

Inground Pool Care

How to Clean an Inground Pool

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Cleaning your pool can be broken down into eight steps:

- 1. Remove Floating Debris:** Remove all pool toys, accessories and floating debris, such as leaves, twigs, hair ties or insects. Simply use your telescopic pole and skimmer or leaf rake attachment to scoop up objects that are floating on the surface of the water.
- 2. Scrub the Pool Walls and Steps:** Using your telescopic pole and nylon bristle brush attachment, thoroughly buff the walls and floor of your pool, using friction to gently lift away caked-on algae and sediment. For moderately soiled areas, you may need to apply extra force or cleaning chemicals.
- 3. Vacuum Your Pool:** You'll need to vacuum at least once per week to remove debris. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use and assembly. Vacuuming will also help to remove objects that have sunk to the bottom of your pool, such as small pebbles or clumps of dirt. You can choose between suction vacuums (suction-side cleaners), pressure vacuums (pressure-side cleaners), robotic (automatic) vacuums or manual vacuums.
- 4. Empty Your Pool Skimmers:** Check on your pool skimmers, which are located near the waterline around the perimeter of your pool. Not to be confused with the skimmer net, the skimmers are part of your pool's filtration system, catching debris and other loose objects. This debris can build up, break down and cause clogs, unless you periodically empty your pool skimmers. You should clear out your skimmers at least once per week, but may need to empty them more frequently under certain conditions, such as after a pool party or a heavy thunderstorm.

5. **Check Your Filters:** **Pool filters** are separate from pool skimmers and need to be maintained accordingly. While skimmers catch most of the large debris, your cartridge, sand or diatomaceous earth (DE) filters can still become blocked by smaller particles. To keep your pool filters running smoothly — and keep your water at its cleanest — be sure to periodically check them according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

6. **Test and Adjust Your Pool Water:** Keep your water balanced with properly adjusted pH, chlorine and chemical levels using a few basic chemicals and pieces of equipment, such as pool test strips, calcium hardness increasers and pH adjusters like sodium carbonate. For a deeper dive into this topic, check out our step-by-step guide to **testing and balancing your pool water**.

7. **Shock Your Swimming Pool:** Your pool requires periodic shock treatments. **Shocking your pool** will temporarily raise the levels of chlorine in the water, destroying algae, bacteria and other contaminants. You can also use non-chlorine pool shock (oxidizer) as an alternative to chlorine shocks like di-chlor, though the results may not be as powerful — especially for tough jobs.

8. **Run Your Pump on a Daily Basis:** Running your pump helps to circulate the water, which discourages algae from growing (consider a flowing stream vs. a stagnant pond). Proper **water circulation** also helps to ensure that your filters and skimmers function correctly, improving the overall health and appearance of your pool. The longer you run your pump, the healthier your water will be. While you may spend a little more on electricity to run your pump, you’ll spend less money on chemicals and less time scrubbing.



CHEMICALS & TOOLS TO CLEAN YOUR POOL

The six essential products you'll need to clean your vinyl liner or fiberglass pool include a cleaning sponge, a soft bristle brush, pool shock chemicals, a pool vacuum, a skimmer net or leaf rake, and a telescopic pole.

Professionals Are Here to Help

If any of these pool maintenance tasks seem a little too daunting, it is never a bad idea to call your trusted independent builder to provide these services for you.

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