



PRESTIGE POOLS & SPAS



Got A Leak? ARE YOU SURE?

Try the Swimming Pool Leak Bucket Test

Evaporation is dependent on a variety of environmental and pool-related conditions (wind, water temperature, dew point, barometric pressure and splash-out). Therefore, evaporation can vary greatly from week to week and pool to pool.

Before becoming too concerned about where the leak is located, let's be sure there is a leak present. There is a simple test that can confirm if water loss is from evaporation or from a compromise originating somewhere in your pool: The Bucket Test.

This test exposes water in a bucket to the same conditions as your swimming pool. By comparing the water loss in each area it is possible to determine if the pool is leaking or if water loss is the result of evaporation. A non-windy, non-rainy day is best for this test.

Step By Step Procedure

1. Bring pool water to the standard operating level.
2. Fill an empty bucket with pool water approx. 1" from the top of the bucket. This ensures air movement over the surface area is similar to that of the pool.
3. Place the bucket on the first or second step of the pool. To keep it from floating away it may be necessary to place a brick or stones into the bucket. By placing the bucket in the pool water you are ensuring that the water temperature of each will be similar.
4. Mark the water level inside the bucket. Blue painters tape works well.
5. Mark the water level of the pool on the outside of the bucket.
6. Operate the pool for 24 hours as it had been operated when a leak was first suspected.
7. After 24 hours compare the two levels. If the pool water (outside mark) has receded faster than the water level inside the bucket, you likely have a leak.

Establishing Suspected Leak Locations with a "Pump ON/Pump OFF" Test:

Comparing the results of subsequent bucket tests with the pump on for 24 hours to the results with the pump off for 24 hours can provide additional information on the location of the leak:

Water Loss Pump-ON > Water Loss Pump OFF = Suspect Return Line (Pressure Side)

Water Lose Pump ON < Water Loss Pump OFF = Suspect Skimmer, Main Drain (Suction Side)

Water Loss Pump ON = Water Loss Pump OFF = Suspect Shell/Liner, Fittings (Non-Plumbing)