

A sparkling clean swimming pool is a joy, and with today's technology, it's no chore to keep it that way.

There are a number of different types of cleaning systems, and it's a matter of choice to find the one that fits your requirements and your budget.

You could of course, choose to manually vacuum your pool on a regular basis - but by far the most popular choice today is to use one of the many portable cleaning systems or a built in cleaning & circulation system.

Broadly, these can be broken into four categories.

1. Suction Cleaners
2. Pressure Cleaners
3. Electric Self-Propelled Cleaners
4. Built-in In-Floor Systems

SUCTION CLEANERS

In most cases, these systems are designed to plug into the pool's skimmer box, and are powered by the filter pump. They vacuum the floor in a random pattern, picking-up debris, and placing it in the skimmer basket, for later emptying.

Most manufacturers usually recommend they be removed during swimming times.

PRESSURE CLEANERS

These cleaners are designed in most cases to use a separate boost pump. They take some of the filtered water from the pool return line, boost the pressure, and return it to the cleaning system. This filtered high-pressure water is then used to jet into every corner of the pool. They use venture action to vacuum debris into a bag or their own body for later emptying. This method puts no load on the filter system which makes

it especially useful in very leafy situations. Most manufacturers recommend they be removed during swimming times also.

ELECTRIC SELF-PROPELLED CLEANERS

As the name suggests, these cleaners are independent devices, operating under their own low voltage power. They travel the entire floor of the pool, sweeping and vacuuming debris, which they pick up and carry in their own body. They have their own pump and drive motor as well as a small built-in filter, which cleans the water before returning it back into the pool.

This type of cleaner is more suited to commercial pool operators, as they can install them at night, after the pool has been closed for the day, and remove them the following day.

IN-FLOOR CLEANING SYSTEMS

For the ultimate in low maintenance, the In-Floor systems improve heat distribution, chemical distribution and general circulation, while cleaning the entire pool surface, including steps, seats and swim out areas.

They usually have a separate pump to circulate the water through a special valve to pop-up floor and step nozzles. These nozzles then direct debris towards various collection points for removal by the filter.

Being built in, the decision to install this type of system must be made before the commencement of construction.

Once installed there is no maintenance on most of the system. Some pool owners prefer to turn the system off during swimming. However there is no requirement to do so, as there are no hoses in the pool.

All the systems listed above are designed to reduce the day-to-day maintenance of your pool, while keeping it in pristine condition. Prices of cleaning systems will vary dramatically, but should be looked upon as an investment in your lifestyle.

