

# **Zodiac CareTaker™ In-Floor Cleaning**

**For customer service or support:**

- To contact Zodiac:

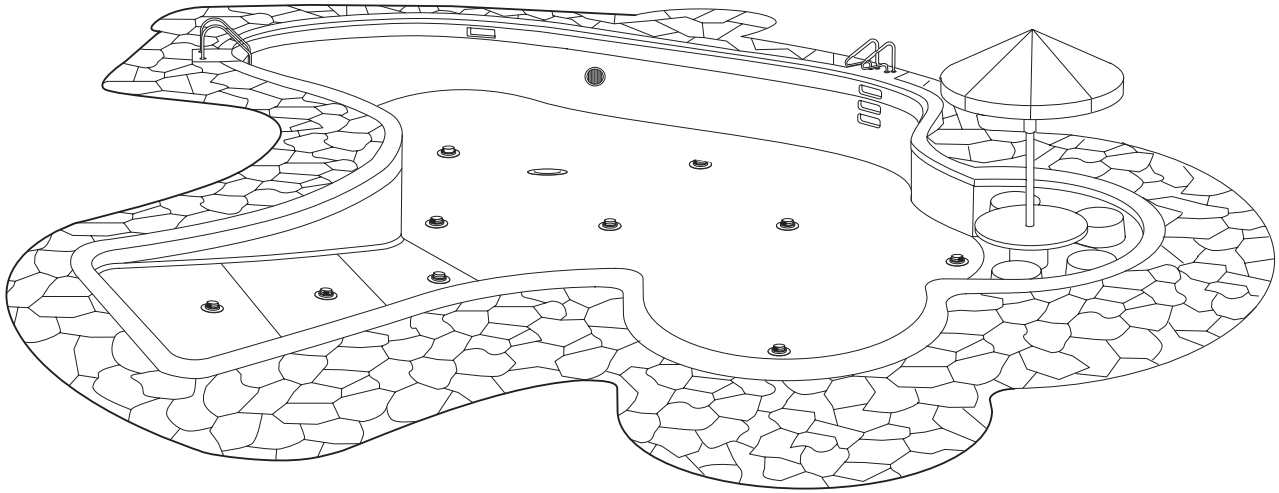
**US and Canada**

Customer Service  
2620 Commerce Way  
Vista, CA 92081-8438  
1-800-822-7933

## Introduction

Congratulations on the purchase of a new pool or spa equipped with a Caretaker in-floor system. The in-floor system provides the most advanced technology available in the swimming pool industry today. It is engineered to reduce the daily cost of operating a pool through controlled energy and chemical use.

The system is a custom-designed water management and cleaning system that uses the pressure of clean water to systematically circulate chemicals and heat to create a cost-effective, balanced, and healthier pool environment. Floors, steps, swimouts, benches and difficult to reach areas are cleaned by the inconspicuous rotating pop-up heads that either move debris into the main drain or into suspension where it is removed by the skimmer.



## Operation and Daily Use

Depending on which system you purchased, your pool is now equipped with either a hydro-powered 5-port water valve or an electronic, programmable 8-port water valve, that channels the water through the system.

One bank, or group of heads, comes up at a time, rotates to a new position, and disperses a high-pressure stream of filtered water for a short period of time. The valve then automatically cycles to another bank of heads and continues to cycle as long as the pump is on and the system is activated. Between cycles, the heads that are not in use will return flush with the pool floor. When the system completes a full cycle, all the heads return flush with the pool floor.

The actual **run time** required to keep your pool or spa clean varies according to your environmental conditions (i.e. wind, rain, dust or landscaping, etc.). To determine the proper time, start by running the pool 24 hours per day. Reduce the run time by two hours every two days until the pool ceases to be as clean as preferred. **Six hours per day is our recommended minimum run time.**

The cleaning heads are designed to operate at a pre-determined gallonage and desired operating pressure. It is important that all water is directed through the cleaning heads. Items such as aerators, fountains, therapies, elevated spillways, waterfalls, or auxiliary lines must be closed during system operation to achieve maximum efficiency.

## Checking the Equipment

The 5-port water valve is equipped with a service indicator gauge on the top of the housing. The gauge for the 8-port valve is on the plumbing line feeding the valve.

The operating pressure will vary depending on various factors such as the pump size, number of cleaning heads on a line, and what other auxiliary pool equipment is installed. In general, the normal operating pressure is between 14-20 PSI.

Service Indicator Gauge



### 5-Port Valve

To maximize performance of the valve:

- Verify that all auxiliary valves are closed.
- Keep screens in the skimmers and pump, and the valve dome strainer clean.
- Backwash the filter (recharge if a DE filter) as needed.

### 8-port Valve

The 8-port valve has advanced timer control capabilities. The valve is operated by an electronic controller with six different timing positions.

#### Timing Modes

This allows adjusting the run time from one zone or port to another.

Position one	15 seconds
Position two	30 seconds
Position three	45 seconds
Position four	60 seconds
Position five	Pause mode
Position six	Programmable mode

Using **longer dwell times** increases the time the valve operates in one zone, increasing the cleaning distance in that area.

Selecting **shorter dwell times** allows faster operation of the valve and speeds up rotations in operation.

**Pause mode** stops the valve on one port for swimming or servicing of a desired zone.

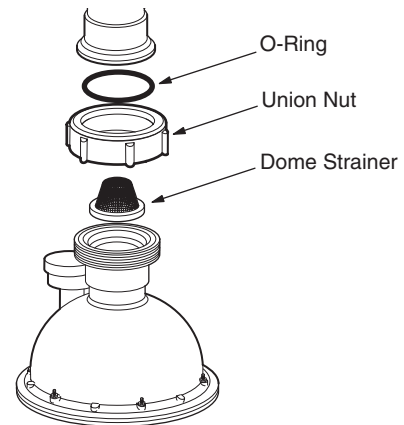
If set in **Programmable mode**, the valve can be manually adjusted to even shorter, 3 to 15 seconds, run times.

## Routine Maintenance

### Cleaning the Filtration System

The Caretaker System is a fully automatic circulation and cleaning system; however, it does not eliminate the need for normal pool maintenance. Strainer baskets and the filter must be kept clean in order to allow maximum water flow to the in-floor system. In addition, the 5-port valve has a dome strainer that must be cleaned periodically. The 8-port valve has no strainer.

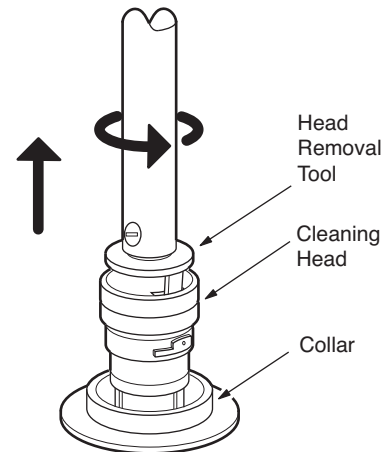
1. Unscrew union nut from valve.
2. Remove and clean dome strainer.
3. Reinstall the dome strainer in the **CONE-UP** position, align the o-ring and hand tighten the union nut.



### Changing Cleaning Heads

If you contact Zodiac's Customer Service Department after your CareTaker In-floor system has been installed by a qualified contractor, you will receive a **FREE** cleaning head and head removal tool. In the unlikely event that one of the cleaning heads malfunctions and troubleshooting does not restore it, simply remove the head and reinstall a new replacement head.

1. Attach head removal tool to pool pole.
2. Snap tool into cleaning head.
3. While in **DOWN** position, rotate the cleaning head counter-clockwise to remove it from the collar.
4. Tilt tool back to remove head easily.
5. Replace head on tool, and turn clockwise to reinstall into collar and lock it into position.
6. Lift straight up to release head.



### Winterizing

As with most pool equipment, if the swimming pool is located in a climate where freezing weather is possible, winterization of the Caretaker system is necessary in order to protect the equipment. Special winterization precautions are required, so please contact your pool professional.

## Troubleshooting

If the Caretaker cleaning system displays the following actions, adjustments may be necessary to restore performance. Refer to exploded parts diagram for part references.

**Action: Dirty spots appear.**

- Solution:
1. Clean the pool filter, pump basket, skimmer baskets, and dome strainer (5-port valve only).
  2. Ensure all auxiliary valves (surface returns, waterfall, spa overflow, etc.) are closed.

**Action: Dirt is left between heads.**

- Solution:
1. Verify that the heads on each side of dirt are pointed in the same direction. Advance a head, if necessary, using the head removal tool to ratchet the head up and down until nozzle points in the correct direction.
  2. Increase the cleaning time. If using the 8-port valve, increase run-time to 60 seconds.

**Action: Cleaning head advances, but is not cleaning.**

- Solution:
1. Check for debris lodged in the nozzle.
  2. Remove the head from the collar. Run the pump for two full cycles. Recheck for particles in the cleaning head nozzle and re-insert the cleaning head.

**Action: Cleaning head will not pop up.**

- Solution:
1. Remove the head. Inspect the cleaning head and collar for plaster remnants or debris.

**Action: Cleaning head does not go down.**

1. With system running and cleaning head in the upright position, lightly depress head, using telescoping pool pole.
2. If necessary, remove cleaning head (head must be in the down position to remove) from collar and inspect for any binding particles.

**Action: Pressure is lower than normal.**

- Solution:
1. Clean the pool filter, pump basket, skimmer baskets, and dome strainer (5-port valve only). Backwash filter if necessary.
  2. Ensure all auxiliary valves (surface returns, waterfall, spa overflow, etc.) are closed.
  3. Confirm that the pool pump is operating normally.
  4. Check for leaking or worn o-rings. Replace if necessary.

**Action: The 5-port valve does not cycle.**

- Solution:
1. Clean the filter, pump basket, skimmer, and valve dome strainer. Backwash filter.
  2. Make sure all auxiliary valves (surface returns, waterfall, spa overflow, etc.) are closed.
  3. Turn pump on and off several times to clear the system.
  4. Remove valve, turn it upside down, and spray pressurized water up into the valve.

**Action: The 8-port valve does not cycle.**

- Solution:
1. Make sure all auxiliary valves (surface returns, waterfall, spa overflow, etc.) are closed.
  2. Verify that the valve is not in pause mode.
  3. Make sure the GFI is not tripped and check the main power source connections.
  4. Check for secure wiring connections at the controller, pressure switch and valve.
  5. If the red LED is on but the valve is not rotating, check under the top plate for restrictions like debris or a damaged o-ring.

**Action: The 8-port valve does not pause at an outlet port.**

1. Verify that valve cover is properly in place.
2. Sensor could be defective or damaged, replace. (Order part #3-7-6)

**Action: The 8-port valve is leaking.**

1. Check for debris underneath the top plate or around the face seal o-ring and clean if necessary.
2. Verify that top plate is tight. Retighten or replace o-ring if necessary.
3. Shaft seal is leaking, replace.

**Troubleshooting Worksheet**

If these solutions do not result in improved performance, contact the builder who sold you the in-floor system or call Zodiac's Technical Support Department at 1-800-822-7933.

For faster and more convenient service, please have the following information available at the time of your call.

1. **Serial #:** ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
2. **8-port** ☐ **5-port water valve** ☐
3. **Do all the cleaning heads pop up?**  
Yes ☐ No ☐
4. **Do all the cleaning heads go down?**  
Yes ☐ No ☐
5. **Are all the heads advancing?**  
Yes ☐ No ☐
6. **Does the valve skip a group of heads?** ☐  
Yes ☐ No ☐
7. **Is each nozzle dispersing water?**  
Yes ☐ No ☐
8. **Have you backwashed the filter and checked the pump baskets and screens?** ☐  
Yes ☐ No ☐
9. **How often do you clean the filter screen inside the 5-port valve?**  
☐ Never ☐ Once a Week  
☐ Twice a Week ☐ Once a Month

**Zodiac Pool Systems, Inc.**

2620 Commerce Way, Vista, CA 92081

1.800.822.7933 | [www.ZodiacPoolSystems.com](http://www.ZodiacPoolSystems.com)

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