POOL SCHOOL

A quick owner guide to your Pentair pool system

DREAMLIFE CUSTOM POOLS
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INTELLICENTER	VARIABLE-SPEED PUMP	FILTER	HEATER + LIGHTS
Your system controls	Moves and filters water	Captures debris	Comfort and ambiance

1 | Everyday operation

- Use the **IntelliCenter** home screen or app to select Pool, Spa, lights, and features. Names and buttons can vary by setup.
- Run the circulation pump on the schedule set for your pool. Longer run times may be needed during hot weather, heavy use, or algae treatment.
- Keep the water level around the middle of the skimmer opening. Make sure skimmer and pump baskets stay clear.
- For spa use, switch to Spa mode and allow the system to change valves and heat. Return to Pool mode after use.

2 | Weekly owner check

- Empty skimmer and pump baskets with the pump off. Reinstall lids securely and check for leaks when restarted.
- Test and balance water regularly. Keep sanitizer and pH in the ranges recommended for your finish and sanitizer; ask your pool professional if unsure.
- Brush walls, steps, benches, and waterline; skim debris and check that returns are moving water.
- Record clean-filter pressure. Clean the filter when pressure rises about **8-10 psi above that clean starting pressure**, or follow the filter manual / service schedule.

3 | Heat, lights, and features

- Set the desired temperature in IntelliCenter. The heater only fires when the pump is circulating and the system calls for heat.
- Use the installed light controls to change lights. Do not open or service underwater lights while powered.
- If a feature does not respond, check the selected mode and schedule first. Avoid forcing valves or repeatedly restarting equipment.

4 | Freeze protection

- When freezing weather is forecast, leave the system powered and freeze protection enabled if that is how your system was set up.
- Confirm the pump is operating and water is circulating. A power outage or tripped breaker can stop protection.
- If circulation stops or a hard freeze is expected, call your pool professional for the correct winter procedure for your plumbing and equipment.

5 | Know when to stop

- Turn equipment off and call for service for a major leak, burning smell, repeated breaker trips, unusual grinding, or a heater error that returns.
- Never remove a filter or pump lid while the system is pressurized. Shut off power and release filter pressure before service.
- Never bypass safety switches, run the pump dry, or operate a gas heater without water flow.

Quick troubleshooting

Symptom	First check
Low flow / pump noise	Water level, baskets, valves, filter pressure
Heater not heating	Pool/Spa mode, set temperature, pump flow, displayed error
Feature not starting	Correct mode, schedule, IntelliCenter alert

Your system details

Pump: _____

Filter: _____

Heater: _____

Clean filter pressure: _____ psi

Pentair equipment and IntelliCenter layouts vary. This overview is a reminder, not a substitute for the manuals or instructions reviewed at your Pool School visit. For equipment service, contact DreamLife Custom Pools.

PENTAIR WARRANTY SERVICE

Submit your request at www.dreamlifepools.com/warranty-service. After you submit the form, the Pentair Service Center should notify you within 72 hours with further information.
The form will ask for your pool start-up date. Enter the date of your Pool School.

OPERATING YOUR POOL

A quick guide to modes, automation, pumps, valves, and lighting.

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Pool and Spa Modes

Pool mode runs water through the pool for normal circulation. On a shared pool/spa system, **Spa mode** moves the valves so water circulates through the spa and lets the heater serve it. Select one mode and allow the valves to finish moving before changing another setting. When spa use is done, return to Pool mode. Your system may be configured differently; use the labels reviewed at Pool School.

Auxiliary Pump Functions

Auxiliary pumps may serve a cleaner, waterfall, water feature, or other dedicated equipment. Use the named IntelliCenter feature or schedule assigned to that pump. Some auxiliary pumps require the main circulation pump to be running first. Confirm the operating order for your setup and never run a pump without water flow. Stop it and call for service if it runs dry, makes unusual noise, or does not move water.

Valve Operation

Valves direct water between the pool, spa, heater, and features. In normal operation, leave automated valves in their labeled automatic position and use the IntelliCenter controls to change modes. Do not force a handle or turn a valve while its actuator is moving. If a valve must be moved manually, shut the pump off first and follow the marked positions shown for your system.

IntelliCenter and Breakers

Use the home screen to select Pool, Spa, Features, lighting, schedules, and temperature. Keep the system in its normal automatic operating mode after making a temporary change. Breakers are for power isolation and protection, not everyday pump control. Know which labeled breaker serves the pool equipment. If one trips, do not keep resetting it or open the electrical panel; call a qualified service professional if it trips again.

Electronic Actuators

Actuators turn valves automatically when Pool, Spa, or a feature is selected. IntelliCenter assigns the actuator to a valve and changes its position as part of the selected circuit. If a feature starts but water does not route correctly, stop the feature and check for an alert or a valve that did not move. Do not adjust actuator wiring, switches, or travel limits unless trained to do so.

IntelliVibe or MicroBrite Lighting

Use the lighting circuit or control assigned to your installed IntelliVibe controller or MicroBrite lights. IntelliCenter may provide on/off and color or feature controls depending on the setup. Use the same control method demonstrated at Pool School. Keep the pool lights off before service; underwater fixtures and wiring should only be opened or repaired by a qualified pool professional.

EQUIPMENT CARE

Use these checks to spot routine maintenance needs and service issues early.

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Filter Gauge and Cleaning

After cleaning the filter, run the system and record the clean starting pressure. Check it weekly. For your pool, plan to inspect/clean about every four months or when pressure rises about 10 psi above the clean baseline, whichever comes first; follow the exact filter manual if it specifies a different trigger. Before opening any pressurized filter: turn off the pump, open the air relief, and wait until the gauge reads zero. Never loosen the clamp under pressure.

Heater Operation

Choose Pool or Spa mode, then set the desired temperature in IntelliCenter. The heater needs proper water flow and will only heat when the system calls for it. If it does not fire, check the selected mode, setpoint, pump flow, and displayed error. Keep the heater intake and exhaust area clear. Do not remove heater panels, change gas settings, or repeatedly reset an error; call for service if the alert returns.

Freeze Plugs and Shutdown

During freezing weather, automatic freeze protection depends on the controller having power and the circulation system operating as configured. Know where your specific equipment drain/freeze plugs are, but do not remove them as a substitute for freeze protection. If the pool must be shut down or winterized, follow the pool-specific shutdown procedure reviewed by your builder or service professional; water trapped in equipment or plumbing can freeze and cause damage.

Autofill Operation

The autofill keeps the water near its set level; normal pool level is generally around the middle of the skimmer opening. Check that the level is steady and that the fill is not running continuously. A stuck float, leak, or unusually high water level can waste water or dilute pool chemistry. If it keeps filling or overfills, close its labeled water supply valve if you can do so safely and contact your pool professional.

Pool Sanitation System

Your installed sanitation equipment helps maintain the pool’s disinfectant level. Learn its name, normal indicator lights, and where the output setting is displayed. Test the actual pool water regularly; a controller or generator display does not replace a water test. Salt systems need circulation and the model’s required salt level. Do not clean a cell or change sanitizer settings without following that unit’s manual and the instructions reviewed at Pool School.

Pool Brushes and Routine

Use a brush suitable for your pool finish. Work from the waterline down, brushing walls, steps, benches, corners, and areas behind ladders or fittings where circulation is weaker. Brush at least weekly and after heavy debris, storms, or algae treatment. New plaster or other new finishes may need a more frequent startup schedule; follow the finish manufacturer’s and builder’s startup instructions for that specific pool.

WATER CHEMISTRY AND CARE

Use test results to guide adjustments; do not dose chemicals by guesswork.

Test before adjusting. Test chlorine and pH routinely, and more often with heavy use or hot weather. Use a fresh, reliable kit and follow its directions. Change one chemical at a time, circulate the water, and retest before making another adjustment.

Test	What it tells you	Owner reference
Free chlorine	Main sanitizer that helps control germs.	Follow your sanitation system's target. CDC says at least 2 ppm when cyanuric acid is used; check your installed system instructions.
pH	Affects sanitizer performance, swimmer comfort, and scaling/corrosion risk.	Common Pentair range: 7.2-7.8. Adjust gradually and retest.
Total alkalinity	Buffers pH so it changes less quickly.	A common starting reference is 80-120 ppm; exact target can vary with finish and water balance.
Calcium hardness	Shows how much calcium is in the water; helps manage plaster protection and scale risk.	A common reference is 200-400 ppm; use your finish and equipment guidance.
Cyanuric acid (stabilizer)	Helps protect chlorine from sunlight in outdoor pools. Too much can make chlorine less effective.	Use the target for your sanitizer and pool finish. Test before adding stabilizer or using stabilized tablets.

Chemical safety: Never mix chlorine products with acid or with each other. Keep products in their original labeled containers, separated and secured from children and pets. Follow each product label and use protective equipment as directed.

Manufacturer and health references

CDC: Home pool water treatment and testing | Pentair: Clean & Clear filter care
Pentair: IntelliCenter Quick Reference Guide | Pentair: Pool water chemistry