

WHAT TO DO IF A POOL LINER ‘FLOATS’

- **DO NOT DRAIN THE POOL!** Draining the pool at this time could cause structural problems. It will also damage the liner, and make it more difficult to re-fit.
- Lower the pool water to the normal operating level (as water can get behind the liner if the pool over fills).
- Locate the “vacuum pipe” and check if it is free flowing. If the pipe is blocked , unblock it and allow it to self drain the water from behind the liner.
- Using a pool broom, gently push the liner back to its original position as the water drains from behind the liner.
- Prevent the pool from over filling and continue to keep the vacuum pipe free flowing to self drain the water behind the liner.

Once the water source has been removed, the water will slowly drain away, but it is important to ensure the liner goes back in the same position during this time. This can be done using a pool broom to gently move the liner outward toward the wall as the water drains away from behind the liner. It may take a few weeks for the water to self drain away depending on how much ground water is present.

Alternatively, you can remove the water through the “vacuum pipe” if one has been installed when the pool was built. Better still, call your local pool professional - they can drain and re-fit the liner correctly, and even apply preventative measures to avoid the problem recurring.

Most inground vinyl lined pools should have a pipe that connects the void behind the liner to a drain or some external point which is used during the initial installation of the liner as well as for removing water accumulated behind the liner and other service tasks. This pipe is commonly referred to as a “vacuum pipe” and should be installed so the outlet is at least 450mm (18”) below the normal pool operating water level so it can be self draining. Sometimes due to a level site, there is no option but to have the outlet for the liner “vacuum pipe” below the water level and therefore it may be plumbed to the suction side of the pool pump or to a storm water drain.

If the pipe has been connected to a storm water drain, it should have a non return valve so that in times of heavy rain, the water does no flow back in behind the pool liner. Sometimes these are not installed and other times the non return valve can fail and cause a large amount of water to flow behind the liner and the liner to “float” and become wrinkly and spongy. If you suspect the pipe is connected to storm water, locate the pipe and disconnect it from the storm to prevent the water flooding in behind the pool liner. Install a non return valve and then reconnect it.

If the pipe has been connected to the pump suction inlet, it would have been installed with a 3-way valve and the valve needs to be opened whilst the pump is running to suck the water from behind the liner. Whilst the water is being sucked from behind the liner, use a pool broom to gently push the liner back into position so there are no permanent wrinkles left behind. If there are wrinkles, they can only be moved by draining the pool down to the level of the wrinkles.

Employ a pool liner professional to check the pool liner is positioned correctly after the event. You can find your nearest installer by calling 1300 369 495.



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