

## **Pool and Spa Leak Detection**

Even minor swimming pool leak can cause substantial damage and result in huge water bills and it is estimated that one pool in every 20 has a leak.

Just how serious can a leak become? A pinhole-sized leak in a pool plumbing system with 40-pound pressure (psi) will lose approximately 970 gallons of water in a 24-hour period. This comes to about 30,000 gallons a month or 360,000 gallons per year. That's enough to drain and refill the average residential swimming pool more than a dozen times.

In addition to an astronomical water bill, there are other warning signs of hidden leaks in pools and spas. Among them are a loss of one-eighth inch or more of water in a 24 hour period, algae formation too soon after chemical treatment, loose or falling tiles, pool deck cracks, gaps and cracks in the pool shell, a settling of the whole pool or spa structure into the ground or constantly damp soil surrounding the pool and/or under the house.

Many people believe that water loss in a pool or spa is due to evaporation instead of a leak. If you are among these believers, here's a trick that will help solve the mystery. Place a bucket on the top step of the pool and fill it with water to the pool's water level. After a day, if the water level in the pool is lower than the bucket, there probably is a leak in the pool structure or plumbing system.

To further detect whether the cause is the structure or the plumbing system, measure the water loss with the pump running for 24 hours and again with the pump off. If more water is lost when the pump is running, the plumbing is probably the cause.

Thanks to state-of-the-art technology, most pool or spa leaks can be found and repaired without major disruption or the need to take out a second mortgage. Sophisticated detection equipment along with a qualified technician can find even the smallest leak - one the size of a pinhead.