY TIMER

This feature allows the cleaner to be left in the pool all week long for periodic cleaning. I would not recommend leaving any cleaner in the bottom of the pool longer than overnight as motor seals are more likely to fail under pressure and long term exposure to chlorinated water.

FULL BAG INDICATOR

An additional cleaner feature and benefit, but I recommend emptying the filter bag after every use.

AIR SENSOR/BEACH/AUTO OFF

With this feature, cleaners automatically shut down when operated out of the water and in some circumstances cleaners will reverse back into the pool when traveling out of a beach entry feature. Cleaners without this feature may overheat and become damaged when turned on out of the water.

ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS

Usually all pool cleaners require 110v 60Hz, some can be made 220V 50Hz and others even 440v. GFCI outlets are required poolside and additional local electrical codes may have to be followed. The use of an extension cord is brand specific and the cleaner's owner's manual should be consulted.

VGB COMPLIANT

Will the cleaner get held up on anti-entrapment drain covers? Some are more prone to trouble than others.

UNIT WEIGHT

Generally most cleaners can be handled by one person. However, some larger cleaners may require two people to remove it from a pool.

CART INCLUDED

Carts are a nice feature to have, but less important for residential pools where transporting a cleaner a long distance is not required.

REC FOR POOLS W/ HIGH BL

A cleaner recommended for pools with high bather loads usually has two or more pumps.

MSRP

MSRP means "Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price". The "Price" of the product is in United States dollars.

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MAP / LAAP PROTECTED

This is a manufacturer's "Minimum Advertised Price" or "Lowest Allowable Advertised Price" policy that sets the retail price allowing physical stores and ecommerce sites to compete on a level playing field.

OWNERS MANUAL

This contains specific instructions in the safe operation of the cleaner. It should be read cover to cover prior to purchase and use.

WARRANTY TYPE AND DURATION

Two years is a typical warranty period, shipping the warranted product is almost never included and labor costs may be limited. Some warranties are pro-rated and may offer significantly less coverage than bumper-to-bumper type warranties. I suggest reading the warranty completely before purchasing a new cleaner.

WARRANTY STATEMENT

The manufacturer's warranty for the cleaner specified.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

This is where the cleaner is made, who owns the company and where the parts are made.

QUALITY CONTROL

This is the quality control protocol that was used when manufacturing the cleaner (if applicable).

THUMBNAIL PIC

This is a small photo of the product.

VIDEO

This is how to see a product in action, but only if available. This may also be a link to a YouTube account.

ADDITIONAL SELLING FEATURES

Any additional selling features specific to the cleaner listed.

NOTES

Additional notes about the cleaner.

Didn't see a specification you're interested in? Please send me an email and let me know.

If you are a manufacturer and you see a specification that is incorrect please send me an email and I will change it ASAP.

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