



GREAT BLUE POOL SUPPLY, LLC

TYPES OF MECHANICAL POOL CLEANERS

POLE MOUNTED

Pole mounted brushes and skimmers should be standard equipment on every pool. Removing floating debris from the pool prior to its sinking and clogging the main filter just makes common sense. A brush used for brushing down the walls of the pool is the one manual task that should still be done. Not all brushes are equal. Look for bristles that will do the job while not damaging your pool's surface. Wider brushes and large capacity skimmers are available for making quick work out of large pools.

Pole mounted vacuums are one of the oldest methods of cleaning a pool. The garden hose style works much like a pressure side cleaner with an external bag collecting the debris. Innovation over the years has given us excellent products in this category with both electric and gasoline powered products available. The downside of a pole style cleaner is that it must be manually operated. Pool owners/managers usually have better uses of their employee's time than conducting this menial task. This type of cleaner should always be on hand for spot cleaning and when primary cleaners are being serviced.

SUCTION SIDE

Commonly installed in a skimmer, this type has the lowest initial cost for an automatic cleaner. It works well picking up fine debris, but large leaves tend to be a problem. Leaves can clog a pump's strainer basket and cause unwanted wear on the pool pump. Another concern with this type of cleaner is the requirement to operate the pool pump when vacuuming which is costly to run. Even if you have a variable speed pool pump you will most likely have to increase its speed to make the cleaner effective.

PRESSURE SIDE

Pressure side cleaners are commonly installed in a return port in the pool wall and water is directed to create a vacuum under the cleaner's head. It has significant advantages over the suction side cleaner, as debris is usually collected in an external filter bag above the vacuum's body and not transferred to the pool's main filter. Unfortunately these vacuums not only require the operation of the pool's pump, but for optimal effectiveness an additional pool side booster pump may be needed. Some of these booster pumps are rated for up to ¾ horse power. If running one pump at a high output is bad for your electric bill, two is even worse.

ROBOTIC

Robotic cleaners offer a viable option to the above automatic cleaners with an independent low amp pump and a filter system that doesn't clog the pool's main filter. Downsides do exist however. The initial cost can be steep (between \$600- \$1,500.00 for residential unit) furthermore, maintenance and repair cost can also be significant (I suggest budgeting \$100 a year for tune ups and repairs). These types of cleaners usually last 5-7 years, although I have seen a few last 20 years with proper use and care.

CONCLUSION

There are many ways to keep your pool clean and many products to help you do it. The most important thing is that you enjoy your pool!

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