

# **Rockwood Pool Installation Guide**

**Customized for customers of Mario's Pool and Spa Inc.**

# INTRODUCTION

*Please read the instructions completely to get an overall picture of what is required. This will avoid the risk of mistakes and lost time in the early stages, particularly during the excavation.*

The Bar Top 52" System is designed to be installed above-ground, partially in-ground or completely in-ground. The oval pools must be a minimum of 14" in the ground, they can also be installed completely in ground.

Check to be sure that existing services such as electrical and water are adequate for the installation. Also check with all utilities for underground cables and pipes prior to excavating.

Check with local authorities about codes and regulations regarding fencing, set backs, and other rules governing the installation of this type of swimming pool. A building permit, where required, must be obtained prior to beginning of any work. Permits can be obtained from local city or township offices.

The pool should be grounded by a licensed electrician. Photos of the grounding should be taken prior to backfilling in case an inspector asks for proof of grounding. (Simply attach a wire from the pool to rebar placed in the ground outside of the pool)

## PRELIMINARIES:

In selecting a site for the Bar Top Pool, choose an open sunny area with no underground pipes and wires, and must be the required distance away from septic tanks and fields. The pool needs to be located in an area where surface drainage takes water away from the pool. The pool also must be clear of any overhead power lines. Contact your local utility company prior to beginning installation.

Similar to the foundation of a house, the pool must be installed with drain tile around the outside perimeter prior to backfilling. This drain tile must be graded so that water will drain to an area away from the base of the pool. **Water gathering around the base of the pool can cause serious damage.** Backfilling must be completed with ¾" clean rock allowing for proper drainage around the sides of the pool.

When locating the pool, another factor to consider is the location of the filter and pump. Ideally they should be in close proximity to the pool to keep circulation piping as short as possible.

Also, your return and skimmer panels should be as close together as possible to keep circulation piping as short as possible.

# TECH-TALK...

## Technical Information for Pool Professionals December 4, 2014

### Bartop Steel Onground Pools

All Bartop Onground pools will now require four (4) compression straps at each panel flange. Previously only two (2) compression straps were required on the bottom half of each panel. To insure the integrity and longevity of the Bartop product line, we have added compression straps to the top half of each panel. There will now be four compression straps provided with each Bartop pool kit to allow for installation on both the top and bottom half of each panel on both sides of the flange. It is mandatory that all of the required straps are installed along with all bolt holes utilized. Failure to install all straps and bolts will result in voiding the warranty and may affect the safe use of the pool. We will be placing the following warning label on each panel in the four (4) locations where the compression straps are required.

**WARNING!**  
FOR WARRANTY AND SAFETY PURPOSES:  
Compression strap required here  
(NOTE: 4 straps per panel, both sides of panel).  
Bolts must be used at every bolt hole location.

## MATERIALS REQUIRED

- ¼ minus Crusher Dust
- Concrete for Collar (ovals)
- ¾ clean crushed rock for backfill (round inground/oval)

## BOTTOM PREPARATION

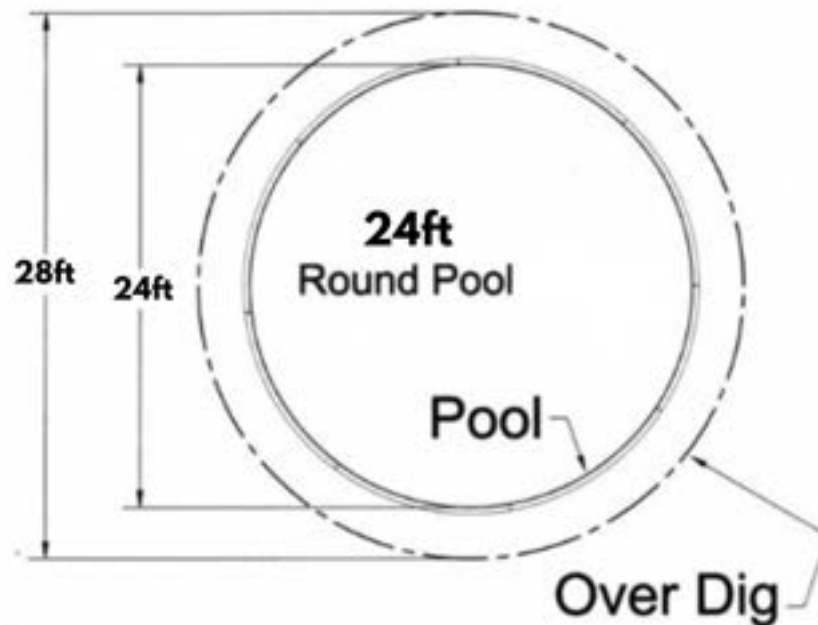
Please see our ground preparation guide and prepare the base using ¼ minus crusher dust.

Ensure 1" white low density styrofoam is used under the liner.

CLICK HERE: <https://mariospoolandspaonline.com/pages/service>

## DIGGING THE HOLE (When installing pool partially/fully inground)

Stake out an area two feet wider than the actual pool size. Mark this area with chalk or spray paint. Dig your hole so you have 2 feet of space around the entire pool. This will allow room for panel fastening and proper backfilling. (ex, 28' hole for 24'R pool, 19'x34' hole for 15'x30' Oval pool)



**Example: 24' ROUND IN GROUND**

## PREPARING THE SITE

PLEASE REFER TO OUR GUIDE ON PAD PREPARATION FOR PREPARING THE BASE UNDER THE POOL. CLICK HERE: <https://mariospoolandspaonline.com/pages/service>

## PANEL INSTALLATION – ROUND

The panels are bolted together in sequence. All bolt holes must be used. *Leaving bolts out will void the warranty.* If ground preparations have been carefully done, little adjustments will be required. Four compression straps are provided for each panel joint. The strap is located above and below the middle horizontal bar on each side of the panel joint (see diagram below). The compression straps must be used at all panel joints on round pools. Not using the compression straps at all panel joints will void the warranty. The compression straps act as ‘washers’ on each side of the connection. Once the panels are bolted together, check to ensure the pool is (A) level; and (B) complies to the exact dimensions appropriate for that model. Note: Not using the compression straps at all panel joints will void the warranty and *could cause product failure.*

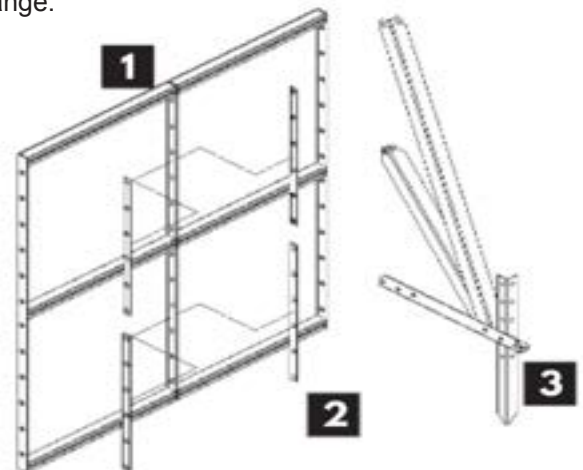
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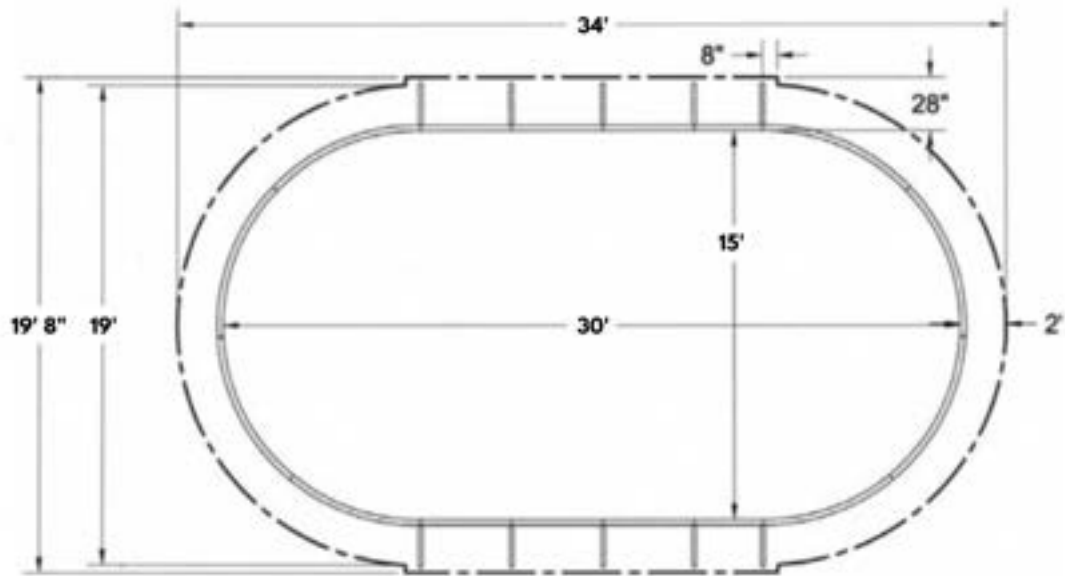
### CONNECTION ORDER

1. Panel Joint
  2. Compression Strap (4 per flange)
  3. Brace (when applicable)
- (Braces are only used on straight sections of oval pools)



Add compression straps to the top of the panel in the illustration showing total of 4 with two on each side of flange.





## EXCAVATION

15' x 30' Oval showing the location of the supports.

Dig your hole to be 2 feet larger than the pool to allow for proper room for assembly and drainage fill to be added.

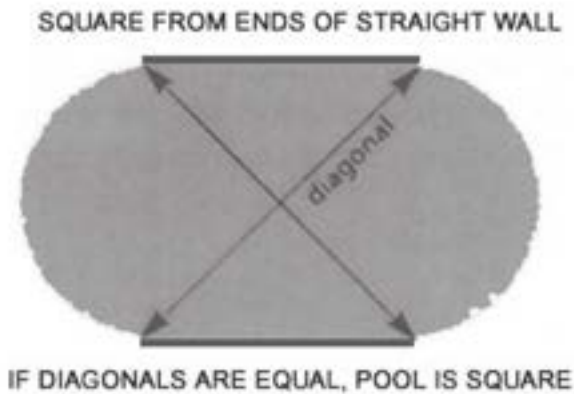
The bottom of the pool should be excavated to 2" to 3" deeper than the finished pool dimensions to allow for the compacted bottom material.



## PANEL INSTALLATION – OVAL, KEY, AND KIDNEY POOLS

The additional steps for ovals, not required for rounds, is the squaring of the two parallel straight walls and the assembly of the metal components forming the A-Frame wall supports. These wall supports must be attached at locations shown on the specification drawing supplied by the manufacturer. Make sure all bolts are in place and tightened up.

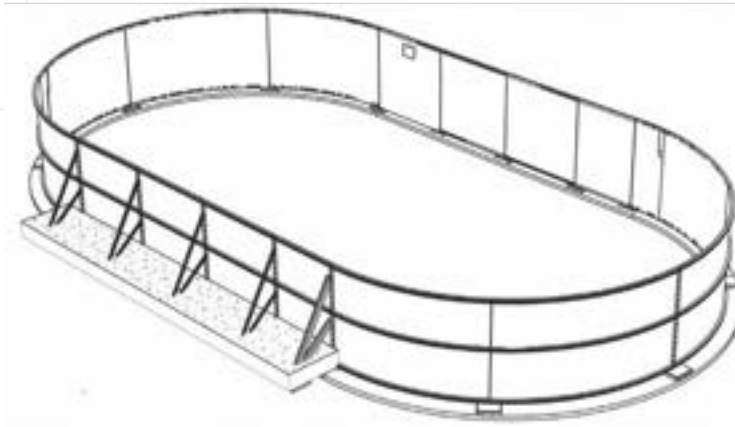
Four compression straps are provided for each panel joint. The strap is located above and below the middle horizontal bar on each side of the panel joint (see page 5). The compression straps must be used at all panel joints on Oval, Key, and Kidney pools. NOTE: Not using the compression straps at all panel joints will void the warranty *and could cause product failure*.



### TYPICAL OVAL STRUCTURAL INSTALLATION ELEMENTS:

All ovals require to be installed a **minimum** of 14" below grade.

**A cement pad 24" wide and 10" deep must encase the oval braces and extend past both end braces by a minimum of 4".**



## PANEL BRACE INSTALLATION

Special care must be taken to install all necessary braces as displayed on the specifications. The structural integrity of the pool is dependent upon the braces and concrete collar. The braces are a special three piece configuration designed specifically for this pool and may not be changed or substituted.

Picture showing attachment points for the three piece brace.

The panel holes are symmetrical, once the bottom brace is attached, the next two braces align to the proper panel holes.

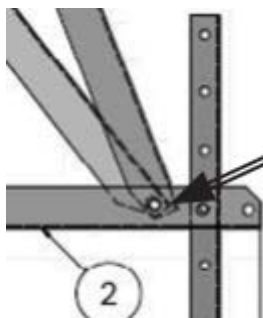
Note attachment points for the mid and long braces to the short brace.

### 1 - PANEL RIGIDIZING BARS

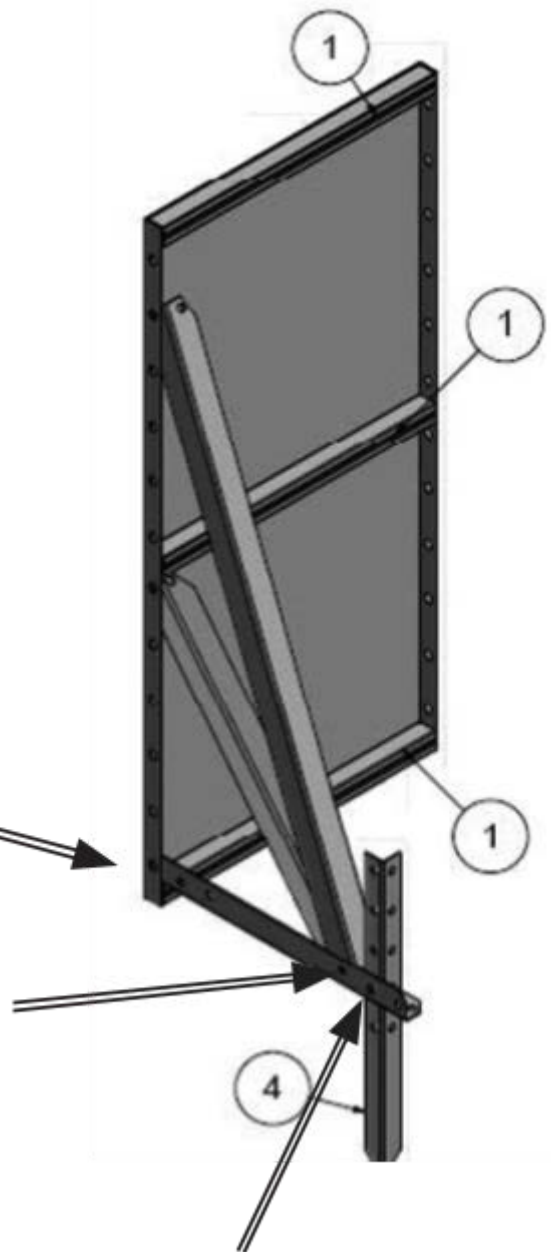
### 2 - SHORT (HORIZONTAL BRACE)

### 4 - DRIVE STAKE

The horizontal brace is attached to the first hole above the panel rigidizing bar.



The mid and long braces are attached to 3rd hole from the end of the horizontal brace.

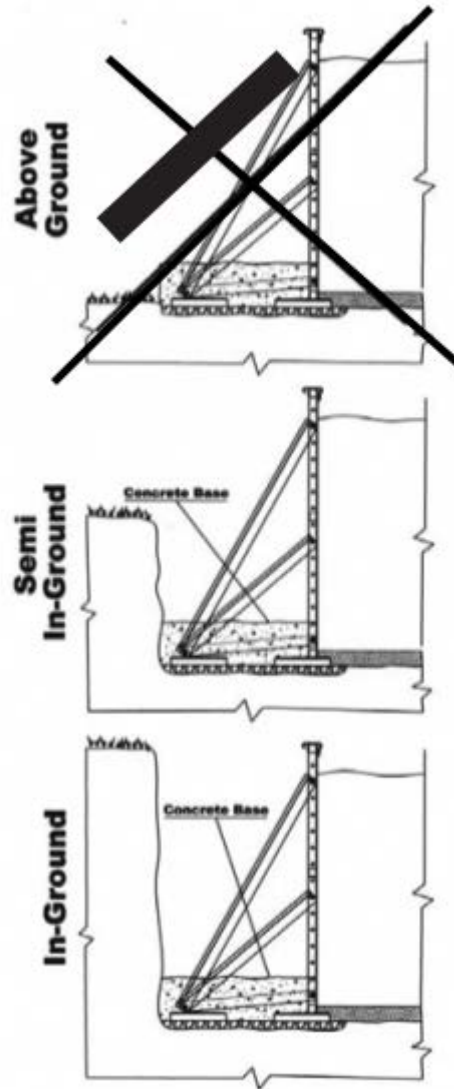


The drive stake is bolted to the brace through the aligning holes. The drive stake will stabilize the brace and panel and eliminate sliding. It is an important part of the structure.

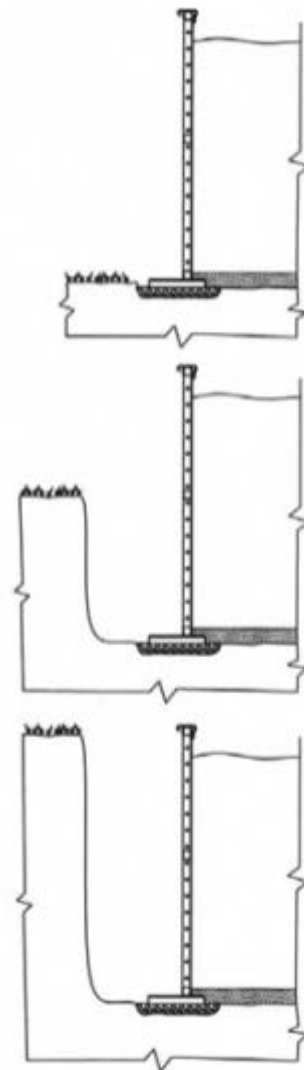


## INSTALLATION GUIDELINES:

### Ovals, Keys, and Kidneys



### Rounds



When installed as a Semi In-Ground, the ground elevation minimum is 14" from the base of the pool.

If installed more than halfway into the ground, there are no structural issues but in some areas it may be considered as an inground pool if installed lower and engineering may be required. Check with your local authorities.

*NOTE: If installing fully in ground, check with local codes for additional permit and engineering requirements. On ground pools normally do not require engineering wet stamps but that may change if pool is installed fully in the ground.*

## **CEMENTING THE WALLS: OVAL, KEY, AND KIDNEY WALLS AND STEPS**

If you are installing an Oval, Key, or Kidney pool, the walls and braces have to be anchored with cement in the way shown in the diagram below and on the dig print. It must be installed a minimum of 14" into the ground.

## **CEMENT PAD FOR BRACING**

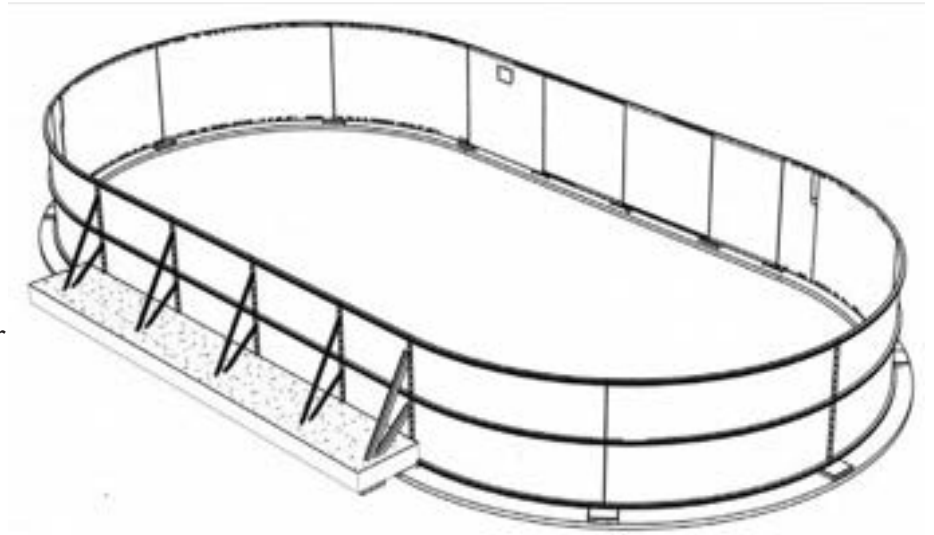
24" wide and 10" deep

Extend past both end braces by a minimum of four inches.

Rounds without steps do not require any concrete.

## **COMPRESSION STRAP INSTALLATION**

Four compression straps are provided for each panel joint. The strap is located above and below the horizontal bar on each side of the panel joint. The compression straps must be used at all panel joints. **NOTE:** Not using the compression straps will void the warranty and *could cause product failure.*



## TIPS

- All piping should be kept at a minimum length to increase circulation efficiency.
- The fittings are made for 1-1/2" piping, do not reduce diameters as it will effect system efficiency.
- Avoid placing the filter and pump too far above the pool water level.
- Keep piping away from sharp edges, braces, rocks, or concrete – any of which can puncture or kink the piping.
- When using thread sealant, use only sealant formulated for plastic piping, Teflon tape, or 100% Silicone. Place hose clamps directly over the barbed portion of the insert to eliminate leaks.
- All plumbing lines should be pressure tested prior to filling the pool and starting up the system.

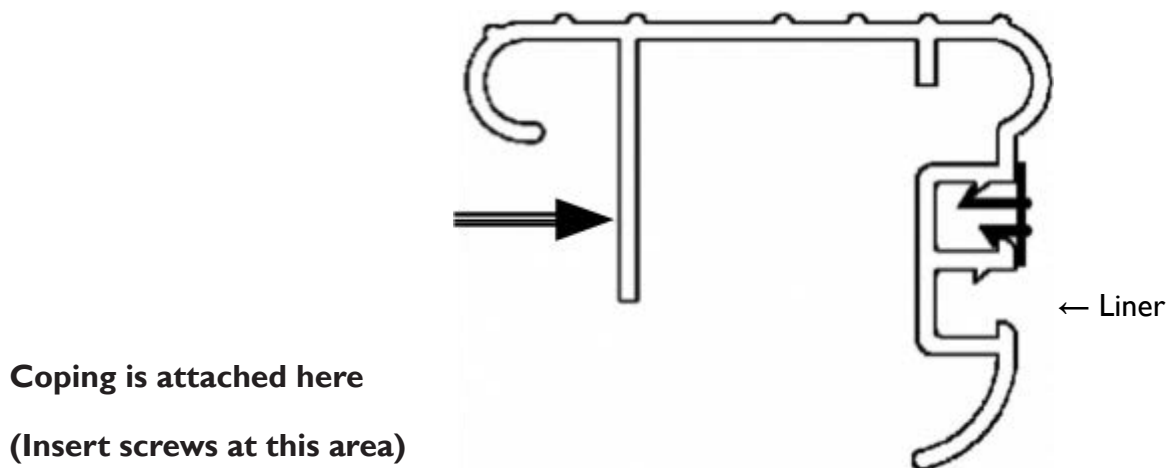
## COPING INSTALLATION:

The bar top coping usually comes in ten foot pieces and are pre-curved for oval and other shaped pools. Layout the coping to make sure all the pieces are there. With the supplied self tapping screws, attach each piece to the top of the wall. With a round pool, work your way around the pool and trim in the last piece when necessary.

With an oval pool, install the straight sides first, then the radius pieces. We recommend an electric or rechargeable drill and a magnetic bit holder for this job, and a hack saw to trim coping when necessary.

The coping comes with two liner retainer slots, the bottom track is for the liner and there is a snap in cover for the open track.

The coping is attached to the wall from the back. There is also an optional aluminum coping designed to be used with standard pressure treated wood/resin deck boards.



## BACKFILLING AROUND THE POOL

If the pool is installed partially or fully in the ground, it is recommended that the working area/over dig is back-filled using  $\frac{3}{4}$ " clean crushed rock and a drain pipe. The area should then be graded to allow water to drain away from the pool.

This will protect your pool from excessive frost action or settling that can be aggravated by standing water around the structure. It is also recommended that a drainage pipe is installed around the pool leading the end out to a low area to allow for water to drain out from around the structure.

The pool can be backfilled before or after the liner and water is added but we recommend that, with pools fully in the ground, it is done after the water is in the pool.

## **PARTIAL SKIMMER INSTALLATION (PRIOR TO LINER INSTALL)**

Each pool kit comes with one skimmer panel with the appropriate opening to accommodate a skimmer. Below are the steps to install the Hayward 1084 Skimmer on a Latham Rockwood Pool.

1. Locate the 4 flat head screws as pictured below.



2. Mount the Skimmer onto the skimmer panel using these 4 screws. Install the two shorter screws into the bottom holes of the skimmer. Ensure the faceplate of the skimmer clears the skimmer hole opening. This will keep your skimmer in place while you install the liner.



3. Pre-Install one of the cork skimmer gaskets using 100% Silicone to hold it in place while the liner is installed.



## RETURN FITTING INSTALLATION

Each pool kit comes with one return panel with the appropriate opening to accommodate return fittings. Please refer to manufacturers installation instructions included in each skimmer/return package. **Place the panel with the return as close to the skimmer panel as possible.**

Partially install the return jet as pictured below prior to installing the liner. Ensure the portion with the black gasket is on the inside of the pool and the nut is located on the outside of the pool. Tighten using oil filter pliers.



## INSTALLING THE LINER

Vinyl liners are best installed in warm weather. The liner is easier to handle and the packing wrinkles will disappear more readily. If the liner is to be installed in cool weather, store the liner indoors in a warm area for several days prior to installation. Do not directly heat the liner or liner box.

### STEP 1:

Double check the styrofoam foam pool bottom surface to make sure there are no sharp stones or objects that may damage the liner. Ensure all foam sheets are taped together using tuck tape.

Inspect the walls to ensure cement splatters or other objects are removed. The steel wall should be dry and clean.

### STEP 2:

Install foam cove to wall using self adhesive strips and tuck tape.

### **STEP 3:**

Tape all the wall panel joints with duct tape. Also tape the bottom of the coping where it meets the pool wall. This will provide a good seal to enable the vacuum to remove all the air and shape the liner better.

### **STEP 4:**

(Round Pools ONLY) - Install geotextile felt inside of the pool. (Under the foam) Ensure to keep the top side 100% clean. Cut any excess material around the perimeter. Geotextile carpets are not available for oval pools.

(All pools) - Install 1 inch low density styrofoam sheets on top of the felt. (Can be purchased from your local hardware store in an 8' x 4' sheet) Tape the seams of the foam together using tuck tape. Cut around the outside of the pool leaving a 1/2" gap between the foam and the wall.

(All pools) - Install triangle foam cove around the bottom of the pool. Use tuck tape to secure the cove to the wall and the styrofoam sheets on the floor so they do not move while installing the liner. Also add tuck tape to the vertical seam between each cove.

(All pools) Inspect the foam after installation for any sharp objects that could puncture the liner.

### **STEP 5:**

Place the liner box inside of the pool, open it, and remove the liner. **Do not use a knife to open the box**

### **STEP 6:**

Take two corners or sides with a round pool and walk the liner to drape over the pool bottom. This can be done with two people, but is much easier with four people. Hold onto the liner wall and position the liner to conform to the pool shape. Avoid dragging the liner along the pool bottom as much as possible to minimize disturbing the ground and damaging the liner.

Ensure the vertical liner seam is not located in front of the skimmer or return panel as you can not cut over a seam.

### **STEP 7:**

Starting with the seamed portion of the bead, insert the liner bead into the lower of the two tracks, working around the pool until all the bead is in the track. Any adjustments required to square the liner to the pool must be made now (only with ovals and shaped pools). Make sure the bead is firmly in the track.

If your liner fits a bit large, simply share the slack around the pool evenly. If your liner fits a bit tight, simply fill it slowly as mentioned below and allow it to stretch.

### **STEP 8:**

You will be using an industrial or shop vacuum to remove the air from between the liner and pool wall.

Take the hose from the vacuum and insert through the skimmer top and front so the hose end is approximately 18" from the pool wall top, between the liner and wall.



### **STEP 9:**

Using tape, seal around the vacuum hose and skimmer top, and also seal the openings in the circulation pipes if the filter is not installed.

### **STEP 10:**

Start the vacuum cleaner. The liner will start to draw against the pool wall as the air is being removed. The liner should conform to the pool shape and be smooth all over. If there are wrinkles or folds which will not come out, the liner may have to be shifted by pulling the bead out of the track and rotating the liner. This has to be repeated until the liner fits the pool with no wrinkles. **Take your time with this step!**

*NOTE: Do not add water or cut any fittings until you are satisfied with the fit. Water will not remove wrinkles or folds in the liner and once you have added water or cut any openings, the liner is not returnable.*

*Be careful with tools and walk only with stocking feet on the liner. Gently use your heel to pull the liner towards the wall and remove any wrinkles on the floor.*

## STEP 11:

Once the liner is in place and you are satisfied with the fit, carefully inspect the seam of the liner around the bottom of the pool for any delaminations prior to water being added. If there exists a defect in your liner, replacement of the water will not be covered under the liner's warranty.

Start filling the pool with water. *Turn the vacuum off after 6-8 inches of water have been added to the pool.*

## STEP 12:

Continue filling the pool until the water level gets near the bottom of the return fitting. Then, install the return fitting face flanges and the skimmer face plate and second cork skimmer gasket.



After installing the faceplates, using a sharp blade, cut the liner out from the inside of the faceplate.

### **STEP 13:**

Continue filling the pool until the water reaches the skimmer operational level. You are ready to start up the pool, balance the water chemistry and enjoy.

### **DETAILING:**

The pool exterior may be finished in different ways to make the appearance more pleasing.

1. The exterior may be painted. Because the wall is made with heavy galvanizing, consult with a paint supplier for recommended cleaning prior to paint application.
2. PVC vertical siding can be applied by using sheet metal or self tapping screws and attaching the siding to the horizontal bars. The coping has a set back that allows for the siding to fit under the back section and making for a neat finished top.
3. As an alternative to siding, wood can also be used. From cedar siding to tongue and groove boards or as simple as fence boards can all be attached to the horizontal bars in the same fashion as the siding.

Any of these exteriors will allow you to select the finish that you want for the pool design to match the rest of the property and enhance the appeal of the finished pool.

This pool will last a lifetime. It is made from the same durable materials as an inground pool. You can even disassemble and move the pool if needed.

Enjoy and remember –“**FEET FIRST**” – **Safety is a very important matter and safe use of your swimming pool is everyone’s responsibility.**



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