

Reading Pump Pressure

POOL CARE SOLUTIONS

Most filters are fitted with a pressure gauge mounted on top of the filter. Sometimes the gauge is mounted on the multiport valve. Most gauges measure the pressure range of 0 to 60 psi (pounds per square inch). The gauge readings are useful in identifying problems with the system as follows:



1. After backwashing or cleaning, the filter will operate at its "clean" pressure. When the pressure increases 5-10 pounds over the "clean" pressure, it is time backwash or clean the filter.
2. If the pressure is lower than normal, it indicates that there is obstruction in the water that is coming into the pump. Obstructions such as clogged baskets are easy to correct. Another common obstruction is debris trapped inside the pump's impeller. This normally requires breaking down the pump to access and unclog.
3. If the pressure reads high, then the filter is dirty or there is some obstruction in the flow of water after the filter (such as valve turned down or off).
4. If the pressure fluctuates up and down while the pump is operating, the pool or spa is likely has a low water level, causing the system's prime to surge. A packed skimmer basket may also cause this fluctuation.

Proper pool care involves regular monitoring of the pump pressure. If the cause of a pressure change is not readily discerned, contact for professional assistance.