

# Battling The Leaves



*"Wow, what a mess!"*

*"When will the leaves stop falling?"*

*"I didn't think our trees could produce this many leaves!"*

These are all the battle cries of pool owners as the leaves begin falling. In heavily treed neighborhoods of southeast Denton (Southridge, Montecito, and Forrestridge), the leaf problem is particularly bad in the fall. During pool season, trees provide so much for the pool owner like beautifying the pool environment, a cool spot near the pool, and providing shade for those of us that need sun protection. On the other hand, this time of year pool owners are paying the price of having trees.

I can honestly say that the worst time of year to own a pool in a heavily treed backyard is in the fall. Although the problem only lasts 1-2 months, it is a tough 1-2 months.

What can a pool owner do to combat this problem? Short of cutting down the trees, the following are some suggestions to help in the "battle of the leaves":

## Skimmer Pro Skimmer Baskets

This is a very useful product. It is a skimmer basket that allows the leaves to accumulate in the basket without eliminating the water flow that the pump needs to operate.

## Mesh Covers

Mesh covers have become increasingly popular in recent years. Mesh covers allow water to get through, but they catch the leaves. Although, you still have to remove the leaves from the cover and the backyard, mesh covers keep them from getting into the pool. A properly installed mesh cover (which resembles a trampoline) allows you to blow the leaves off your cover.

## Leaf Nets

This is a less expensive alternative to mesh covers, but works on the same principle. Leaf nets look similar to fishing nets. They lay over the pool, and are anchored by water tubes. They are used to catch leaves as they fall down. Periodically the cover must be removed in order to remove the leaves.

## Daily Maintenance

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Some pool owners find that 2-3 times per day is required when the leaves are really falling. A relatively new product can help if you use this method. It is a skimmer basket that works well even if it is full of leaves. It is basically a clog-proof skimmer basket. These skimmer baskets are available at most pool supply stores.

And remember... Hang in there! The leaves will not fall forever

Feel free to ask our retail staff here at Gohlke Pools for help in the battle.

### **Note:**

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