

### **3 Tips for Pool Leak Detection: Ways to Test Swimming Pools & Spas for Water Leaks, Causes, Location**

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#### **How much water loss in a swimming pool is normal in Coachella Valley?**

Your swimming pool will naturally lose water due to evaporation and splash out; in our desert location evaporation can exceed a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch per day. But if you continually add two inches a week of water to your swimming pool or spa, you may have a leak. If you have an auto-fill system, your water bill may be an indicator: just compare last month and last year's bill to your current bill. Excessive chemical usage is a good indicator, remember when a pool or spa has a leak, you are continually adding fresh water, reducing your sanitizer. One of the primary methods of [\*\*pool leak detection\*\*](#) is in monitoring your water use.

#### **What causes leaks in swimming pools and spas?**

Several things can cause a swimming pool or spa leak: trees with aggressive roots, construction mistakes, temperature changes through expansion and contraction, chemical imbalances, settling and remodeling, and for our California environment, an earth quake. If you've recently experienced any of these events or seen the signs, it's a good indicator that you're best off increasing your [\*\*pool leak detection\*\*](#) efforts: one of the secondary [\*\*causes of swimming pool leaks\*\*](#) is neglect.

#### **Where to check your pool for leaks:**

There are many locations that your swimming pool or spa can lose water. Visible signs include water in your swimming pool equipment area, the equipment and the exposed plumbing. Structural leaks, skimmers, main drains, return lines and auto fills are all top culprits for a leak. However buried plumbing pipes, especially copper, commonly leak underground where it cannot be seen.

#### **Ways to test your swimming pool or spa's for leaks:**

- **-The bucket test** is the easiest test to see if you are losing water in your swimming pool. Bring your swimming pool water level to normal, fill a 5 gallon bucket to within 5 inches of the top, place the bucket on the top step of the pool, and mark the water level on the inside and outside of the bucket, after 24 hours and 48 hours compare the two water levels. If the outside mark in your pool is greater than the inside mark, there is probably a leak, if the levels are the same than only evaporation has occurred.
- **-Dye testing** is the simplest method to find the location of the leak. As the name implies, a colored dye is distributed into suspected areas and as the dye

disappears the leak is found. The dye test can easily be conducted using an old test kit reagent bottle filled with food coloring. Turn the pool circulation system off. You will need to get into the pool or spa including diving to the main drain. Work around the pool, particularly in the locations of suspected leaks. Squeeze the dye bottle releasing some dye into the area and watch it, if the dye simply swirls around without being sucked in, then there is no leak in that area. If the dye is sucked in then it is riding on the flow of water leaking from the pool.

- **-The drain down test** is for when you have tried the bucket test and/or the dye test, or if you are not a good swimmer and do not want to try the dye test, this is the test to try. Turn the pool circulation system off and your water auto fill valve off. Mark the level of the water in your pool or spa. Mark the level again at the same time per day to establish a rate for the water leak and continue the process for as many days as it takes to get a different rate. The objective is to determine when the level stops or slows as a result of the leak. One common location for a leak is the pool or spa's skimmer.
- **-Swimming pool repair service** is the next step, especially to protect the investment of your pool. If you cannot find the leak or suspect it is below ground call A Kool Pool Service in the Coachella Valley. They can skillfully test your swimming pool or spa for leaks, find the location, and repair the problem.

A Kool Pool Service provides professional and reliable swimming pool service for cleaning, repair, and maintenance within the Coachella Valley, Palm Springs, Palm Desert, Bermuda Dunes, La Quinta and Indian Wells. They are known in the area for maintaining long lasting relationships with their customers and they specialize in alternatives to help maintain safe pool water chemistry without dangerous chemicals. To get more information on a top pool cleaning company in CA or the Coachella Valley and surrounding areas, visit [www.akoolpool.biz](http://www.akoolpool.biz), email akoolpoolserv@aol.com or call 760-773-0135.