Airquee Inflatables
www.airquee.com

Constant Flow Pool Inflatables

Operating Instructions

Version 3 – March 2023
AQM002

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These are the main operating instructions for Constant Flow Pool Inflatables

This operation manual needs to be read and understood by the following groups of people before use of any constant flow pool inflatable.

Owners/Controllers
Those who have overall control of the equipment and who are responsible for its inspection & maintenance.

Operators
Those persons aged over 18 appointed by the controller/ owner to be in charge of the day-to-day operation of the equipment, when intended for public use.

Attendants
Those persons aged over 16 working under the directions of the owner/operator to assist in the operation of the equipment.

If you are in any doubt about anything mentioned in this manual or its suitability for your product or circumstances, please contact us using any of the methods given on our website, **www.airquee.com/contact.**

This manual is specifically written for constant flow inflatables used in swimming pools. It does not provide advice for land or open water products. For all operation manuals please visit, www.airquee.com/manuals.

As owner/operator it is your responsibility to write and carry out your own risk assessment before attempting to use this product. This manual, together with any additional operating instructions specific to your product must be read before attempting to setup/use the product.

Contents

PLEASE READ THE CONTENTS OF THIS MANUAL THOROUGHLY BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO UNLOAD, MOVE, SITE, INFLATE OR OPERATE AN AIRQUEE PRODUCT.

THIS PRODUCT IS NOT TYPICALLY SUITABLE FOR NON-SWIMMERS DUE TO RISK OF DROWNING! IF YOUR FACILITY HAS ROBUST PROCEDURES IN PLACE FOR BUOYANCY AND SUPERVISION OF NON SWIMMERS THEN ALLOWING NON SWIMMERS ONTO THE INFLATABLE CAN BE ALLOWED AS LONG AS THESE PROCEDURES ARE STRICTLY ADHERED TO.

Disclaimer: Airquee reserves the right to change the content of this manual without prior notice to the customer. All pictures and drawings are for illustration purposes only. Nothing in this manual is to be construed in any way as varying the terms of sale of the goods to which it applies. Reasonable care has been taken when preparing contents of this manual. However, Airquee accepts no responsibility for any error or omission or misuse. Any misuse or failure to adhere to the instructions and recommendations contained in this manual and any additional instructions will render void the warranty.

1. INTRODUCTION

It is Airquee's goal to supply accurate and reliable information in this manual. If you discover any discrepancy in this document, please e-mail your comments to info@airquee.com.

This manual contains Airquee official manufacturer's instructions and safety recommendations for owners and operators of Airquee constant flow swimming pool inflatable play equipment. Some products may have additional instructions or recommendations.

This manual is based on UK legislation, UK Government approved institutional guidelines based on European standards and European best industry practices. The various legal requirements and guidance notes/codes of practice mentioned in this manual apply only to the UK. You should also familiarise yourself with all relevant regulations and codes of practice/guidance notes under the laws of the country where the inflatable is used. If there are no local equivalent to the UK codes of practice/guidance notes, it is suggested that the UK ones should be consulted for useful advice.

As the owner/controller, it is your responsibility to carry out your own risk assessment, to supervise users and to give instruction to all operators, attendants, and players in the proper safe use of the inflatable. It is strongly recommended that you read this manual before attempting to set up, dismantle or operate the equipment to which it relates, even if you have used similar equipment before.

2. INCLUDED WITH YOUR POOL INFLATABLE

The Inflatable in its Bag	Fan**	Anchor Ropes*	Rubber Shock Absorbers*	10M Flexible Hose	Jubilee Clip
					

*The number of these products will depend on your product.
** Only included if ordered separately .

PRECAUTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN DURING HANDLING AND USE OF THE FAN TO PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK. THE FAN TO BE OPERATED ON A GROUND FAULT PROTECTED CIRCUIT (GFCI).

Please read the fan manufacturer's Instruction Manual and section "4.1 *Hazards - Relating to Electrical Equipment*" on page 6 before using the fan.

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3. ABOUT OUR PRODUCTS

3.1 PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Water based inflatables have been in use in swimming pools around the world for a long time now. These inflatables have become so popular with customers that most leisure pools are now using them as attractions. Use of this type of inflatable should be programmed into regular sessions. Airquee customer research indicates that when these sessions are correctly marketed the inflatable should soon recover the initial investment.

Constant flow inflatables are manufactured using machine stitched seams. They use a continuous electric fan to maintain air pressure whilst the inflatable is in use, via an approximately 10m long 6-inch wide flexible pipe. This is to ensure that the electric blower is away from the poolside.

Airquee inflatable pool products are generally designed to be anchored on the side of the pool so that the inflatable runs from the shallow end to the deep end.

DO NOT USE A POOL INFLATABLE IN OPEN WATER OR ANYTHING ELSE OTHER THAN ON WATER IN A POOL.

All inflatables have the following common traits:

- They are made of a reinforced flexible PVC based fabric.
- They are constantly filled with air when operational.
- When packed away the volume of space they take up is a fraction of their inflated size.
- They can be set up in a matter of minutes and usually packed away within 15 minutes.

We differentiate between 2 types of pool inflatables:

Obstacle Courses/Aquaruns: Players step on the inflatable, one or two at a time, depending on the model, and try to traverse the various obstacles until jumping/sliding off the end into the water. If someone falls off mid-way then they must exit the water, queue up and start again.

Slides: Players climb at one end (which may be inside or outside the pool) and slide down on the other end of the unit, splashing into the pool water.

3.2 QUALITY OF DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE

Airquee has invested heavily in the latest Computer Assisted Design and Manufacturing equipment (CAD/CAM). This has enabled Airquee to lead the field by developing the newest designs to capture the imagination of children. This industry leading technology also allows special custom orders to be rapidly made so that our customers' own concepts are brought into reality.

One of the benefits of this high level of computerisation is the accuracy of the fabric cutting which in turn leads to the most consistent quality of product in the leisure inflatable industry. To maintain its quality at the highest levels, Airquee does not subcontract any of its production.

Airquee inflatables are all made in our own factories from the highest quality fire retardant reinforced PVC coated material: constructed from polyester weave thickly coated on both sides with PVC made by our suppliers to meet our own specifications. It is a heavy-duty tensile material made with a gloss finish to resist dirt. It is non-toxic, certified fire retardant and has a nominal weight of 700 gms/sq. metre. This

coated fabric is machine stitched together with a minimum of two lines of stitching per seam using a rot resistant Nylon thread.

The useful working life of a swimming pool inflatable unit will vary depending on usage, and exposure to the chemically aggressive environment in which the pool inflatables are used. The chemicals used in water treatment, other contaminants that may be present, solvents and proprietary cleaning agents, all can have a detrimental effect on the coated fabrics and their seams. They can also cause applied painted or screen-printed artwork to degrade.

3.3 THE CONTINUOUS FLOW PRINCIPLE

As the structure is held together by stitched seams, air will always escape from the hundreds of perforations produced during stitching. Air must be continuously supplied under pressure to keep the unit properly inflated. This is the “continuous flow” principle.

Constant flow inflatables are usually supplied with an electrically powered high-pressure fan. The perforations gradually increase in size during the working life of the unit. The fan supplied by Airquee compensates for the gradually increased air loss due to the ageing and can also cope with any small rip (up to 5cm).

ALWAYS USE THE SUPPLIED FAN WHEN OPERATING THE INFLATABLE.

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4. HAZARDS

4.1 ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Electric equipment is inherently hazardous in a swimming pool or associated environment where moisture is present. The main hazard arises from the use of electrical appliances in wet areas. THIS CANNOT BE OVER-EMPHASISED. Therefore, stringent precautions must be taken to eliminate the risk of electric shock or burns. The principle of ‘continuous flow’ operation of pool inflatables makes the use of such electrical appliances unavoidable.

The electric fan supplied for the inflatable should only be used with the electricity supply specified for that fan. Connecting the fan to a non-specified electricity supply is very dangerous and will render the warranty void. Each fan is fitted with a motor which operates at the nominal mains electricity voltage in the country in which it was supplied for. In the UK and Europe, it is 220-240 volts 50hz A/C. Also, if your facility is equipped with a 110v electrical socket, Airquee can supply a fan with that specification as well.

220v – 240v SOCKETS ARE COLOURED IN BLUE

110V SOCKETS ARE COLOURED IN YELLOW

Where necessary, Airquee will supply fans to any other electrical specifications too.

Fans should be supplied from an earthed socket with an RCD (residual current device) attached or fed from an earthed supply with a built in residual current breaker.

Extension cables should be used inside the plant room only, never next to the pool or in the pool room and should be capable of carrying 13amps. The extension cable should NEVER BE ROLLED UP during use since it may overheat.

There are legal requirements covering the use and maintenance of portable and transportable electrical equipment, which includes a fan supplied by Airquee. See "Maintaining portable and transportable electrical equipment" The unit should be PAT tested (Portable Appliance Testing) by a qualified electrician based on the risk assessment prepared by the owner of the fan. Airquee can arrange for testing in the UK if required. Please remember it is best practice to inspect your fans BEFORE and AFTER EVERY USE for damage to the inlet and outlet guards and also the electrical connections and power cables.

Care must be used when siting the electric fan. Fans required for constant flow inflatables should be sited on a mat (or other soft surface) to absorb vibrations and for increased electrical safety, well away from the poolside and other wet areas. Swimmers should be prevented from having access to the fan. For swimming pool inflatables, it is advisable to fix electric fans in a position well away from the pool and other wet areas. Permanent wall mounting in a pump room or plant room is preferred. The supplied 10m of flexible hose can then be fed through to the poolside. A 10m flexible hose is normally long enough for most pools but, if necessary, can be extended up to 15m. Use of air pipes longer than 15m are not recommended due to the potential reduction of air pressure. When less than 10m is required, the excess should be cut off.

4.2 CHANGING A FUSE IN A PLUG (UK PLUGS ONLY)

UK Fans are supplied with a 'fly lead'. This lead allows the conversion from the 16amp blue socket to a UK standard 3 pin plug that can be used in any standard socket. While the fan will work perfectly fine with this fly lead we highly recommend using the blue 16amp connection. This type of connection is more robust and resistant to damage, egress of water and dirt and provides a more reliable electrical connection.
These other socket types can be made from more inferior components that in our experience have a greater chance of failure compared to the 16amp blue socket.

If you do use the fly lead, it has an overload protection, which is a fuse integrated in the plug. If a fan lost power and there appears to be no problem with it or the supply of electricity, try changing the fuse in the plug, as it may have blown.

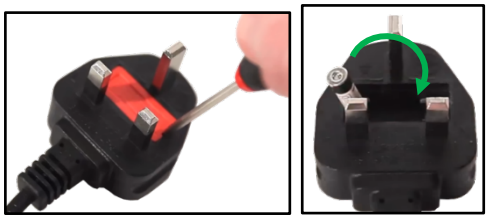
DISCLAIMER: If a fan is returned to Airquee under warranty and its only defect is a blown fuse, a charge will be applied.

UNPLUG OR DISCONNECT THE APPLIANCE FROM THE POWER SUPPLY BEFORE SERVICING THE FUSE!

When it comes to fuses, there are 2 types of plugs used on Airquee supplied fans:

2) The fuse hidden inside the plug. Accessible only by unscrewing the back of the plug.

1) The fuse is placed in an exterior slot on the plug.

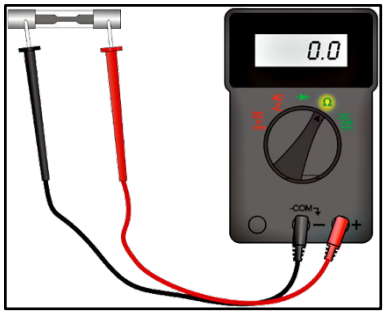


The fuse on an Airquee 1.5HP or 2HP fan will be 13amp. If you use a lower rated fuse it will almost certainly blow If in doubt, check the appliance's instructions or ask the manufacturer. Simply snap the old one out with the help of the screwdriver and place the new fuse on top of the copper holders and apply a small force to pop the fuse in its place.

TESTING FUSES

The easiest way to test a fuse is to replace it with a similar BS 1362 compliant 13A fuse. If the fan starts working again, you know you have a blown fuse.

If the fan is still not working after you changed the fuse, it could still happen that the new fuse is bad. The most reliable method of testing a fuse is to apply a small current on its 2 ends with the help of a digital multimeter. This shows if the resistor in the fuse has continuity or not, thus the fuse itself can conduct electrical current. Note: A blown fuse will have absolutely no continuity at all.



4.3 OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS

Another hazard that closely relates to the electrical safety mentioned above is when the product is being used in outdoor conditions. If this is the case, particular care needs to be taken regarding anchoring, electrical safety, and supervision.

In outdoor pools, there is a risk of strong winds or gusts, affecting the stability of the inflatable structure. This hazard associated with outdoor use of pool inflatables must be always assessed before starting a session, and then continually assessed for the duration of the session.

Consideration needs to be given to weather conditions before the start of each outdoor session and to any changes in weather conditions, actual or predicted. In the event of, or imminent possibility or suggestion of, thunder and lightning, the session should be stopped immediately, and the fans turned off as soon as it is safe to do so. NEVER TURN THE FAN OFF WHILE THE INFLATABLE IS STILL IN THE WATER.

Fans should be enclosed inside a plant room or hut but if the fan has to be sited outdoors it must be protected against the weather to prevent water penetration. Airquee can supply a specific fan cover.

For outdoor use, a petrol or propane gas powered fan may be used instead of an electrical one. Use of such fans involves additional and different risk assessment and safety considerations that are outside the scope of this manual. You should refer to the safety instructions and/or operating manual provided by the supplier of the fan. If that does not expressly cover the use in the context of a swimming pool, you should seek relevant advice directly from the manufacturer.

4.4 MANUAL HANDLING OPERATIONS

Because of their weight, large constant flow inflatables require an assessment under the for manual handling to prevent injuries to staff occurring during its transportation, set up, operation and break down.

Inflatables can be heavy, especially if wet. It is vital to have enough able-bodied trained helpers to carry out loading, unloading, setting up/assembly, and dismantling without individuals hurting themselves unintentionally. Airquee inflatable equipment is designed to be erected and dismantled quickly and safely if the recommendations in this manual are followed.

4.5 COLD STORAGE

The fabric from which the unit is made can be easily damaged if the unit is unrolled or inflated whilst in a very cold or frozen state. This may occur if the unit is subjected to low or freezing temperatures whilst

in storage or transit. The coated fabric loses its flexible characteristics at 3 degrees celsius or below. In that very cold state, the fabric may crack during movement or inflation. Any resulting damage is not covered by Airquee's warranty. If the unit is found to be too cold for use, it must be left and allowed to warm up gradually and progressively until the fabric regains its normal flexible characteristics.

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5. OPERATING GUIDELINES - for operators and attendants

These guidelines enumerate some of the hazards that may arise when using an Airquee pool inflatable, but it will be up to the individual pool operator to assess these hazards and risks considering their own circumstances. Since the risks are site specific, the list below does not exhaust all the possible risk factors and we would like to remind you, it is the legal duty of the operator to prepare a detailed risk assessment and to train the employees/attendants according to that risk assessment before allowing the members of the public to use the inflatable.

- Inflatables are not suitable for non-swimmers and weak swimmers.
- The attendant(s)/operator must be able to ensure that rules of play are being observed at all times by the players.
- Anyone with pre-existing injuries or health concerns should assess their ability to use the inflatable. Additional help or supervision may be required to allow these users to participate. Depending on the illness, injury or circumstance it may be prudent to not allow the user onto the inflatable. This decision falls with the user and operator. It is highly recommended that pregnant woman and people under the influence of alcohol or drugs should not use the inflatable.
- Players should not approach the inflatable until given permission to do so. One attendant should control the entry to the unit and players should form an orderly queue.
- For players not to collide while sliding, the run-out and an area of 2.5m surrounding the run-out should be clear before sliding.
- The slide will not function correctly under excessive loads.
- It is advised to wait until each player reaches the middle of the inflatable before allowing another player(s) on the inflatable. If your inflatable has DUAL LANES, then two players can get on the inflatable at the same time.
- Boisterous, careless or reckless behaviour or rough play which might put themselves or others at risk is to be stopped (e.g. recklessly colliding with other players, pushing others off the inflatable or lifting the inflatable in an attempt to dislodge others, interference with anchor ropes, air pipes or fans, or repeated disregard of operator's directions etc.)
- Attendants must ensure that the fan(s), anchoring ropes and the non-used closed filler pipes are not tampered with during play sessions.
- If the unit starts to show signs of loss of air pressure e.g. if it starts to sag noticeably, play should be suspended immediately and the cause of the pressure loss investigated before players are allowed back onto the unit and play is resumed. Common causes of pressure loss include interruption of electrical power supply to the fan, accidental disruption of inlet or outlet pipes or physical damage to the inflatable itself.
- Ensure that the unit does not become overcrowded.
- Inadequately anchored inflatables can drift into deeper water, or can drift too close to the pool edge, risking injuries due to users colliding with the pool edge.
- The 2.5m clearance zone refers to nearby swimmers as well. Do not allow anyone to swim next to, or under the inflatable while being used.
- Players who have failed to complete the inflatable should not be allowed to climb back on. If anyone falls off, then they must move away safely and go to the back of the queue.
- Ensure that players using the inflatable at the same time are all of a similar age group, size and ability, especially players competing against each other on dual lane obstacle courses.

- Under no circumstances should the players be allowed to climb on the structure whilst it is out of the water or not correctly anchored.
- Do not leave the inflatable without supervision inflated in the pool.
- Always use the supplied fan or one with similar specifications approved by the manufacturer.
- Never turn the fan off whilst the inflatable is in the water.
- To prevent friction burns, water the surface of the inflatable before allowing people onto it. Especially the slide part.
- In outdoor pools consider the risk of wind gusts on windy days as this may affect the stability of the inflatable.
- In outdoor pools consider the heating effect of the sun. The PVC can become very hot in direct sunlight and may need hosing down to remain cool.
- During designated inflatable sessions unless the use of the pool is exclusive to users of the inflatable, other swimmers or pool users should be segregated from the immediate area around the inflatable. A roped off landing area should also be provided where the users exit from the inflatable.
- Use a non-slip mat at the point of entry of the inflatable.

Ideally the attendant(s) should be equipped with a whistle to attract the attention of a particular player or group of players. The system of work should ensure that the players are admitted to the inflatable in a controlled and safe manner.

5.1 HOSE POSITION

Have you ever thought your inflatable feels a little soft? There are many reasons for this but there is something simple you can do that could make a big difference.

Make sure the hose is cut to the correct length. If you don't need it cut it shorter! The shorter the distance from the fan to the inflatable the higher the air pressure in the inflatable.

Make sure the hose is straight and if it is the concertina type, ensure that it is fully extended, this again will improve the pressure in the inflatable.

In the scenario below, the pressure is 25% greater simply by making the hose straight.

The maximum length we recommend for your hose is 10 metres.

4 WGP

5 WGP

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6. RULES OF PLAY - for users

Owners, operators and swimming pool managers should display their rules of play in a manner which can be seen and read by all players before they are allowed onto the inflatable, e.g. a prominent sign-board or poster. The signage is also a useful reminder for staff.

For more details regarding safety signs please consult the relevant national standard/ guidance/legislation in your country of use.

Considerations include:

- Getting on the inflatable while running or jumping on it from the poolside IS FORBIDDEN.
- Only one person should go down the slide at any one time per lane.
- The slide is designed for players to go down FEET FIRST only whilst in a seated position.
- Players should only slide when the landing area is clear.
- Diving off from the top of the slide into the pool is dangerous and thus forbidden.
- Players should not weigh more than about 11 stone or 80kg. – This is a recommendation and your own risk assessments may suggest a larger or smaller number. Heavier users will depress the bed more and cause obstacles and walls to bend easier. This will not damage the inflatable but will make it less stable.
- Do not swim underneath the inflatable.
- When in water, try to distance yourself from the inflatable by swimming away from it as quick as you can. Do not try to reach, grab, impede or pull players that are still on the inflatable.

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7. SETTING UP AND OPERATION

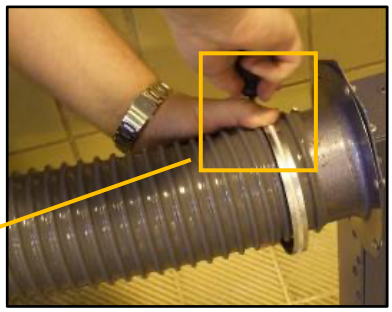
It is essential that the pool inflatable is transported from the storage area to the inflation area near the pool carefully and NOT DRAGGED as this will cause damage including tears and grazes to the fabric. A trolley should be used if necessary.

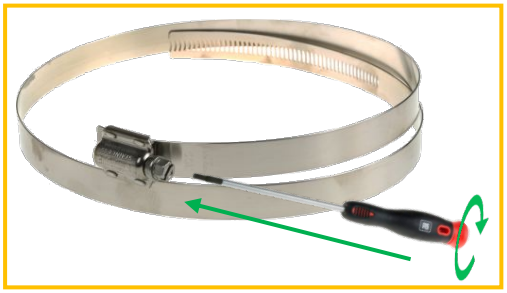
The surface of the area where the inflatable is to be inflated should be non-abrasive and clear of any protrusions or objects that might damage the inflatable.

- The unit should be fully unrolled alongside the swimming pool.

- One end of the flexible hose is inserted into the filler pipe. There is a strap and cam buckle permanently attached to the filler pipe and by wrapping the webbing around the flexible hose and then feeding it through the cam buckle, an air tight seal can be produced.

- The other end of the flexible pipe can be fitted over the air outlet of the fan, it is held in place with a jubilee clip, which is tightened up using a flat-ended screwdriver. Do not over tighten as this may damage the pipe or the fan outlet.

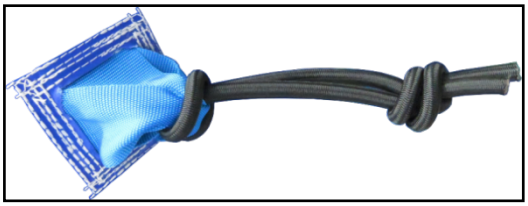


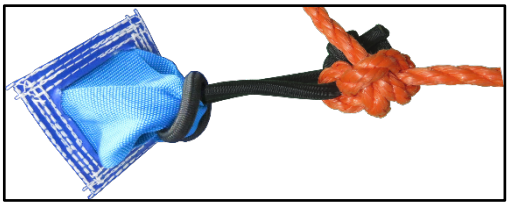


- Any other filler pipes should be closed off using the attached webbing strap and cam buckle.

- The fan can then be switched on and the unit INFLATED BEFORE POSITIONING IT IN THE POOL. When fully inflated the unit should be safety checked using the daily checklist. See point 8. Checklist below.

The rubber shock absorbers must be looped through each of the webbing anchors: 2 at the start and 2 at the end, and the anchor ropes are to be attached to the shock absorbers. These shock absorbers will wear out over time and need to be replaced. We recommend ordering a spare set to have on standby.





Whilst being set up for the first time it is advisable to have a member of staff in the pool to ensure that the lengths of rope used to secure the anchor points to the sides of the pool are cut to the correct length. It is not advisable to pre-cut the length of ropes as each site is different and we supply a 25m length polypropylene rope. You will need sharp scissors/kinfe and a lighter when cutting the rope lengths as they will need to be burned at the ends to prevent fraying.

Once the unit has been inflated and checked, it can be floated into the correct position in the pool. The unit can be positioned in the pool using the anchor ropes.

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8. CHECKLIST - daily checklist and annual safety test

The inflatable and its accessories must be checked before each session to ensure that:

- The electric fan (blower) has no chafed or worn cables.
- The fan is fixed securely so that it cannot be pulled by the air pipe into the pool or any wet area.
- The RCD device is fitted and working.
- The blower must have no loose bolts or screws etc. and the mesh guards over the air inlet and outlet must be secure and undamaged and free from any obstructions.
- The fan intake must have enough free space arounds it to allow airflow
- Electric plugs, sockets and switches are not damaged in any way and the electric fan is connected to a tested earthed main supply.
- The inflation pipe connections to the fan and the unit are firmly fixed and airtight.
- There are no holes or rips in the surface or seams of the inflatable unit.
- When fully inflated, the structure is sufficiently firm.
- All anchor points are intact and not damaged.
- The inflatable is clean inside and outside (mildew, bacteria, or any other contamination).
- Anchor ropes and their poolside mooring locations remain sound for continued use.
- All anchor points are intact and not damaged.

This checklist is not exhaustive and should be added to as necessary to suit the requirements of the individual owner or operator of the inflatable, or the swimming pool manager.

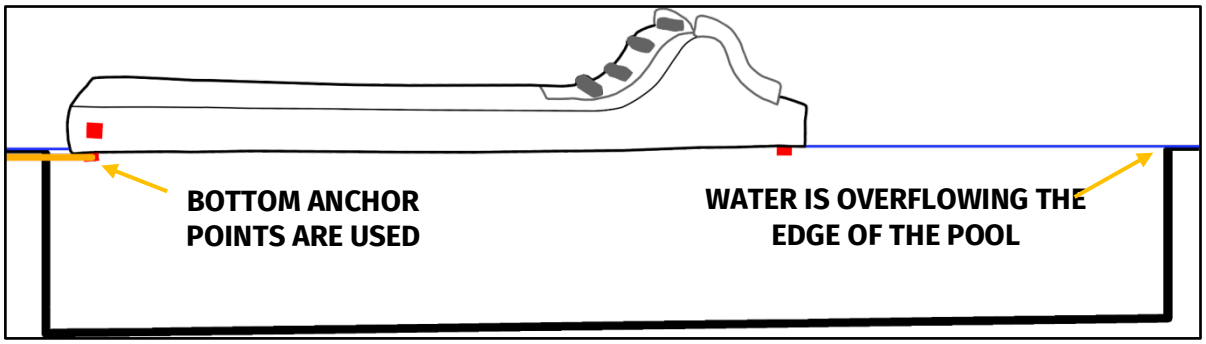
An annual safety inspection is necessary, at intervals of no longer than 12 months. Airquee can carry this out at its repair/testing facility or on site. A certificate will be issued confirming the result of the safety inspection and test. If repair or replacement should be deemed necessary, you will be advised accordingly.

9. POSITIONING AND ANCHORING

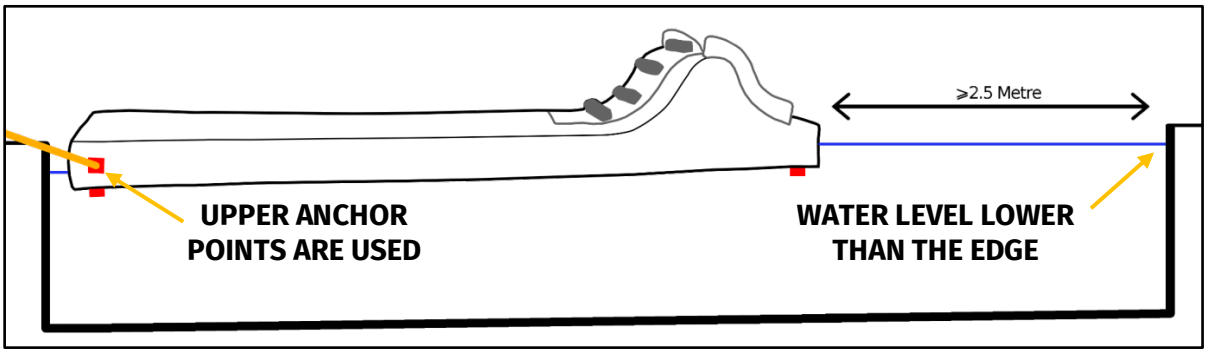
Every Airquee pool inflatable is equipped with webbing anchor points. To minimize the hazards related to inadequately secured inflatables, the inflatable should be anchored prior to starting the play session.

The front anchor points can be used for 2 types of pools: **deck level** and **trough level**. Tying all 4 front anchor points is never required.

When the inflatable is used in a deck level pool, you may use the **bottom** front anchor points.



When the inflatable is used in a trough level pool, you may use the upper front anchor points.



When anchoring the unit, the **normal anchoring method** is anchorage to the pool sides or lane rope holders, but suitably equipped pools may use the **bottom anchoring method**.

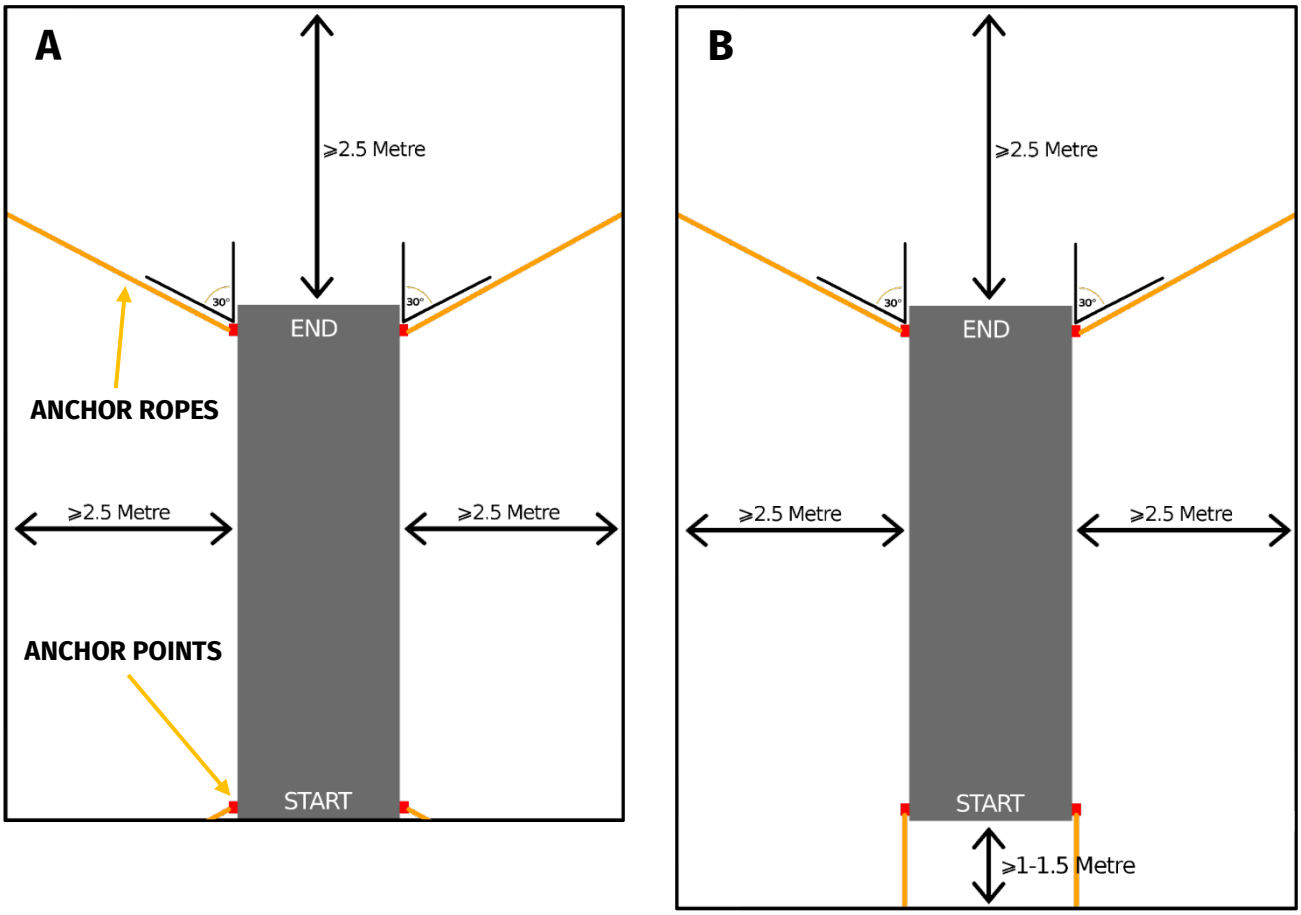
9.1 MOST COMMON METHOD

The access onto the inflatable must be directly attended by a trained member of staff. The start of the inflatable can be set up in 2 different ways:

A) Directly against the edge of the pool, with a minimum clearance zone for the other 3 sides of 2.5m. At this type of setup, YOU NEED AN ATTENDANT to supervise players getting on the inflatable in a safe and controlled manner. The role of the attendant is to prevent running access which increases the likelihood of slipping and impact with the pool surround.

B) A second way of anchoring is as stated in the CIMSPA guidelines (page 14 “Clearance from pools sides)”: “there is a minimum distance of 1.0m and a maximum of 1.5m clearance from the end of the pool to the start of the structure.”

We would advise to assess your own risk level and make the best-informed decision about how to anchor your inflatable according to your own circumstances.



Clearance zone means: NOTHING TO BE IN THE WATER. No lane separating ropes/safety plastic floaters, no swimmers, or spectators in the water around the inflatable.

Anchorage points at the side of the pool is preferred. The ropes should be left slack and lying along the surface of the water. If a slide is present at the end of the inflatable, the anchor lines should be at an angle of at least 30° to the line of the inflatable. Rope floats can be added to the ropes to provide better in water visibility. These are not supplied.

IT IS FORBIDDEN TO STEP ON THE INFLATABLE WHILE RUNNING! DO NOT JUMP ON THE INFLATABLE FROM THE EDGE OF THE POOL!

Anchor ropes present a potential hazard to players who may fall onto them. Anchor ropes should be left slack and lying along the surface of the water. To reduce the risk of injury, they should be smooth, padded where necessary, brightly coloured and extended with a rubber expansion piece/stabilizer. The ropes will become taut if the structure is forced from the desired position in the pool. The rubber shock absorbers will halt the movement and return the unit to the desired position. Any loose ends of anchor ropes should be tidied up and the air pipe positioned so that they are not a hazard to players.

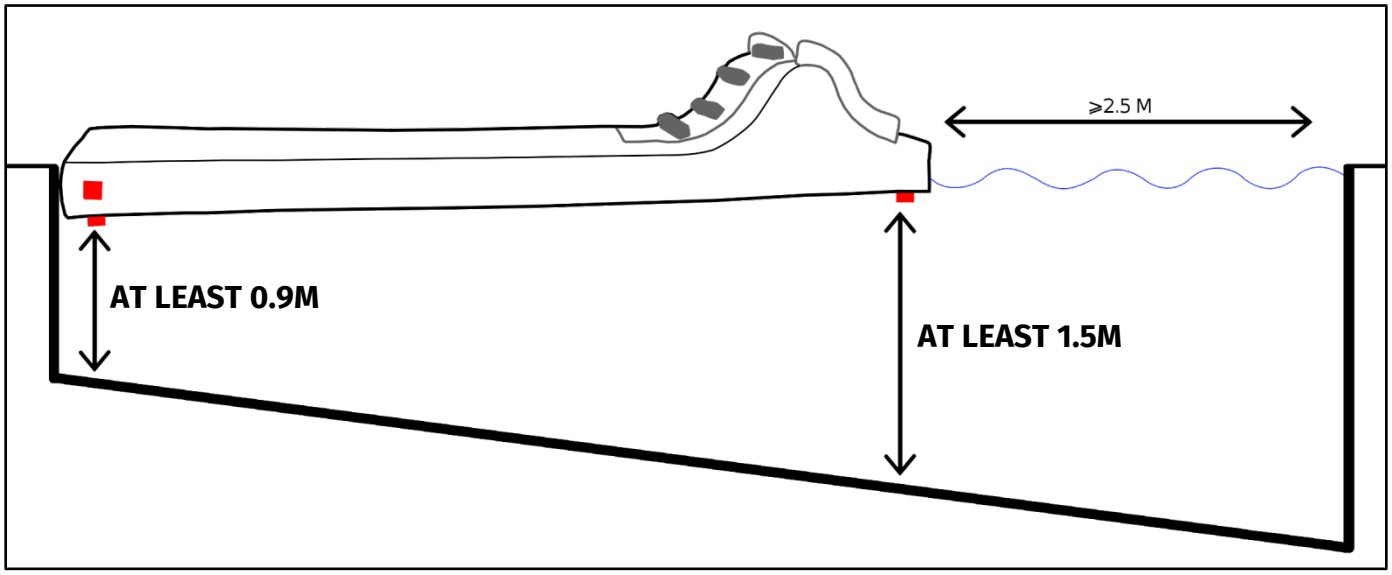
All anchor ropes and their attachments to the pool side are just sufficiently in tension to hold the unit in its correct position in relation to the sides and the bottom of the pool and that they will remain secure during the period of use.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD ANY PLAYERS BE ALLOWED TO CLIMB ON THE INFLATABLE WHILST IT IS OUT OF THE WATER OR IN THE WATER BUT NOT CORRECTLY ANCHORED.

9.2 VARIABLE DEPTH POOLS

Constant flow inflatables should be used in pools where the depth at the shallow end is at least 0.9m. They may be anchored in such a way that the shallow end is the start point for stepping onto the inflatable. At the finish point the depth should be at least 1.5m.

Players will need to be warned of the varying depths of water at the start and finish and surrounding the inflatable. Where the inflatable has a slide and the water depth at exit is less than 1.8m, the lifeguards should be vigilant to prevent players diving off the top of the slide.



10. PACKING

DO NOT TURN THE FAN OFF OR DISCONNECT IT FROM ITS POWER-SOURCE BEFORE THE INFATABLE IS OUT OF THE WATER!

At the end of the session, all players MUST have exited the pool prior to the removal of the inflatable. DO NOT DEFLATE THE INFLATABLE WHILE IT IS IN THE POOL, as the water may enter in its interior chambers, increasing its weight thus making it harder to take it out of the pool, and making the cleaning, drying process much more difficult.

At the end of the session, staff must ensure that all players are safely off the inflatable and out of the pool. If applicable, the anchor ropes should be untied. The inflatable can then be carefully taken out of the water and carried (not dragged) to the area where it was originally unpacked. It should be rinsed off with clean, untreated, fresh water to remove the chlorine water and then allowed to dry on the poolside before deflation and packing away. Towel drying is advised. Adequate supervision should be provided to ensure members of the public do not climb on the inflatable when out of the water.

The fan should be turned off before the air outlets are opened. To let the air out, open any air outlets by loosening the cam buckle, undo the strap and disconnect the air pipe from the fan.

Leave for at least 10 minutes to deflate, longer if it is a very large unit. Ensure that as much air as possible has escaped before starting to roll and pack the unit.

It is strongly recommended that the inflatable is only packed when it is completely dry. To help prevent damage, if a unit has had to be packed when still damp, it is suggested that microfiber towels are used to mop up any water as the unit is not designed to be rolled up full of water as this is when bacteria can grow and multiply even with all the lengths we go to with our thread and materials to prevent this happening. It should be unrolled again at the first opportunity and allowed to dry out thoroughly before packing it up. To help to keep the unit in good condition it should never be stored for any length of time unless it is completely dry.

The best shape for the packed unit is obtained by rolling the unit from one end to the other. It may take several attempts to roll it correctly but a poorly rolled inflatable is far more difficult to move and is more likely to get damaged.

- With the filler/outlet pipes untwisted, walk bare foot over the unit from one end to the other end. This helps compact the material and expel any remaining air.

- A person to fold the 2 external sides towards the interior, while other two persons roll the unit to make a big plastic “Swiss Roll”. Make sure the sides are parallel.

If the rolled unit is a bit loose or floppy unroll and do it again. When the unit is properly rolled up, tie it with the rope or strap provided.

- Tie it, place it in its cover/bag and tie the webbing to the metal rings.

The unit when packed can be rolled or tumbled onto a trolley. With big units particularly, never try to lift them up completely. Use a sack truck/sack barrow or trolley.

Never allow any member of staff to take avoidable personal risks or take risks yourself in the course of moving or lifting the unit. Make sure that enough fit, trained helpers are available.

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11. STORAGE

The equipment must be stored away clean and dry particularly if it is to be stored for any length of time. Failure to do this will cause mildew and bacteria to form. This will stain and damage the fabric and may cause unpleasant smells or will raise health concerns at the next play session. We advise a cool, dry environment for storage and poolside should be avoided, especially for long periods.

Store the pallet the inflatable came on somewhere safe as this will be needed to ship the unit back to Airquee for its annual safety inspection and also if and when any repairs are needed as our third-party shippers will not collect without it being securely wrapped and on a pallet.

12. STAFFING AND SUPERVISION

A suitable number of trained and qualified staff should be on duty to safely supervise the session.

The number of attendants needed to supervise a pool inflatable session depends on the circumstances and is a matter of judgement for the owner or operator. The owner or operator is responsible for determining the minimum number of staff needed to operate and supervise the inflatable and ensure safety at all times.

13. SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

The public must be prevented at all times from having access to fans, electricity supply cables and outlets, generators or motorised fans and their fuel, exhausts, air inlet and outlet pipes, safety equipment and anchor ropes.

If for any reason the electrical supply fails or if the fan needs to be turned off, use of the inflatable MUST BE STOPPED IMMEDIATELY, and it should be cleared of players.

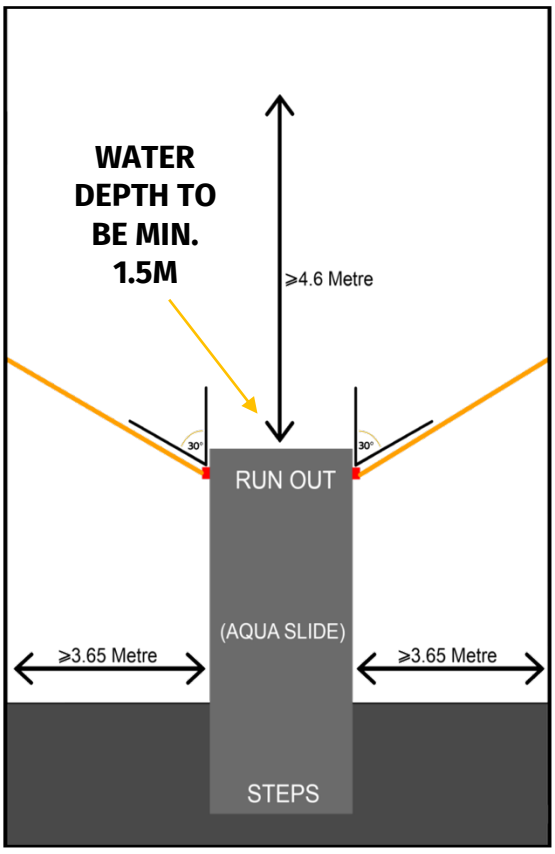
In a well-managed swimming pool, all steps will have been taken to prevent the possibility of accidents. However, in the unfortunate event of an accident happening, the staff should follow established procedures and take appropriate action promptly and prepare a full report after the situation has been brought under control.

Airquee recognises that the outcome of any in water emergency depends on a previously prepared suitable risk assessment. Professional water rescue and first aid training is advised for all the attendants, lifeguards, and operators.

14. SLIDES

In addition to the general rules for use of pool inflatables, slides such as the inflatable Aqua Slide, present other hazards as well. They require constant supervision when in use.

Inflatable slides should be positioned in an even depth of water with minimum depth of 1.5m at the exit point/landing zone. At the landing area (run-out) the minimum clearance distance from the edge of the pool should be at least 3.65m at the sides and 4.6m at the run-out.



HAZARDS RELATED TO POOL SLIDES

- Enough water should be provided on the sliding surface to enable players to slide down easily. If it is allowed to become dry during use, players will be exposed to a high risk of friction burns.
- Any damage in the fabric or seams of the slide must be considered a serious hazard in relation to the use of a slide if it is in a position which could cause a foot or hand to become trapped whilst the player is sliding down. The inflatable should be taken out of service until the damage has been repaired.

- Slides that have any part of the main inflated structure outside the pool require special attention, because these units have a higher risk of impact with a hard surface (the edge of the pool).

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15. INSURANCE - Public Liability and Employer's Liability

Although accidents leading to injury are rare, it is strongly recommended by Airquee that every operator of play equipment should have all necessary insurances against the risk of claims from any incidents associated with operation of the play equipment, or incidents which may occur.

In the UK it is mandatory for every employer to take out employer's liability insurance cover against claims by employees for accidents connected with work. Other countries may have different legal requirements regarding insurance. It is recommended you obtain advice from your local insurance broker.

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16. TRAINING

The owner or operator of the inflatable, or the swimming pool manager, is also responsible for ensuring that each attendant receives adequate training in all aspects of the safe setting up, daily checks, dismantling, packing, cleaning, maintenance, supervision, and operation of the inflatable.

This should include knowledge of applicable guidance notes or codes of practice.

The Codes of Practice should be considered in assessing and fulfilling the requirement for adequate supervision at all times. Normal pool supervision duties must not be neglected, and it may not be appropriate for the same members of staff to attempt to do both sets of duties simultaneously. The number of staff required will depend on the size of the inflatable unit and the age range, responsible behaviour and swimming abilities of the players.

It is solely the responsibility of the staff to control who is allowed on the inflatable. With aquarun type of inflatables, there should be a minimum of 2 suitably trained and qualified attendants, one to control access onto the unit at the start of the course and one generally responsible for the safety of players on the inflatable from when they enter until they are clear of the inflatable. This must be assessed by the operator and supervision adjusted depending online of site, size of pool and other operation considerations.

Given the restricted visibility under the inflatable, staff must be alert to the possibility of a player experiencing difficulties in an obscured part of the pool, either underneath the structure or on the pool bottom. They must ensure that all potential blind spots and sides of the inflatable are covered. If necessary, an attendant should also be in the pool itself. The use of purpose-built underwater surveillance equipment should be considered.

The attendants must also keep players clear of the unit, except during sessions when it is declared open for use.

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17. CLEANING/HYGIENE

It is vital that children's play equipment be cleaned thoroughly at regular intervals and that the highest standards of hygiene are maintained. Good hygiene is of course a vital requirement of every pool. You should clean the PVC surface as necessary with a non-corrosive antibacterial cleaning solution, or as a temporary measure, a suitable non-abrasive cleaner.

Pseudomonas aeruginosa is a bacterium commonly associated with bad swimming pool hygiene practices. Using a proper antibacterial solution when cleaning your inflatable, the risk of any infections can be considerably reduced. Inflatables which have been stored wet/damp provide an ideal environment

for pseudomonas to grow to levels which then infect the skin follicles of children who subsequently use them, particularly if there is a water slide element to the inflatable.

Airquee can supply an inflatable cleaning solution on request. Using some household cleaners can remove applied artwork, damage the PVC, or rot the stitching. Before using unfamiliar cleaners always apply first on a small test area of fabric and/or artwork preferably one, which will not be noticeable during normal use.

Care should be taken when cleaning applied artwork (especially when wet) as the paint may be damaged if rubbed hard or if chemically aggressive cleaning agents are used on painted areas.

You should take account of the requirements of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) (or similar regulations in your country of use) when selecting cleaning agents, for foreseeable risks to players and employees.

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18. 12-MONTHS WARRANTY - what it covers

Airquee has the option either to repair the unit or replace it with a new unit free of charge, or refund the price paid for it. The owner must return it to Airquee for inspection and the choice of repair, replacement or refund is entirely at Airquee's discretion.

Wear and tear or damage resulting from neglect, abuse, or failure to comply with Airquee's instructions, modifications or unapproved repairs will void the warranty. For the full details of the warranty refer to the Airquee Standard Conditions of Sale and Warranty, a copy of which is available on request or by visiting www.airquee.com/terms

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19. DISPOSAL

Airquee recommends that inflatables should be replaced after the third season, even though they may still be useable.

The end of its useful working life can occur in as little as 18 – 24 months. Land based inflatables such as bouncy castles generally have a significantly longer useful working life than swimming pool inflatables, although both types of inflatable are made from similar materials using similar manufacturing methods and design details. The economic life of all inflatables depends on the degree of volume and frequency of actual usage.

It is also evident that some swimming pools cause faster deterioration of inflatable product than others. However, there are examples of pool inflatables, which have lasted for several years. One possible explanation is that this is due to the differences in water treatment regimes and general attitudes towards looking after equipment which can vary from one swimming pool to another.

When it eventually becomes due for disposal, in no event should the unit be disposed of by burning it, as the PVC coated fabric will give off toxic smoke and gases during combustion. In many countries including the UK this contravenes environmental protection legislation, including waste disposal regulations and burning the unit will be an offence. The proper authority or official agency responsible for regulating waste disposal should be contacted for advice regarding the best means of disposal in your area. Some agencies will provide a list of licensed contractors.

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