

Detecting a Leak

Finding leaks in a pool should be easy, right? Unfortunately, most leaks are difficult to locate. They are rarely visible to the eye, often seeping into the ground unnoticed and undetected.

The task of locating leaks can be complex, yet Memphis Pool has streamlined leak detection into an effective 3-Step Process. This process offers a proven, professional approach to pinpointing the exact location of the leak(s).

The process has been thoroughly tested and saves you time and money. We verify areas free of leaks and carefully target and focus on the specific areas in which leaks are suspected.

The Memphis Pool Supply 3-Step Process consists of the following:

1. Gather & Evaluate Information
2. Test for Structural and/or Plumbing Leaks
3. Repair Leaks

STEP 1. Gather & Evaluate Information

The goals in Step 1, the initial evaluation, are to determine the degree of the leak(s), inspect a few areas common for leaks for the pool's type and configuration, and choose the best course of action for proceeding to Step 2 testing.

Step 1 includes the following:

A. Gathering Preliminary Information – Gathering preliminary information includes such factors as determining the type of pool, pool system, and age. This information is helpful in identifying the most logical, cost-effective process to pursue.

B. Visually Inspecting Your Pool - Inspecting your pool consists of gathering additional information by carefully inspecting specific aspects of the pool, including checking the filter's control valve for water slippage to the waste line.

C. Performing a Water Level Stability Test - This test determines how much water is being gained or lost due to rainfall and evaporation. This test is performed in conjunction with the Pump On/Off Test (see D below). The results are then factored together to give a realistic water loss amount.

D. Performing a Pump On/Off Test - This test provides an indication of which part of the pool is likely to be contributing to the primary leak. The test focuses on measuring the 24-hour water loss with the pump on, and then measuring the 24-hour water loss with the pump off.

E. Analyzing the Results - The results from A through D above will determine which process to proceed to in Step 2.

Memphis Pool has been detecting and repairing pool system leaks for over 50 years.

STEP 2. Test for Plumbing and/or Structure Leaks

Step 2 includes either of the following:

- Testing for/locating plumbing leaks - *the circulation system*
- Testing for/locating structure leaks - *including all attached fixtures*

Note: Sometimes, both tests must be performed; however, it is more likely that only one test will be necessary.

A. Testing for Plumbing Leaks - This will reduce the search area and provide assurance of non-leaking areas. This test includes two primary procedures:

Pressure Testing - This checks the integrity of the plumbing. The process involves blocking off exposed openings of a plumbing line and pressurizing the line. A pressure drop indicates a leak. A line that holds pressure can be eliminated as a potential leak location.

Leak Pinpointing - If it is determined through pressure testing that a leak is in a line, then the location of the leak must be pinpointed. A specialized electronic listening device is used to ascertain the specific location of the leak. Isolating the area of the leak avoids repair costs often incurred by digging up large areas to replace the plumbing.

B. Testing for Structure Leaks - This is performed if the results of Step 1 indicate the need. The initial visual inspection may also give reasons to perform structural testing.

Structural testing involves careful inspection of the pool's interior, fittings, skimmers, and light fixtures built into the pool's structure. This process is time-intensive and generally uses a combination of processes that include dye testing, electronic sensing equipment, and underwater diving equipment. Our specialists are trained and experienced at identifying leak points in the pool's interior structure.

STEP 3. Repair Leaks

Once leaks have been located, the repairs can be performed. Repairs of leaks in areas that are easily accessible are often repaired quickly and inexpensively. Leaks in hard-to-access places, such as plumbing lines or fittings under the ground, deck, or pool, will require considerable work and expense.

MEMPHIS POOL will provide a written quote detailing the work and costs involved to repair the leak located. Alternative options, to repair or not to repair, can also be provided and examined.

Multiple Leaks - Complicating the Process

It is possible for a pool to have multiple leaks, or leaks in different areas, thus complicating the leak repair process. MEMPHIS POOL can only warrant the work related to the tests performed and the subsequent repairs. Additional leaks (i.e. plumbing or structure) may involve additional testing and repair costs.

Let the Experts Do It

MEMPHIS POOL recognizes the difficult nature of locating pool leaks, along with the frustrations that may ensue. We have been detecting and repairing pool leaks for over 50 years. Our leak detection specialists communicate with the customer through each step of the process. MEMPHIS POOL fully warrants all work performed for 90 days. For example, if we pressure test your plumbing lines, we guarantee that we have identified all leaks associated with your plumbing lines. If you have any further questions about leaks or our 3-Step Process, contact our Service Specialists