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How To Winterize Your Hot Tub

We personally feel there is nothing better than using a spa when it is 10 degrees below zero, in the middle of winter. However, if you need to leave your spa empty in the winter, here is how you do it. Remember, too, if this all seems too difficult for you, we can winterize your spa for you. Just call us to make an appointment.

Turn off the spa's main circuit breaker (main power) on your home's electrical panel. Open or remove the spa cover and take the filter cartridge(s) out of the canister. The filters should be left indoors during the winter.

The next step is to completely drain out the spa. This can be done by hooking a garden hose to the spa's bottom drain spout or by siphoning it out. You can also use a submersible pump, which is the fastest way. Run the hose down an incline to allow the water to continue siphoning. Your main objective for the entire winterizing process is to get as much water out of the spa as possible.

Open your equipment panel to access your heater and pumps. Loosen and remove the PVC couplers (nuts) on your heater housing and the one "face of pump" coupler (nut) on each and all of your pumps to allow drainage. Remove any bleed valves or drains pipes that may be on the equipment (smaller tubing.) This will prevent any equipment from freezing and cracking. Now, there will still be some water in your jet lines and air blower lines after you drain the spa, so use a "shop vac" to remove this excess water. With the shop vac, blow air into each jet for a few seconds (you will see water coming from jets in the bottom of the spa and water will blow out of your heater and pumps as well, which is perfectly fine.) Blow air down the hole(s) where your filters were as well. When you are done blowing with the shop vac, suck out any excess water in the seats and foot well with the shop vac. Remember this...you will not get ALL the water out of your spa, but as long as the majority of the water is removed from each water line, freezing will not cause damage, because you then need to add Non-Toxic Anti-Freeze to the spa (which is sold at our store.)

Add ½ - 1 gallon of Anti-Freeze down your filter hole(s). Add a cup of Anti-freeze in each pump. Add 1/4 cup or so of Anti-Freeze in each jet. To properly winterize, a typical 4-6 person hot tub will need 3-4 gallons of Non-Toxic Anti-Freeze to complete the job.

Place the cover back on your spa and close up your equipment panel. Covering the spa with a tarp will protect the cabinet and cover from the elements and we recommend doing this. It is ok to also put plywood across the tarp. Make sure you remove snow build-up from the cover during the winter.

Keep these instructions handy and repeat the process in reverse, for your next spa start-up.

If you have any questions at all, please call us!

