

Equipment

Pumps



The most common problem with pumps are clogged impellers. If the pump is not priming or flowing well or at all, you may have a clogged impeller. This problem is most common in the 1/2 HP pumps because of the small outlets on the impeller. A 1HP pump will usually let most stringy leafy debris and rocks fly by.

If you suspect you have a clogged impeller be cautious about opening up your pump seal. Often times the seals loose their pliability and will break or leak after you disassemble the pump so be prepared with some magic lube and some extra seals before you break apart your pump.

Most pumps come apart with just a crescent wrench and a screw driver. Take the bolt or thumbscrew off of the stainless steel seal plate band and then pull the motor and seal plate away from the pump volute or intake side. Now you will probably see a few screws holding the diffuser plate over the impeller. Take these screws out and expose the impeller. You don't need to remove the impeller in order to clear it. I like to use a plastic tube from a squirt bottle and push any rocks or cellulose out from the outer edge towards the middle. Some impellers are translucent so you can see the debris.

Now that the pump impeller is clear and the diffuser is screwed back on, you should lubricate or change all the rubber seals with magic lube to ensure a tight leak proof seal.



Heaters



If you have a problem with your heater not lighting and it is a milivolt heater it may just be the pilot flame went out. We would be happy to light your pilot for you but you may not like the service charge. Milivolt heaters produce their own electricity with a little thermistor and a strong wind or lack of gas can easily blow out the flame.

If you have an electronic ignition heater then you are better off calling a professional as they are very difficult to diagnose and repair correctly.



Filters



There are three major types of filters, Sand, Diatomaceous Earth and Cartridge.

Sand filters are our favorite for ease of use, long filter media cycles, and low maintenance. Although they are not the best for fine particle filtration they can outperform a DE filter if with the use of flocculants, which we use for our clients. The average life of the sand in the filter is 5 years. they can hold a lot of dirt and are easy to backwash or clean.

Diatomaceous Earth filters are the best for filtration quality, but they are a hassle to take care of and are expensive to maintain. The grids should be taken out and scrubbed down every 6 months to a year and after each backwash cycle the have to be recharged with the carcinogenic DE powder. Grid elements often fail and the filter gets full very fast.

Cartridge filters have slightly better filtering characteristics than sand filters but are also more expensive to maintain and more of a hassle. The filter needs to be dismantled every 6 to 12 months and the cartridge needs to be shot down by hand. The cartridges are expensive and need to be changed every year or two.

