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## Above ground pool sand filter installation

A pool sand filter is a popular choice for both home and commercial swimming pool owners. These filters are generally cheaper than cartridge-based alternatives and have lower overall maintenance costs. While there are many good reasons to install a pool sand filter, it is worth the other options and their relative advantages and disadvantages, too. If you decide to buy a pool sand filter, there are several technical aspects to consider. Each is important to ensure you have the right level of performance and top value for your money. Helping you get the information you need is exactly why BestReviews was created. We have reviewed the specifications of all the latest pool sand filters so that we can give you a simple but complete buying guide. If you're ready to buy, one of our recommended models may well be what you're looking for. There is something there for all kinds of pool types and sizes. If you still have questions, you should find all the answers below. Basic EstimatesFilt You have three main options when it comes to pool filters: diatom earth (DE), cartridge, and sand.DE filters offer the highest level of filtration, but it is an expensive option and requires more time for maintenance. There are also health concerns around the type of diatom earth used in pool filters. It is a serious irritant if inhaled or if the dust gets into your eyes. Some sources suggest it's carcinogenic. While others disagree, it's not something we would recommend. The cassette pool filters have a large surface area thanks to their pleated material. In general, they can filter smaller particles (10 to 15 micro) from sand filters, thus making your pool water cleaner. However, differences are rarely observed. On the other hand, if the water pressure is not carefully controlled, the particles can be forced through the filter material. Low flow rates are recommended for optimal performance, so these filters don't work well in a large pool. And while cartridges can be cleaned easily, often simply by rinsing with a hose, they need to be replaced more often by sand filters. Cartridge filters cost a lot more, too. Sand pool filters are usually cheaper to buy than an equivalent cartridge model. Many are more compact, too. It's mechanically simple, so most are very durable. Regular cleaning is just a backwashing issue, which is easy and only takes a few minutes. On the negative side, they don't filter particles as small as cartridge filters (20 to 40 microns), and a little water is wasted when backwash, so maybe to top off the pool and occasionally rebalancing the chemicals. In short, cartridge filters cost more to buy and maintain, but there's no doubt that if they run properly, they get more debris out of the water. The question is whether the difference in filtration filtration to annoy you. A small one is tiny, about 0.00004 inches. To give the difference some context, most pollen is between 20 and 35 small. Anything less than 35 cubs cannot be seen with the human eye. Both types of filters trap something that size, although neither filter is thin enough for drinking water. It's a personal decision, but you can see why many people are happy with the cleanliness that pool sand filters provide. Features Your choice will depend to some extent on whether you do a complete pool, pump and filter installation or simply replace an existing filter. If you start from scratch, it is possible to buy a filter/pump combination, which simplifies the process somewhat. If you already have a pump, you will need to make sure that the pool sand filter can cope with the flow. Flow rate The flow rate is given either gallons per hour (gph) or gallons per minute (gpm). To get from one to the other is either multiplied or divided by 60. For example, 40 gallons per minute equals 2,400 gallons per hour. Most settings are designed to pump the entire contents of the pool through the filter once every 8 hours. You should know the flow rate of your pump (it is usually marked on the body) so you can make sure that the sand filter pool suits you. While it's not a bad idea to have a filter that's a little oversized, it certainly shouldn't be too small. Too low flow rate means that the pump works harder than it should push the water in, and that it will shorten its life. Tank size and constructionSize: This is another important factor. You will usually see that a pool sand filter has an inch rating that tells you the diameter, which is an indication of the amount of sand it contains. This estimate can be anywhere from 12 inches to very small models, through 16 to 24 inches in the middle range, to 30 inches and above for large versions. Pool experts warn against trying to save money by installing a model that is too small, because filtration will decrease. The following are general guidelines: 12- to 20-inch tank: Under 10,000 gallons21- to 24-inch tank: 10,000 to 20,000 gallons24- to 30-inch tank: 20 , 000 to 30,000 gallons30- to 36-inch tank: 30,000 to 50,000 gallonsConstruction: This is either two-piece (seamed under the sides) or molded as a single unit. While two-piece tanks are not necessarily a problem, there is a potential weakness in construction, so many prefer to pay a little extra for a one-piece model. Engine sizeThis is worth checking if with a power rarely below 1 horsepower, filters are usually well specified. Multi-door valves are common and offer a variety of functions in turning a switch. The exact function varies, so it's worth making a comparison. It is common to have six or seven places, including backwashing, winterizing, and bypassing (so if you drain the pool water water really go through the filter at all). Timers These are sometimes built-in, but more often an option. They certainly offer additional convenience (when running the filter overnight, for example), although in many cases it is an additional cost. Aboveground and on the groundI will usually find a pool sand filter described as either aboveground or aboveground and on the ground. The difference in the type of pool is simple: one requires an outer shell of some kind to support the water tank, and the other sinks below the surface of the ground. As far as pool filter is concerned, there is no technical difference, it is simply that above ground ponds need a smaller combination of filters/pumps. Therefore, you find above ground lake sand filters as small as 12 inches, with flow rates below 2,000 gallons per hour. These devices work just as effectively as larger models. They are designed only for smaller pools. Check the filter water pressure once a week. All it takes is a quick look. If it starts to grow, it is a good indicator that it starts to clog and needs backwashing (cleaning). STAFFBestReviewsReply: The cheapest pool sand filters are those for above-ground pools and can be under \$100. Those that can also serve as ground pool filters start at about \$150.Mid-range: You have huge choice between \$200 and \$500, with a wide variety of reliable models from all the top brands. It is possible that most pool owners can find what they need in this price category. Expensive: High capacity filters and filter/pump combinations can push prices to as much as \$1,500. Caution is required at this level, because some larger filter bodies do not include valves, which need to be fixed and purchased separately. That said, few facilities of this capacity will be DIY jobs. Frequently asked questions. Is it difficult to install a pool sand filter?A: If you are a DIY'er responsible who is comfortable with a bit of plumbing and sorting electrical connections, there is nothing very complex, particularly if you are replacing an existing filter. It's a little time consuming, but it's not technically difficult. There is a lot of useful information available on the internet, much of it from filter manufacturers. However, if you are not sure, it is always best to call in a suitable installer. Q: Does a pool sand filter need a lot of maintenance? Backwashing (a simple job that briefly changes the direction of flow) rinses most of the collected debris and is done every few weeks (depending on accumulation of pressure). Changing the sand should only be required every few years, depending on the pool type. That's just a general guide. It is important to check your owner's manual and follow the manufacturer's recommendations to ensure that your filter works efficiently for a long time. Q: Is the type and quantity of sand important? There is. confusion between silicon sand (which is widely recommended) and zeolite products (often suggested as an alternative). The problem arises because zeolites usually occupy twice the volume (so you only need half the amount). For example, if a pool filter normally uses 150 pounds of silicon sand, you would need only 75 pounds of zeolita. However, despite having larger grains, zeolites claim to offer better filtration of fine particles and dust, which is why they are popular. It is important to follow the advice of the manufacturer or pool installer (if you are using one). Given how rarely you change the sand, any savings will not be huge, and using the wrong product or quantity will reduce the efficiency of the filter and could even cause damage. If you were to hire a pool company to come in and change the sand in your pool filter, it would probably cost you over \$100 dollars for the work, and then you would pay extra for the sand because they delivered it. I'll show you how to do it in an hour. You're not going to overcharge yourself, and you're going to know it's done right. The best time to change the sand in your pool filter is in spring, when the water in the filter has drained since last fall, the sand has had enough time to drain and dry. Make sure the electric pool pump is turned off, the valves that go into the filter are all turned off, and as I said, the filter should be drained. If you need to drain the filter, unscrew the drain cap at the bottom of the sand filter and drain the filter for at least 12 hours, otherwise the sand will be very wet and difficult to remove. Once the sand is well drained, it is time to open the sand filter housing. Locate the bolts or strap in the middle of the sand filter housing, remove all bolts or strap completely, gently remove the top half of the filter housing taking care not to damage internal parts. The sand filter you see in the pictures is a bolt in style with an o-ring rubber flange. My Big Mess :)Eddie CarraraTools Will NeedSmall Garden Shovel Shop Empty 5 gallon Bucket New Filter Sand Silica paste or non-Vaseline Jelly Key set and or slot that screwdriver towel shop Time and Patience Remove the old sand with a small garden shovel. Eddie CarraraBe be careful not to hurt fingers with the shovel. Eddie CarraraRemoving the sand from the Housing sand filter Because all sand filters are different, caution should be taken when removing sand from the casing. The filter has fingers protruding from central tube, as you can see in the pictures, my Hayward sand filter has fingers at the bottom of the casing, some other filters may have them a little higher up the inside of the casing, so dig slowly and carefully. Using a small garden shovel, remove the sand in a bucket or stroller until you can't remove any more with the shovel. I used an empty store to remove the sand at the bottom of the filter housing, taking great care not to damage the filter fingers. You can rinse the inside of the casing with water, but it is not necessary, then just add the new sand gently, taking care not to damage the fingers. I love these things!!! Eddie Carrara What kind of sand can I use? Pool technology has come a long way, and you have many options for pool filter sand. You can choose to buy only regular sand filter, or you can try an alternative like Zeo Sand. Zeo works more like diatomic Earth media filtrations, which is designed to filter smaller molecules out of your water and is capable of out molecules as small as a micron. Zeo Sand has the same features and DE and I found it to be 10 times better than regular filter sand. Zeo sand is a little more expensive than filter sand, but you only need half the weight. Hayward filter gets me 200 pounds of regular sand filter, with zeo sand, I only needed £100. Zeo sand is just lighter sand, and it works much better. The water in my pool was always cloudy, not so cloudy that you couldn't see the bottom, just a little white mist, so the water was never spotless. I actually notice a difference when the pool light was on at night, I used to be able to see all sorts of particles floating in the water causing that white mist, after switching to Zeo sand, it's absolutely clear, I was excited, I couldn't believe the difference, I always thought the water had to be a bit cloudy like this , lol it's not anymore! Okay, enough with the Zeo sand, buy it, you'll love it! Check the flange or o ring for damage or cracks. Eddie Carrara Shake the rest of the sand with an empty shop. Eddie CarraraAssemble the Housing Sand Filter Or the sand is back in the enclosure, it's time to reinstall the housing top. THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT. Remove the rubber flange or o-ring, inspect it for damage, cracking or breaking, if there are any signs of damage, replace it! If it looks good and you are sure it won't leak, use a small silicone glue, (not silicone sealer) and lubricate the o-ring rubber or flange. This will help keep the seal flexible and help keep it in place during the installation process. Clean mating surfaces, be sure to remove all the sand from the areas where the flange sits, if there is any sand down or onto the embellishment, you will have a leak, so make sure you remove every tiny spec of sand, don't you want to do this again, you? Once you clean the mating surfaces and the flange is back its position, and the top is in the casing, reinstall all the bolts, washers, and nuts, comfortable each down, but do not tighten them completely. Using two keys, tighten each nut a quarter turn, move on to the next until you have tightened each quarter turn, now keep going around the perimeter of the casing in each bolt and making a fourth turn until it is tight, this will ensure that the even has pressure and will not squeeze or pinch the flange causing leakage. You may need to tighten each bolt at least 4 times, but just keep tightening them until they are comfortable, do not tighten them up or cause a leak as well. Back wash first before the water circulation back into the pool. Eddie CarraraBackwashes the new sand filter You need to backwash the new sand before you release the water back into the pool, it will remove both debris and dust in the sand so you don't end up in your pool. You'll probably need to first filter before you run the pump, just discard a few buckets of water in the basket casing in the filter or you can read my article on opening your pool. Once you get the filter running, stand back, and watch the magic happen, especially if you've used Zeo sand, lol. Check the filter housing for leaks, if there are leaks, comfortable the bolts in this area and see if you can stop the leak, if not, you need to change the flange or o-ringOther Pool Related Articles I had the worst seaweed pool This springThe seaweed pool this spring was the worst I had ever seen, I even used a winterizing kit , and it was still dark green, with black algae. The chemicals and the pool filter were a lost battle, and the algae were winning. You're closing an indoor pool? How to Winterize ... After reading this article and seeing all the pictures, you will know more than your pool company does about closing your indoor pool. I guide you through the steps of closing an inground pool, how to drain the filter, how to drain thHow to open an Inground PoolThing is my secret to clean the pool water when opening my inground pool in the spring? When the cover comes out, the pool water is crystal clear and all the debris has settled at the bottom. Most pool owners ask How is this possible? This article is accurate and true to the best of the author's knowledge. The content is for informational or recreational purposes only and does not replace personal advice or professional advice in business, financial, legal or technical matters. Q&A: I was misled by the advice that it's easier to remove sand from a pool filter by not draining the water? Answer: The only way I know how to remove sand is to drain the filter completely and scoop it out by hand using a small cup. CommentsEddie Carrara (author) from New Hampshire on July 13, 2020: Hi Chris, I can't sell this model anymore, but I'm sure there's a lot That's still out there. The amount of sand was not £400 more like £150. I agree that Zeo sand is no better than normal sand. If I were to do it all again I think I would install a cartridge filter, my neighbor had one was much more efficient. Although with new technology you never know what the next best thing will be. Thanks for the 5 on July 11, 2020: And one in ten sand filters has a top coming out. The one in your article isn't even made anymore. Good luck reaching through a 7 hole and scooping out £400 ofSand with a cup. And Zeo Sand is a trick. Use glass. It's ten times better than any sand. Pool guy tired of paying others on September 19, 2019:You really don't have to change the sand to a pool filter unless it's cemented or you're trying to return to chlorine after using non-chlorine disinfectants. The sand on the beach is still there after thousands of years. You should suggest people do a deep clean every year. PS, in 27+ years my pool sand filter has never changed. To improve its effectiveness I can add a small amount of de after each backwash. Eddie Carrara (author) from New Hampshire on August 2, 2012: Hi Scott, I had the same problem with my pool this spring, what I just said is exactly what happened to me, but I had already changed to seo sand. I threw tons of chlorine, metal removal and even tried a neutralizer to start over, nothing worked until I used Deleish.I had to use a chemical called Banish to kill algae, it has a chemical called copper sulphate in it that destroys algae, once I put the Exile in the pool and the green went away , my pool was crystal clear, as more clear then is since I owned the pool (13 years). The pool water is so clear that when you turn on the pool light at night, I don't have that fog in the water anymore. Scott, try banishing either aluminum sulphate or copper sulphate to clean the green water. Tell me how you're doing. Also read my other article called I Had the Worst Seaweed Pool This Spring the link is just above the comment box. Read Tony's comment, he uses copper sulphate too, and seems to be the laziest pool owner I know. Scott on August 2, 2012:Do not change to ZEOSand. I've had a pool for seven years. That's all right. Changed to ZEOSand and was green never feel. All levels read great. The pool is as green as it can be. Shocked like crazy. Chlorine flattens the charts. Still green. This crap doesn't filter. Stay with normal sand. Just add a little DE if you need better filtering. DON'T FALL IN LOVE WITH THAT WIZARD'S CRAP. And yes, I supported washed 6 times before filtering leaving to settle for an hour between backwashes and rinsed 3 times. CLEAN TRASH. Eddie Carrara (author) from New Hampshire on May 15, 2012: Hello Prakash, I have 20 years of experience with swimming pools, and something new every year, lol. Thank you for the comment :)Prakash Tighe from Dallas, Texas, USA on May 15, 2012: Eddie, as always, very well researched and presented! Presented! Presented!