

# How to Operate A Hayward EC-50 D.E. Filter



## Step 1 – Starting the Filter

Turn on the filter and slowly add **5 pounds of Diatomaceous Earth (D.E.)** into the skimmer **while the filter is running**. Add the D.E. gradually to allow it to properly “pre-coat” the Flex Tubes inside the filter tank. You may notice a slight decrease in water flow returning to the pool; this is normal.

## Step 2 – Daily Operating Time

The Hayward EC-50 filters approximately **2,800 gallons per hour**. To keep your water clean, the pool’s total water volume should be turned over **at least twice per day** (see the pool gallon chart for guidance). During very hot weather or heavy swimming activity, you may need to run the filter longer.

## Step 3 – Regeneration (“Bumping”)

When the return water flow weakens or the pressure gauge rises about **10 PSI above normal**, it’s time to regenerate the filter.

1. Turn the filter **off**.
2. Move the bump handle **down slowly**, then **up quickly**.
3. Repeat this motion **3 times**.
4. Turn the filter **back on**.

If bumping no longer restores normal pressure, it’s time to backwash. Proceed to Step 4.

## Step 4 – Backwashing (Draining)

Backwashing clears the filter of dirt, debris, and D.E. by reversing the water flow.

1. Turn the filter **off**
2. Move the bump handle down slowly, then up quickly. Repeat this step 8 times.
3. Open the **drain plug (backwash valve)** at the bottom of the tank and allow water to drain until it runs clear.
4. Close the drain plug and return to **Step 1** to restart the filter with fresh D.E.

**It is completely normal to backwash multiple times, especially if the pool water is dirty or cloudy.**

**Diatomaceous Earth filters capture extremely fine particles, so the filter can clog quickly as it removes the dirt and debris from the pool water.**

Pool Capacity Cheatsheet

Pool Size	Capacity (Gal.)	Pool Size	Capacity (Gal.)
12 Round	3,000	8x12/14 Oval	2,500
15 Round	5,000	8x15/16 Oval	3,000
18 Round	7,500	8x19 Oval	3,500
21 Round	10,000	10x15/16 Oval	3,500
24 Round	13,000	10x18/19 Oval	4,000
27 Round	17,000	10x21 Oval	5,000
30 Round	21,000	12x16 Oval	4,500
33 Round	25,000	12x17/18 Oval	5,000
		12x20/21 Oval	6,500
		12x24/27 Oval	7,500
		14x20 Oval	7,500
		15x23/24 Oval	8,500
		15x26 Oval	9,000
		15x30 Oval	10,500
		16x32 Oval	12,000
		18x33 Oval	14,000
		18x40 Oval	17,000
		21x43 Oval	24,000