

# CLOSING YOUR ABOVE GROUND POOL



As summer comes to an end, all swimming pools must be prepared for the winter season. When closing your pool for the year, a number of precautions must be taken to ensure the clarity of the water and the safety of the pool and its equipment. Since all pools are different, it would be impossible to cover everything in this space. However, we can provide you with some helpful guidelines.

The first tasks are simple housekeeping chores. To properly close your pool for the season, it should be first skimmed, brushed and vacuumed. The cleaner your pool is at closing, the cleaner it should be in the spring!

Next, you'll need to add special winterizing chemicals to help ensure the water clarity during the coming months. Add these chemicals the night before you close your pool and let the filter run overnight to circulate them.

## MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED TO CLOSE YOUR SWIMMING POOL

- Shock (2 pkgs. per 10,000 gallons)
- Winter Chemical Kit
- Skimmer Plate
- Cable & Winch
- Ice Equalizer Pillows  
(quantity & size dependant on pool size)
- Appropriate Winter Cover
- String or Twine  
(to secure air pillows)
- Pool Cover Pump and Siphon
- Leaf Net or Leaf Rake

## CHLORINE / BROMINE POOLS

- Add double the normal dosage of Shock
- Add an appropriate size Winter Kit

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## STEPS TO WINTERIZE YOUR POOL

1. Add winterizing chemicals to the pool the night before closing it. Run the filter overnight to circulate. Backwash the filter thoroughly in the morning.
2. Close off the skimmer and return fittings. We recommend the use of a skimmer face plate to avoid having to lower the water level. Plug the return fitting. If the opening is threaded it usually takes a 1 1/2" plug . If it is not threaded, #9 or #10 rubber expansion plugs would be the most common sizes used.
3. Disconnect the filter system and remove all drain plugs from the pump and filter. If you have a sand filter you should empty the sand from the tank then take the filter system inside. If you have a D.E. Filter you should disassemble it, chemically clean the filter elements and rinse them off with a high pressure washer. Put the filter back together and bring it inside. We recommend always storing the filter inside for the winter season.
4. Install Ice Equalizer Air Pillow(s). This is an inflatable pillow designed to help absorb pressure from ice expansion and assist in preventing possible damage to the pool structure and wall. Pillows also allow the cover to funnel water to the sides of the pool, making it easier to remove the water periodically throughout the winter and in preparation for the spring pool opening. Pillows should be inflated half to three-quarters full, allowing room for expansion. They should then be positioned and anchored in the center of the pool. Gallon jugs full of sand, tied to the pillows with twine usually works best. PLEASE NOTE: If a pillow breaks it means there is TOO MUCH STRESS on the cover! If this should happen, pump the water off the cover immediately and replace the pillow with two or three smaller pillows. We recommend using more smaller pillows than fewer larger pillows, so that if you should lose one, the stress on the cover will be less, preventing a possible tear in your cover.
5. Pull the winter cover onto the pool. For round or oval pools you should start by folding the winter cover in half so that the top is on the inside. Then with one person at each side of the folded cover, pull it half way onto the pool. With the cover half on, gradually pull the folded portion of the cover into place allowing the cover to rest on the pool water.
6. Secure the cover with the cable or rope provided. Weave the cable through the grommets around the edge of the cover. Once you have the cable in place, pull it snug under the top rails. Attach it to the winch or turnbuckle and tighten. If you have a partial or full deck around the pool, you may need to use water tubes, as described in the in-ground section, to hold the cover securely in place. We do not recommend tying the cover to anything or weighing it down by hanging bottles or other objects from the grommets. These procedures usually damage the cover, and will void its warranty.
7. Your above ground pool should now be ready for winter. Remember, it is very important to pump or siphon any water off the cover as soon as possible when it rains or when the snow melts. Damage to the cover caused by excessive weight on top is not covered by warranty.

# CLOSING YOUR IN-GROUND POOL



As summer comes to an end, all swimming pools must be prepared for the winter season. When closing your pool for the year, a number of precautions must be taken to ensure the clarity of the water and the safety of the pool and its equipment. Since all pools are different, it would be impossible to cover everything in this space. However, we can provide you with some helpful guidelines.

The first tasks are simple housekeeping chores. To properly close your pool for the season, it should be first skimmed, brushed and vacuumed. The cleaner your pool is at closing, the cleaner it should be in the spring!

Next, you'll need to add special winterizing chemicals to help ensure the water clarity during the coming months. Add these chemicals the night before you close your pool and let the filter run overnight to circulate them.

## WATER TUBES

*The number of water tubes needed:*

POOL SIZE	WATER TUBES		
	8'	+	10'
12' x 24'	6	+	4
16' x 24'	2	+	8
16' x 32'	4	+	8
16' x 36'	--	+	12
18' x 36'	--	+	12
20' x 40'	12	+	4
20' x 45'	18	+	--
25' x 45'	12	+	6
25' x 50'	--	+	16
30' x 50'	14	+	6

## MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED TO CLOSE YOUR SWIMMING POOL

- Shock (2 pkgs. per 10,000 gallons)
- Winter Chemical Kit
- Non-toxic Antifreeze (for pools) (one gallon per 10' line of 1½" pipe)
- Gizmo
- Plugs (for return lines or deep suction)
- Appropriate Winter Cover
- Water Tubes (see chart)
- Pool Cover Pump and Siphon
- Leaf Net or Leaf Rake

## CHLORINE / BROMINE POOLS

- Add double the normal dosage of Shock
- Add an appropriate size Winter Kit

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## STEPS TO WINTERIZE YOUR POOL

1. Add winterizing chemicals to your pool water the night before you plan to close your pool. Let the filter circulate the chemicals overnight.
2. Backwash the filter thoroughly.
3. Lower the water level in the pool approximately 3 to 6 inches below the bottom of the skimmer. If you have a main drain, just shut off the valve(s) for the skimmer(s) and run the filter on backwash or waste. If you do not have a main drain, hook up your hand pool vacuum, putting the vac hose directly into the bottom of the skimmer, and run the filter with the valve on backwash or waste. As the pool water goes down, be sure to keep water in the skimmer with a garden hose. If neither of these options work, you can use a submersible pump.
4. Disconnect and drain your filter system. Remove all drain plugs from the pump and filter, chemical feeder and heater. If you have a D.E. Filter you should disassemble it, chemically clean the filter elements and rinse them off with a high pressure washer. Put the filter back together and bring it inside. We recommend storing the filter and pump inside for the winter season.
5. Blow out underground lines. Using the exhaust from a shop vac or similar device, blow water from the skimmer lines at the skimmer so that water comes out at the pump. Stop and restart the blower repeatedly until no more water comes out at the pump. Pour one gallon of Non-toxic Swimming Pool Antifreeze down the skimmer. Install gizmo in the skimmer. For 1½" pipe you will need one gallon of non-toxic swimming pool antifreeze for each 10 feet of underground line to and from the pool (including all skimmer lines, all returns, and the main drain). Next, blow out the other lines from the filter connections. If the opening in the pool is above water, just blow on and off until no more water comes out. If the line is below water, blow into it from the filter side for ten seconds or until a steady stream of bubbles is coming out. Install the plug while the blower is still running. Make sure the plug is tight enough so that no more air is getting out. Turn off the blower and add antifreeze. If you have a main drain, you need to winterize it as well. Pour one gallon non-toxic antifreeze into the line from the filter side. Close the valve. Check the filter system one more time to make sure it is totally drained.
6. Remove all ladders and handrails, and remove the anchor wedges from the sockets. Diving boards are usually far enough away that they do not interfere with the winter cover, so removal is optional, but recommended. Any sharp corners in the coping of your pool should be padded so that they will not rip your winter cover. Tears from sharp edges are not covered by pool cover warranties.
7. Pull the cover over the pool allowing it to sit on the water, taking care that the edges do not fall in. Adjust the position of the cover loosely. If you pull the cover taut, it will be pulled into the pool when rain and snow collect on it. There should be just enough of the cover out of the pool for the water tubes to sit on, with plenty of extra material in the pool.
8. To hold the cover in place, use water tubes. Never use rocks, blocks, or other solid objects for this purpose. They will damage your cover, and if they fall, will damage the surface of your pool. A cover torn by tying it down, or weighing it down with solid objects is not covered by warranty! Put water tubes around the perimeter of the pool. There should be no more than one foot between tubes, so that wind cannot get underneath the cover. Single tubes are adequate if your cover has loops to hold them in place. If not, double tubes are recommended, since they are less likely to roll. Water tubes should be filled to approximately half capacity, so that they will not burst when frozen.
9. Your pool should now be ready for winter. Remember, it is very important to pump or siphon any water off the cover as soon as possible when it rains or when the snow melts. Damage to the cover caused by excessive weight on top is not covered by warranty.