

INGROUND POOL CLOSING INSTRUCTIONS



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- 1 One week prior to closing, bring in a water sample so that your pool can be properly balanced for the winter. It is natural for sitting water to become acidic on its own, so balancing the water is very important. At this time you can also purchase a **Pool Closing Kit**, which includes the products discussed in steps 2 & 3.
- 2 3 days before winterizing the pool, add 1L of **Spring & Fall**. This product will help eliminate non-living organics that find their way through the cover before the water freezes. It will also help remove phosphates to aid in the prevention of algae growth.
- 3 2 days before winterizing, add **Stain & Scale** around the perimeter of the pool. Wait 1 hour and broadcast **Now** over the surface of the water. These products should circulate for at least 24 hours.
- 4 If you have a sand filter, the night before you close the pool, add Filter Cleaner to remove any grease and oil build up from the sand. [Click Here](#) for instructions on how to clean your sand filter. If you have a cartridge filter, you can chemically clean the cartridge once the pool is closed. [Click Here](#) for instructions on how to chemically clean your cartridge filter
- 5 Remove ladders, handrails, drop in steps, diving boards and disconnect slide hose(s). Apply a wax to the slide, but don't polish it off. Store any ladders or diving boards in a dry area like a shed, garage or basement.
- 6 Clean the pool water line using **Clean** and a soft cloth or soft bristle brush that is safe to use on the pool surface. It will be much easier to remove the stains or build up from the waterline before anything has a chance to adhere to the liner, tile or concrete over the winter.
- 7 Start draining the water from the pool. You can use a submersible pump or drain the water out the backwash line using your pool pump.
 - To drain using your pool pump, use your manual vacuum. The vacuum head will act as weight to keep the hose from floating to the surface. Prime the vacuum hose, remove the skimmer basket and attach your manual vacuum directly into the skimmer suction line. Set the filter handle to the drain/waste setting and position the vacuum head on its side, so it will not suction to the pool floor but will weigh the hose down.
 - Put a garden hose into the skimmer and turn it on. This will ensure a good seal around the vacuum hose, so your pump will not lose its prime when the water lowers below the skimmer opening. The water in the pool will drain from the bottom of the pool, through the vacuum hose and out the waste line.
- 8 No matter what method of draining you use, lower the water level just below the return jets. This is usually about 6" below the skimmer. DO NOT take the water level any lower as the liner will start to pull away from the pool wall. Some older pools have the return jets placed much lower than 6" below the skimmer. If this is the case, the water level must be brought down below the return jets until the lines are blown out and then brought back up to the appropriate winterizing level after the returns are plugged.

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- 9 Once water is lowered, turn off the garden hose. If there is a main drain line, install a Freeze protector or expandable plug in the hole while the pump is still running. If the main drain hole is threaded, use a freeze protector. If it is not threaded, use an expandable plug. Remember to use teflon tape on the threads of the freeze protector.
- 10 Remove the vac hose from the skimmer. In about 30 seconds, the pump will clear the water from the suction line and lose its prime.
- 11 The pump can now be shut off and the filter handle can be turned to the winterize position. If you don't have a winterize position, set the filter handle between 2 settings. This will keep the handle elevated and prevent the spring from seizing over the winter. Use a shop vac to blow or suck out any remaining water from the suction line.
- 12 Remove the eyeballs in all the return jets. Once all the jets have been removed, disconnect the return line at the last piece of equipment and place a shop vac or air compressor into the line. There will need to be a tight seal around the line to properly blow out the return jets. If there is no quick disconnect for the return line, use a shop vac to suction out the water from the front of each return jet.
- 13 Place sections of foam rope into the lines and plug the return lines with threaded plugs. Wrap the threads of each plug 8-10 times with teflon tape to create a proper seal.
- 14 Once the return lines are plugged, If you were able to disconnect the return line at that last piece of equipment, pour some antifreeze down the line before reconnecting it as added insurance against freezing.
- 15 Pour antifreeze down the suction hole in the skimmer. Plug the suction line with an expandable plug or freeze protector. Use the opposite to what is in the main drain hole. If the pool does not have a main drain hole, you must use a freeze protector in the suction line. Once both lines are plugged, pour a bit of antifreeze in the bottom of the skimmer for added protection.
- 16 Remove the drain plugs from all the equipment including the pump, filter, heater, and chlorinator. Remove the pressure gauge and site glass from the filter head. Unthread the pressure switch from inside your heater and shut off the gas.
- 17 If you have a salt chlorinator, remove the leads and wrap them in a plastic bag. Disconnect the salt cell unions and insert expandable plugs in the plumbing. Clean the cell using **Salt Cell Cleaner** and store it indoors for the winter.
- 18 Use silicone lubricant on any equipment o-rings and diving board bolts to preserve them over the winter. Put them in the skimmer or pump basket together with the equipment plugs for storage.

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- 19 Re-install the pump plugs and fill the pump pot with **Pool Antifreeze** to keep your pump seal lubricated over the winter. Pool grade antifreeze is non toxic and has extra additives that will help lubricate the lines and equipment. The pump can then be left outside or taken indoors for the winter. Even if the pump is taken inside, you should still use antifreeze in order to prevent cracks in the ceramic seal which will cause the pump to leak when it is reinstalled in the spring.
- 20 Remove your pool light and either place it on the deck in a plastic bag or sink it to the bottom of the pool with weights. **DO NOT** leave the light in the fixture.
- 21 If necessary, refill the pool so it is only 6" below the skimmer. Put the winter cover over the pool. If you are using a woven water bag cover, place the water bags on the cover end to end, overlapping at any corners and leaving no spaces for wind or other debris to get under the cover. Fill water bags $\frac{2}{3}$ with water to allow for freezing and expansion.
- 22 If you have a lock-in or water bag cover, add about 2" of water on the top.
- 23 Make sure the power is shut off to the pump, heater, salt chlorinator and pool light. Make sure that the gas is shut off to the heater and shut off the breaker(s) in the house.
- 24 Store all granular chemicals in a clean dry space ensuring that the lids are on tightly. Store all liquid chemicals inside a heated area so they do not freeze.

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