



HOW TO HANDLE POOL LEAKS

*Please carefully read this instruction manual
when handling leaks in your iPool*

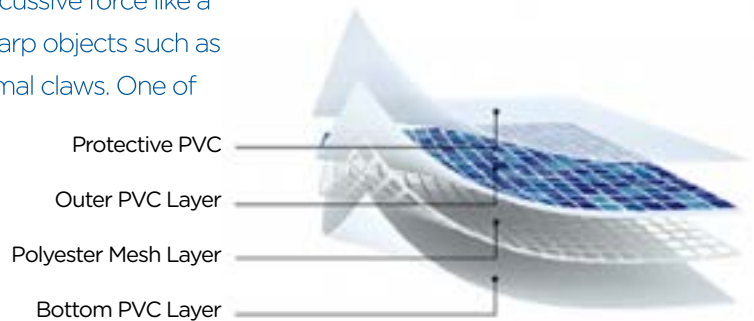
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Introduction

Leaks are a frightful word in the pool industry. Over the past ten years we have had our therapy pools installed in a variety of places, both indoors and outdoors, from backyard patios to basements and garages. Many of our customers have asked about the possibility of the pool leaking. In the interest of honesty and full disclosure, while leaks are relatively rare and our liners are stronger and thicker than what is generally available on the market, it is still possible for our pools to be punctured by sharp objects. Remember: we make pools, not tanks. Our liners are leak resistant and not leak proof.

Fortunately, we've taken the extra step of providing a repair kit patch for your purchase, as well as lifetime warranty support in the unlikely scenario that your pool develops a leak. Our liners are made of a tightly woven polyester thread covered in vinyl. Although the pool can withstand concussive force like a sledgehammer, the liner can still be punctured with sharp objects such as a serrated knife, tree branches, or extremely sharp animal claws. One of the key benefits of our design is that the polyester mesh holds together even if the pool is punctured, the same way a chainlink fence still holds together even if a link is cut. When a puncture occurs, the polyester mesh prevents the pool from falling apart, and instead creates a "pinhole leak".



First, if you notice puddles of water forming around the base of the pool don't panic! Our pool liners go through manual visual inspection before being sent over to you and the floor of the pool is the most heavily reinforced part.

Some first-time users may see some water on the floor after filling up the pool only two or three inches. If this is the case rest assured 99% of the time this is not an actual puncture - you would notice the water level dropping.

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All water will accumulate at the bottom of the pool due to gravity. If you see water coming from the floor during first time filling, we recommend to continue filling the pool and use some towels to suck up the excess water. Depending on how long you have been running the hose for there may be quite a lot of water that has accumulated at the bottom since filling the pool with a garden hose takes several hours. An actual pinhole leak or puncture would have the water level of the pool dropping by a few inches each day.

Locating Leaks

Pinhole leaks are easily repairable. Each one of our therapy pools includes a repair kit, composed of two liner patches and liner glue. Compared to concrete, steel, or fiberglass pools that may crack because of uneven gel thickness or shell issues, repairing a pinhole leak on a Fitmax pool is pretty easy. The trickiest part is first finding the location of the leak. Imagine how frustrating it would be to use the patch kit on the wrong spot and discover that you wasted your time and that the pool is still leaking.

In our experience, the best way to locate the leak is to first determine which side of the pool the water is leaking from. Water flows downwards and collects at the bottom of the pool, so it may appear that the pool is leaking from the bottom when the water is actually leaking from a pool wall and flowing down. Once you determine which side of the pool is leaking, get a small squeeze bottle of food dye, a weed sprayer, and some goggles and enter the water. Fill the weed sprayer with water, and add a generous amount of food coloring dye. We recommend using red, since it is the most visible. Once inside the pool, use the weed sprayer to spray the colored water against the wall that is leaking. The leak will be visible when you notice a food dye cloud being sucked towards a certain direction.

There are pros and cons to our liners being so effective in isolating the leaks. The downside is that pinhole leaks are very hard to spot with the naked eye. Fortunately, spraying food dye is a great method to determine where the leak is occurring. Once you locate the leak, you will know exactly where to place your repair kit patch.

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Repair Kit

The repair kit patch is designed to be used on the outside of the pool first, so finding the leak location is very important. If you notice an issue along the seams, we recommend cutting a small circle from the two liner patches and sticking it over the leak. After holding it in place for one to two minutes, cut a larger circle and place it over the first patch to reinforce it. If you used the food dye technique and were successful, then you can also reinforce it from the pool interior. It is easier to patch leaks inside the pool if you let the water level drop down to the level of the pinhole leak.

Another issue we have found is improperly installed the hoses. If the hoses are clamped or attached wrong, they have a tendency to detach and cause leaking. To remedy this, we recommend using plumbing tape to bind the connections and then clamp them from the top. Plumbing tape has a tensile strength of several hundred PSI, so it is unlikely to tear. However, not everyone is familiar with proper ways to bind plumbing tape together. The key is to use the correct tape over the correct part of the connections and wrap it in several tight layers. If the connections easily pop off when you tug on it, this is a sign that the parts have not been bound tightly enough. For threaded parts, use teflon plumbing tape first. For non-threaded parts, use silicone plumbing tape. It is very important to wrap tightly, and wrap several layers around the connection. You can also use teflon tape initially, followed by a few layers of silicone tape.

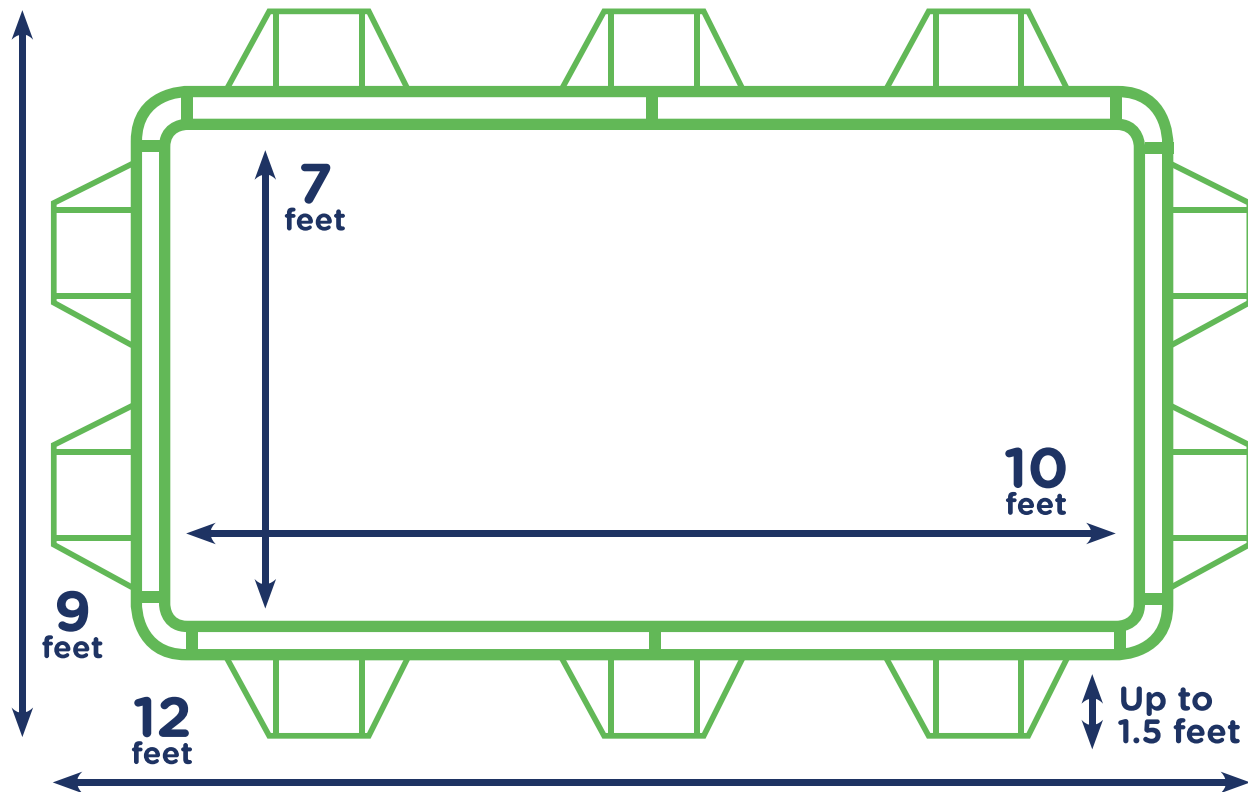
If you want an even stronger connection, we recommend a hard plumbing pvc pipe set up instead of using soft hoses. As you can see in the diagram below, the hoses are made of hard pvc piping, which is stronger than soft hoses and also offers better suction and water flow. Unfortunately, we do not offer pvc piping with our pool sets since every pool installation set up is different, but we are happy to give some basic instructions on how to set up a hard pvc pipe connection if you choose to go that route.



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Location



When you are planning to install your pool keep in mind the location can handle splashing and or puddles of water forming. With some planning ahead and preparation you can ensure a smooth installation and also make it easy for you to inspect the pool if there are any issues. The Fitmax Therapy Pool needs approximately a 9x9 ft space preferably a bit more so you can go around the perimeter of the pool. This makes installation easier as well as gives you room to attach the filter pump and heater accessories. The Fitmax iPool needs about a 9x12ft installation space for the same reason.

Our liners are tested with a powerful hydraulic press and also manually inspected before reaching the customer. Although we do our utmost to provide the best quality at a reasonable cost to you we also want to be prepared for worse case scenarios. Unfortunately everything from liner based pools to even steel and fiberglass tubs have potentials for leaks but the advantage of liner based pools is that they are far easier to repair. Given the benefits we hope you will realize the pros much outweigh the cons and are able to enjoy the convenience and health benefits our pools provide for many years to come.