

Fire Recovery



What to do after there has been a fire.

Fires, like other natural disasters, may cause significant issues for you and your swimming pool. Ash from these fires can cause your pool some problems, especially for your water and your filter. This handout gives you some tips and pointers on how to clean up your pool after a fire.

Items Required For Fire Clean-Up

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chlorine (liquid or granular) | <input type="checkbox"/> Stain inhibitor (Stain & Scale) | <input type="checkbox"/> Skimmer net or leaf rake |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pH Adjusters (Alk up, Soda ash, Acid) | <input type="checkbox"/> Conditioner (Cyanuric Acid) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pool Brush and Telescoping Pole Vacuum hose |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clear Aid | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt (If it is a Salt Pool) | <input type="checkbox"/> Manual vacuum head or automatic pool cleaner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enzyme/Phosphate Remover | <input type="checkbox"/> Test kit or Test Strip | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shock | | |

Clean Up

- Turn off the pump.
- Skim the soot, ash and debris off the water's surface using a telepole and skimmer net. Cover the net with an old T- shirt or other type of cloth to trap the fine particles as the mesh on the net is generally too large to capture this type of debris.
- Clean out the skimmer basket. Check it again every few hours.
- Clean out the pump strainer basket.
- Turn on the pump and make sure the water is circulating in the pool.
- Check the pressure gauge on the filter. In general, backwash or clean the filter if the pressure gauge reading is 8 to 10 psi (pounds per square inch) more than starting or clean psi reading. Check the manufacturer's recommendation when to clean or backwash the filter.
- Check the water level in the pool. It should be about in the middle of the tile or the middle of the skimmer opening. The skimmer will not operate properly if the water level in the pool is too high. If it is, drain enough water so the skimmer functions properly.
- Start vacuuming any debris off the bottom. Use an automatic pool cleaner or a manual vacuum. Start by vacuuming the shallow end and move towards the deep end. If the pool is very dirty, and if so equipped, vacuum to waste rather than sending the water through the filter. If not possible, vacuum through the filter but check the filter pressure gauge frequently and backwash or clean as necessary. If the debris is very heavy, you should check the water balance and sanitizer level. The Free Available Chlorine level should be raised to 2.0 to 4.0 ppm (parts per million) or higher. (The maximum recommended level is 10 ppm.) The pH should be adjusted to 7.4 to 7.6. Adjust the Total Alkalinity to 80 to 140 ppm based upon the type of sanitizer used.
- The pump should run continuously until the water clears.
- Recheck the water balance, sanitizer level, skimmer baskets, pump strainer basket and filter pressure gauge a few times a day until the water is clear, stable and free of floating debris.

Fires, even distant ones, can introduce a lot of carbon into the water. Further, there are generally many more insects flying around and possibly ending up in your pool. There are some products that are great at helping you in these types of situations. Natural enzymes such as Perfect Weekly and Clear Aid breakdown organic matter that enters the water. They will help to reduce the chlorine demand, thereby getting your chlorine or other sanitizer to work harder and longer. They will also keep any ring around the waterline to a minimum. A water clarifier, such as Leslie's Ultra Bright, will help clear the water of fine by suspending debris that makes the water look cloudy or dull. A Debris Shield, for your skimmer basket will help trap surface debris and prevent it from reaching the pump and filter.

Follow the label directions for each product.

No Electricity

If you don't have electrical service after the fire, follow these steps to prevent severe damage to your pool surface and water chemistry:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Use a leaf rake to remove large debris from the pool. | If your tap water service works, use a leaf bagger (see Lesliespool.com for more information on leaf baggers) with a fine mesh bag to remove small dirt particles. | Superchlorinate your water with Leslie's <i>Chlor Brite</i> or liquid chlorine to maintain a FAC level of 5.0-10.0 ppm. |
|---|---|---|

If any of your pool's major equipment, such as the pump, filter, or heater, is damaged in the storm, call **1.800.LESLIES** to schedule an appointment with one of **Leslie's trained, professional Service Technicians**. We repair and install all types of major pool equipment and can get your pool up and running quickly.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this document is provided solely as a courtesy by Leslie's to its customers. Leslie's makes every effort to provide accurate recommendations based upon current ANSI/APSP standards 2009, but codes and regulations change, and Leslie's assumes no liability for any omissions or errors in this analysis or the outcome of any project. Customer must always exercise reasonable caution, carefully read the label on all products, follow all product directions, follow any current codes and regulations that may apply, and consult with a licensed professional if in doubt about any procedures. Leslie's assumes no legal responsibility for Customer's reliance or interpretation of the data contained herein and makes no representations or warranties of any kind concerning the quality, safety, or suitability of the information, whether express or implied, including, without limitation, any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

CAUTION: Read and follow product label directions. With the pump running, add product directly to pool or spa water unless label specifies otherwise. Never mix chemicals.