

AQUATRACE

The Bucket Test

A simple DIY Bucket Test will aid you in determining whether the water loss that you are experiencing is due to an actual leak or normal evaporation.

The bucket test principle is simple – the rate of evaporation of water is the same from any surface. Therefore, if the bucket shows a quarter inch loss of water due to normal evaporation, the pool or spa should have the same loss. If the water loss of the pool or spa is more than the bucket, then this concludes that there is a leak.

Keep a Few Things in Mind

Prior to performing the bucket test, watch the weather forecast. Be sure not to carry out the bucket test during any rainfall or inclement weather as this may interfere with your results. Do not allow the test time to extend beyond a 24 hour period. Due to multiple environmental factors, extending this time could provide inaccurate results.

Typical Evaporation

There are many factors that determine water loss due to evaporation. Some of these factors include overall temperature, temperature variance from highs during the day to lows at night, humidity, barometric pressure, wind and overall general usage of the pool or spa.

With all of the potential variables that can affect water levels, it's not uncommon to see water losses ranging from ¼" to 2" or more per day. While these numbers can definitely be unsettling, the bucket test can easily assist in determining if you need professional assistance to locate a leak.

Aquatrace Swimming Pool Leak Detection Specialists

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8 Steps to a Perfect Bucket Test

By performing the following steps, you can reasonably determine if your pool or spa is leaking within 24 hours.

1. Ensure that the pool or spa is filled to it's normal operating level (if possible).
2. Turn off all pumps to the system. If you have an auto-fill valve, make sure this is turned off in order to properly perform the test.
3. Dip a 5 gallon bucket into the water and fill it approximately inch or two higher than the level of the pool water on the outside of the bucket.
4. Place the bucket on the steps of the swimming pool, being careful not to submerge the bucket.
5. Mark the water levels inside and outside of the bucket.
6. Turn on the pump(s) for the system, being sure to keep the auto fill valve off.
7. Wait 24 hours and mark the new levels of water inside and outside of the bucket.
8. Review your results and calculate.

Once the test has concluded, it's time to analyze the results.

Compare the water loss inside the bucket to the water loss outside the bucket. If the water loss is the same, this means that you are losing water to normal evaporation. If the water loss outside of the bucket is more than the water loss inside the bucket, then you have determined that your pool or spa does in fact have a leak.

What do I do Now?

If the bucket test has determined that you have a leak, contact us immediately. Aquatrace Leak Detection can positively determine the exact location of the problem area(s).

Whether structural, plumbing related or your accessories such as filtration or cleaning systems, we can isolate the leak's location to minimize the required repair expense.

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