

## Swimming Pool Leak Finding Guide

Finding leaks is often a process of elimination, and can sometimes take a few days to accomplish. On occasion, it can be very frustrating. Even professionals have trouble finding them sometimes.

The first step is a visual inspection of your liner. A hole generally appears to be a piece of dirt that does not move when brushed away. Also, most holes will draw in a drop of food coloring that is placed nearby. There is no magic trick to add coloring to the pool in general and to watch it lead to the leak. While visually inspecting the pool, the most common place to find a leak is where two angles of the pool meet. For instance, most holes occur where the wall meets the bottom of the shallow end and where the slope angles of the deep end meet the flat bottom of the deep end (commonly called the hopper). The corners of a rectangle hopper are a common place to find holes. Sometimes larger holes can suck dirt into the opening. It is rare to find a hole on the wall of the pool. It is also common to find leaks in the thin stretch of vinyl between the steps and the bottom. Also, be sure to look at the liner where a ladder may brush against the liner. If the ladder bumpers are worn or missing, the likelihood of a hole in this location is greatly increased. Any leaks in the liner can be fixed with underwater vinyl glue and a piece of vinyl.

If you have not found a hole in the body of the liner, the light and the skimmer are the next places to look. Drip some food coloring around the inside faceplate of the skimmer to see if there is a leak there. Also, look in the skimmer to be sure that there are no cracks in the skimmer. In concrete pools, the interface between the skimmer and the pool shell is a very common place for a leak. If there is a leak here, it can be repaired with epoxy. Also, remove the light by taking the single screw out of the top of the light. The bowl that the light sits in is called the niche. Older niches may be corroded to the point that they are leaking. Epoxy can also fix these leaks. Bubbles in the niche are irrelevant. The conduit that the light cord goes up may also leak if it is broken underground. The conduit hole will draw dye in if it is a larger leak. If the conduit is leaking, it can be plugged with butyl tape or epoxy.

Still haven't found it? Now let's use some elimination.

Grab your winter plugs and plug off your skimmer and return lines. If possible, plug your bottom drain also. Don't forget to turn off your pump and make sure the timer is not going to turn it back on. Also, adjust your valve handles to close off the bottom drain if possible. Now wait a period of 24 hours and check your water level. If you are still losing water, it is not in your plumbing, and therefore is probably in your liner. If you have not lost water, the leak is probably in your pipes, or possibly around your filtering system (don't forget to make sure it is not leaking out of your backwash line).

Don't forget: During hot summer days, you can lose up to ¼ inch of water a day and easily over an inch a week.

It is rare for plumbing leaks to develop over the summer. Most plumbing damage occurs during the winter months.

Never close a pool that is leaking, as massive damage may occur over the winter.

If you still cannot locate the leak, give us a call at 792-3541 x 2 and we can help!