



What to Do to Prepare Your Pool for Flooding

The following are some precautions to take if flooding is imminent or likely:

- Turn off any electric pumps or filters. Overload caused by flooding can result in electrical shorts.
- Remove any loose equipment, toys, or tools. Anything that can be carried away by flood waters, including pool equipment, poses a severe risk to people, animals, and property, as floodwaters may propel them at rapid speeds.
- Ensure that your property has proper water drainage away from your pool and property.
- Check to see if your homeowners insurance covers flood damage, and if so, whether or not that coverage includes damage to your pool. If not, ask your insurance agent if this coverage can be added to your policy.
- Do not drain your pool.

What to Do After a Flood

If your property suffers from a flood, wait until the floodwaters have receded and risk of personal injury is minimized. At that point, consult with a pool maintenance professional and, or proceed with the following:

Step 1: Assess the Damage

- Inspect equipment for any damage caused by the flood.

Floodwaters contain dirt, mud, debris, waste, and other pollutants, all of which will enter and contaminate your treated pool water when they mingle. This could strain the filtration system to the point of burning out.

Floodwaters can also seep between the liner and pool wall, lifting the liner out of place. As floodwaters recede over time, the liner will go down with them. If this occurs, consult a pool maintenance professional.

Step 2: Clean the Deck

- First clean the pool deck. Hose and brush away any mud, debris, old tires, and anything else that may have washed up onto your pool deck.
- Refrain from draining the water. Instead, use a leaf skimmer or net to remove all the debris that you can see.

Step 3: Vacuum

- Clean the skimmer basket.
- Use a siphon or garden hose to drain the water back to its normal level.

- Vacuum your pool slowly to eject the silty mud out of the pool. The slower and more thorough, the better. You may have to stop to let the pool fill up again if the water level gets near the bottom of the skimmer.

Step 4: Brush & Filter

- Brush your pool several times per day over the next several days to detach the mud and debris from the walls.
- Leave your pool filter running all day and night, if possible.

Step 5: Test & Balance Water

After a mudslide or flood event, pool water chemistry is going to be out of balance. Particulates and contaminants will affect pH and alkalinity.

- Balance your pH and alkalinity first, and then check calcium hardness and cyanuric acid levels. Test again over the next few days.

Step 6: Remove Phosphates

Test your pool for phosphates. High levels of phosphates and nitrates are often found in pools that have experienced mudslides or floodwater contamination. Phosphates provide a food source for algae, and nitrates consume chlorine.

- Before shocking the pool, treat it first with a phosphate remover, if needed.

Step 7: Shock the Pool

- Once your pool water is balanced, shock your pool. Add chlorine per label instructions.
- Continue to brush your pool surfaces in the morning and in the evening, to loosen staining.
- Run your filter nonstop for 72 hours, cleaning it as needed when pressure rises to a point where flow rate is reduced.

Step 8: Enzyme & Clarifier

- If you still have murky water, use a clarifier to help eliminate dead, organic pollutants that can cause cloudy water.

Step 9: Clean the Filter

- After filtering excessive debris from your pool, the filter will need a deep cleaning. Filter cartridges and grids may need replacement, but if they're relatively new, you can soak them in a pool filter cleaning solution to remove dirt, oils, and minerals. Sand filters can also be rejuvenated by using the proper cleaning product.

Step 10: Run the Filter and Adjust Chemicals

- Continue to run the filtration system until the water is completely cleaned.
- Retest the pool chemical balance and adjust accordingly.