

How can I tell when a Filter Cartridge needs to be replaced?

With no moving parts or electrical switches to fail, Filters Cartridges do not have a defined end-of-life. Instead, media will gradually plug up over time.

In a typical spa, the culprit that plugs the media is perspiration and body oils combined with soaps, chemicals, and very fine particulate. In a swimming pool, the loading is primarily debris along with suntan lotions and organic matter, such as, algae. Assuming the Filter is properly maintained and correctly sized to the pump, determining when the Filter Cartridge is exhausted depends primarily upon three factors:

- 1) Shorter cycle time between cleanings
- 2) Low water flow rate and high differential pressure
- 3) Catastrophic failure such as a tear in the media or center core collapse.

All three are dependent upon proper pool or spa water chemistry and following a routine maintenance schedule. Filter elements are plastic and should be handled and maintained accordingly.

How do I maximize the life of a filter cartridge?

- Clean the elements per manufacturers cleaning instructions
- Never use a stiff brush to clean the media
- Maintain your pool or spa water chemistry in proper balance
- Alternate two sets of filter cartridges when cleaning

For swimming pools, clean the cartridge when filter canister pressure reaches 8 PSI above the initial system or new cartridge starting pressure. For spas, establish a routine cartridge-cleaning schedule based on the amount of spa usage. If Baquacil is used as a sanitizer, the filter element must be cleaned with Baqua Clean before any cartridge cleaner is used.

What is the procedure to clean my filter cartridge?

- 1) Remove the cartridge from the filter housing following the manufacturer's instructions
- 2) Use a garden hose with a straight flow nozzle to wash down the filter element. Work from the top down, holding the nozzle at a 45-degree angle, and wash all the pleats with emphasis between the pleats.
- 3) Rinse until all dirt and debris is gone
- 4) For all spa cartridges and elements used in swimming pools where perspiration, suntan lotions, and other oils are present, soak the element for at least one hour (overnight is most effective) in:
 - (A) a commercial filter cleaner, or,
 - (B) one cup tri sodium phosphate (TSP) to five gallons of water
 - (C) one cup dishwasher detergent to five gallons of water.
- 5) Rinse the cartridge again to remove oils and cleaning solution.
- 6) If the filter has a coating of algae, calcium carbonate (residue from calcium hypochlorite), iron, or other minerals, soak the cartridge in a solution of one part muriatic acid to twenty parts water until all bubbling stops.
- 7) Rinse the filter cartridge clean and reassemble housing.