

Hurricane Harvey Pool Re-start*

If your pool has been flooded by storm water, sewage water or any other possible contaminates, as well as if your pool equipment was submerged in the flood waters please see recommended start up list:

1. **DO NOT DRAIN YOUR POOL:** “Pool pop-up” phenomenon is always a possibility, especially right after a severe storm and/or flood. The soil conditions surrounding your pool are saturated and expanded which can put upward pressure on your pool shell.
2. If your pool is on a weekly maintenance program with a pool professional, contact them to see what their schedule is and what recommendations they have for your specific pool. Discuss with them the items on this checklist.
3. First, try to clean out as much debris from your pool as possible. Then clean the skimmers, main drains, robot cleaner bags, and pump baskets.
4. Turn off all your breakers at the pool equipment. Then go to your home breaker box and reset your pool breakers that might have tripped. If the breaker won't reset, call an electrician or a pool service company. If your breaker resets, then go to your pool equipment breaker box and slowly reset your pool equipment breakers one by one and check to see if the equipment is working. *(If your equipment was running during the storm it may have sucked up a tremendous amount of mud and debris and may have burned out.)* If the breakers come on and equipment starts up, monitor the water to make sure it starts flowing through the pumps.
5. Check the pressure gauge on your filters. If it is close to or over 30 PSI turn off your equipment and clean your filters. The pump probably sucked up a lot of debris before the equipment went off. Note that the pressure when you restart the pool after cleaning the filters should be much lower.
6. Get pool shock from your local pool supply store. The standard pool dose is 1 lb. of Dichlor-Shock per 10,000 gallons of water. Due to the heavy possible contaminates we are going to recommend that you double that dose. Do not swim in the pool for at least 48 hours.
7. Run your pool equipment 24 hours a day until the water returns to its normal clear state. Continue to monitor the pressure in the filter. If it gets to 30 PSI again, clean or backwash your filter.
8. Brush the pool and spa two to three times every day to keep dirt stirred up so it can make it into the pool filter.
9. Even though you might not be able to see the bottom of the pool, vacuum the pool every day. Note: You will most likely have to backwash sand and DE filters each time you do this or clean the cartridges.

10. If you cannot make any positive changes on your pool after trying to get it clean, please contact your local pool builder or service company and get on their service list. You may need them to drain the pool and clean it under controlled supervision. If the pool clears up with the above procedures, you can always cancel, but most companies are many weeks behind now so it is best to get on their schedule now.

11. **WATER QUALITY SAFETY:** Chlorine is a powerful sanitizer. However, organisms like cryptosporidium and E. coli, among others, can be resistant to chlorine and can be dangerous to your family's health. If there is any chance that flood waters could have been in contact with dead animals from say a reservoir or field, or any chance of sewage entering your pool, or if you just want that extra peace of mind, we recommend dosing with additional pool products on start up your local pool supply store can help with. Products like Sea Klear PRS stage 1 and 2 can help trap germs in the filter and get them out of the water column. If you are suspicious of the flood water, there are bacteria test strips you can get online or from local pool supply stores just for that extra peace of mind.

Once cleaning process starts we will need to balance the water again:

1. Clean or backwash filters. Note pressure when starting back up after cleaning.
2. Take water sample to your local pool supply store or immediately check water chemistry using your test kit or strips. Based on your test results, the pool supply store can tell you which products you need to purchase to adjust your water chemistry. Stabilize your total alkalinity and PH before adding any other chemicals.
3. Fill chlorine tablet feeder if installed on your pool.
4. Shock the pool using Dichlor at the rate of 1 lb. per 10,00 gallons of water.
5. With the soft rain water, you are more than likely going to need to check your water hardness and add some calcium back to the pool to prevent damage to the pool plaster, as needed.
6. Because the pool water is diluted with rain water, you are probably going to need to add chlorine stabilizer to the pool as well, so don't think the stores are just trying to sell you unnecessary products.
7. Continue to monitor pressure on the filter and clean or backwash each time the pressure gets 10 lbs. higher than the normal pool pressure.

Good luck and safe swimming!

*This is just a suggested list of steps to help you with your swimming pool. However, it is not an all-encompassing list, as every pool or situation is different. Following these suggestions is something you choose to do of your own free will, and you agree to hold any entity or company who posts this list of suggestions harmless from any damages.