



## PowerCone I-Series Tips & Troubleshooting

### Break-in period

It can take anywhere from a few hours to a few weeks for a new skimmer to break-in. Please be patient. The length of the break-in period depends on a variety of circumstances including the organic content of the system and water surface tension. It is normal during the break-in period for the skimmer to produce a very light colored skimmate and cause the collection cup to fill up quickly and even overflow. A broken in skimmer will typically show brown deposits around the neck of the skimmer. Bathing the unit thoroughly in warm water prior to installation typically helps reduce the break-in period.

**Pump performance:** The pump features an integrated soft-start to help improve performance and life. If the pump detects an issue it will automatically turn off. After several seconds the pump will automatically attempt to re-start. If this occurs please check the pump to resolve any possible issues/causes.

If the pump isn't performing normally, please check the following:

1. Open pump housing and check that small flapper is pointed up. The pump will continuously stop and start if the flapper is pointing down.
2. Inspect the flapper for any signs of wear or damage. With the impeller installed, the flapper should not easily fall below the horizontal line.
3. Check to make sure grid-wheel is glued to the impeller. The blue mark on the impeller should line up with the blue mark on the grid-wheel.
4. Check that the impeller can spin freely on the impeller shaft. If it cannot, soak the entire assembly in a water/vinegar solution (10 parts water to 1 part white vinegar) for at least 24 hours, until the impeller can spin freely on the shaft.
5. Check the nozzle/venturi assembly attached to the front of the pump for any blockages, salt/calcium accumulation, or other build-up. If necessary clean with warm water and a soft toothbrush. It may also be necessary to soak the assembly in a water/vinegar solution (10 parts water to 1 part white vinegar) for at least 24 hours.
6. Check the air silencer, air flow meter, and air intake on the pump for any salt/calcium accumulation or other build-up. If necessary clean with a water/vinegar solution (10 parts water to 1 part white vinegar).
7. If you run the pump without ozone, check that the rubber cover/cap is attached to the ozone adapter on the input of the pump.
8. Check the bubble plate inside of the body and make sure that the drilled holes are completely free. Any accumulation/build-up should be removed.
9. Make sure the airline tube from the pump goes straight from the nozzle to the air silencer above the water surface.
10. Test the pump without air flow meter.

**Calcium/carbonate dosing:** Do not to place the output of calcium/carbonate dosing system close to the pump/skimmer as this can cause excessive build-up on the impeller, impeller shaft, and pump housing which can prevent the pump from running efficiently and, in some cases, even stop the pump from running.

**Water level:** To function properly, the skimmer must be used in a water level between 6-8 inches. The best water level is 7 inches. If the water level is above the maximum water level line on the skimmer body, performance will suffer and the skimmer may overflow.

**Collection cup leaks:** It is normal for the skimmer to leak a bit by the junction of the collection cup and the skimmer body, as this junction seal is not water tight, because the skimmer is designed for in-sump use only. When installing a collection cup on the skimmer body, it is important to make a quarter turn to improve the seal. It is also normal for this junction to leak more during break in periods.

**Digital Air Flow Meter does not power on:** The polarity of the tip on the AC-DC adapter may need to be changed. Changing the polarity of the AC-DC varies depending on the model of the AC-DC adapter. On some models, the plug/tip on the end of the wire lead will need to be pulled off and rotated 180 degrees. On other models, simply move the switch from [+] to [-] to change the polarity.

**Skimmer overflows or stops skimming:** This skimmer pulls in significantly more air than other skimmers which makes it more sensitive to these changes in water chemistry. It is very important to closely monitor the skimmer when initially feeding the tank or adding anything to the water. To avoid overflows many aquarists choose to turn the skimmer off when feeding and dosing.

Excessive foaming, overflowing, or the temporary stopping of foam production is usually caused by a change in the surface tension of the water. This can be caused by adding certain foods, additives, or other chemicals/supplements to the water. Generally, these substances pass within a few hours and skimmer production returns to normal. Select medications and additives may take 24 hours or longer to pass through the system.

It is also possible that the water is too clean is which case there are no organic substances in the aquarium water to be removed.





## Safety

Please take great care when installing and using this protein skimmer. This is an electrical device and, as with any electrical device used in or around an aquarium, caution needs to be exercised. Failure to do so may result in electrocution, fire, serious bodily injury or even death. Please follow these safety requirements carefully, as failure to do so will void the warranty and could cause serious safety hazards.

### NEVER

**NEVER** operate the skimmer/pump if it has been damaged or is malfunctioning.

**NEVER** operate the control box in a wet location or with wet hands.

**NEVER** hang or grab the pump or control box by the electrical cord.

**NEVER** re-wire, re-configure or modify the skimmer/pump in any way.

**NEVER** use with generators.

**NEVER** grab the pump by the electrical cord as this may cause the black casing for the electrical cord to be pulled away from the pump housing thereby exposing the electrical wires.

### ALWAYS

**ALWAYS** unplug the skimmer/pump before doing any work on the skimmer.

**ALWAYS** leave a bit of slack in the electrical cord to help absorb the vibrations of the pump while it is in use.

**ALWAYS** use of a GFCI (Ground Fault Interrupter).

**ALWAYS** keep away from children.



## ATI Limited Warranty

ATI warrants this product against defects in material and workmanship under normal use for 1 year from the date of original purchase. During this warranty period ATI will, at the company's discretion, repair or replace the defective product or any of its components without additional charge for parts and labor. This warranty may be enforced by the original purchaser only and is not transferable. All subsequent purchasers acquire the product "as is" without the benefit of the limited warranty.

Inbound shipping is to be paid by the customer including insurance costs and other related expenses. If repairs are covered by the Limited Warranty, ATI will pay all return shipping charges to any destination within the United States. All return shipments will be sent via Ground service. Expedited shipping is at the customer's expense.

Please keep all the original packaging in case the product needs to be returned or shipped again. Using the original packaging will help minimize the chance of product damage during transit.

### Exclusions

Damage resulting from failure to maintain or use the product in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, damage resulting from accident, abuse, alteration, misapplication, misuse, modification or neglect or damage resulting from repair or attempted repair by anyone other than ATI or its Authorized repair centers, is not covered by this warranty.

### Exclusion of Certain Damages/Losses

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### Warranty Service

For warranty service, parts and/or repair services, please contact your dealer. If you need assistance, contact ATI customer service at 303-459-2119 or [customercare@atinorthamerica.com](mailto:customercare@atinorthamerica.com).

