

Water Loss 24 On/Off Bucket Test

Pool water loss that is more than 1/4" per day (Up to 2" per week) can be coming from a number of areas. This test helps to determine if water loss is occurring due to a high evaporation rate or possibly a leak, and if there is a leak, it can help to isolate the potential source of the leak.

Accuracy is important – please be sure to take all measurements to the nearest 1/8"

- 1. Fill your pool with water to the middle to your skimmer, which is considered normal operating level.
- 2. Fill 5-gallon bucket with pool water up to 1-2 inches from the top.
- 3. Place bucket on first or second step of pool.
- 4. With a marker, duct tape or electrical tape, mark the water level on the inside of the bucket.



- 5. Shut off your pump(s) and with a marker, duct tape or electrical tape, mark the water level on the outside of the bucket.
- 6. If you have an automatic fill device, make sure it is turned off while testing.



7. Resume normal filter pump operation, record the 'Date/Time Test Started' in the 'Initial Bucket Test' row in the chart below.

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8. After 24 hours, compare the two levels. If the pool water level (mark outside of the bucket) goes down more than the inside bucket water level (mark inside of the bucket), there may be a leak. Please note that evaporation will occur equally regardless of the area of water. A bucket will lose a quarter of an inch of water as fast as a swimming pool loses a quarter of an inch of water. Record the 'Date/Time Test Ended' in the 'Initial Bucket Test' row in the chart below.

If the 'Initial Bucket Test' above has water loss inside and outside the bucket that are the same, the loss you are encountering is normal evaporation and there is no reason to perform any additional tests

(If the loss outside the bucket is more than inside the bucket, continue onto step 9)

- 9. Fill your pool and bucket back to your original marks (Both outside and inside the bucket).
- 10. Turn the pool filter pump on and record the 'Date/Time Test Started' in the '24 Hrs Pump On' row in the chart below. Run your pool pump for 24 hours continuously.
- 11. After 24 hours, check the water level in the pool and bucket and measure how much water you have lost in both (if any) to the nearest 1/8". Record the 'Date/Time Test Ended' in the '24 Hrs Pump On' row in the chart below.
- 12. Fill your pool and bucket back to your original marks (Both outside and inside the bucket).
- 13. Shut the pool filter pump off and record the 'Date/Time Test Started' in the '24 Hrs Pump Off' row in the chart below. Leave the pump off for 24 hours continuously.
- 14. After 24 hours, check the water level in the pool and bucket and measure how much water you have lost in both (if any) to the nearest 1/8". Record the 'Date/Time Test Ended' in the '24 Hrs Pump Off' row in the chart below.

	Date/Time Test Started	Date/Time Test Ended	Loss Inside Bucket to Nearest 1/8"	Loss Outside Bucket to Nearest 1/8"
Initial Bucket Test				
24 Hrs Pump On				
24 Hrs Pump Off				

If your loss outside of the bucket is larger than the loss inside the bucket during the '24 Hrs Pump On' test above, record the difference here as your '24 hr pump on' loss: _____

If your loss outside of the bucket is larger than the loss inside the bucket during the '24 Hrs Pump Off' test above, record the difference here as your '24 hr pump off' loss: ______

If your loss from '24 hr pump on' above is larger than your loss form '24 hr pump off', this may indicate a leak in the pressure side of your system. Such leaks may be return/jet lines, pressure cleaner lines, filter backwash line leaks, or other piping that is under pressure when the pool pump is on.

If your loss from '24 hr pump off' above is larger than your loss from '24 hr pump on', this may indicate a leak in the suction side of your system. Such leaks may be skimmer lines, main drain lines or other piping that is under a vacuum when the pool pump is on.

Contact our service department by text at 708-349-2223, email at <u>service@aspools.com</u> or by phone at 708-745-9325 with the above results to schedule our leak detection service to help you identify your leak further by scheduling pressure testing, dive leak detection or one of our other leak detection services.

Please understand that water losses of ½" or less in 24 hours are extremely difficult to detect with our equipment. Often the only method of detection of small leaks of this nature is through process of elimination. You may wish to schedule a service technician to come to your house to consult with you as to how other process of elimination tests may be helpful in identifying your water loss, a service we offer at our normal hourly rates.

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