

Robotic Pool Cleaners

Written by Administrator

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The pleasure of owning a swimming pool can quickly become tainted when one realizes the work involved in maintenance. Aside from the aesthetics, a dirty pool can be dangerous and unhealthy. Proper cleaning helps to keep algae and bacteria out of the water and make the pool safe for swimmers. Manually scrubbing and vacuuming a pool can be a tedious and time consuming task. Many pool owners have found automatic pool cleaners to be a Godsend. Some of the most advanced automatic swimming pool cleaners are the robotic units. Robotic swimming pool cleaners offer excellent cleaning capabilities and outstanding convenience.

Unlike other types of pool cleaners that utilize the swimming pool filtration system, robotic swimming pool cleaners are self contained units that operate off standard household current. A transformer is plugged into a ground fault protected outlet and supplies low voltage power to run the electric motors within the robotic cleaner. Although the risk of electrical shock is highly unlikely, swimmers should not be allowed in the pool while a robotic cleaner is in use.

Robotic cleaners have their own filtration system on board in the way of a filter bag or cartridge that serves to contain the debris it picks up during cleaning. Both containment systems are comparable in cleaning efficiency and the main differences in the two involve how the containment element is serviced. Standard filter bags and cartridge filters alike can usually be washed several times before needing to be replaced. One thing to consider is there are disposable filter bags available for some robotic cleaners which eliminate having to wash the filter.

Some robotic cleaners use simple guiding systems such as floats and/or bumpers to help it navigate the pool and avoid getting hung up on obstacles, others use complex on board computers and sensors to map out the shape of the pool. This helps the cleaner do a more effective job by cleaning the entire pool and not revisiting already cleaned areas. Some robotic cleaners have remote controls which make them an excellent choice for spot cleaning. Many robotic cleaners have powered scrub brushes to clean pool walls and floor others use water pressure (like a pressure washer), some combine both methods of cleaning. For propulsion many use wheels or tracks that are powered by the electric motors on board, others use water propulsion like a jet ski. The powerful electric pump inside the unit keeps it "sucked" to the pool floor and walls while vacuuming up debris.

Advantages of robotic cleaners:

- * Operates independently of pool filtration system (less wear on pool pump)
- * Doesn't contribute to pool filter contamination (cutting down on back washes or cartridge cleaning)
- * Programmed cleaning pattern (more effectively covers entire pool)
- * Scrubs pool floor and walls (less manual scrubbing)

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* Best cleaning of all type pool cleaners

* Convenience, plug it up and set it in the pool (no hoses to mess with, no adjustments to make it work right)

Disadvantages of robotic cleaners:

* Initial cost, the more complex the higher the the price

* Repair cost, when they break (as all devices do) they can be expensive to repair or replace.

* Complex equipment, may require repairs beyond pool owners abilities.

A few of the more popular brands of robotic cleaners include:

- Aquabot
- Dolphin
- AquaVac
- Tiger Shark
- Robo Kleen