



Winterization of Your IN-Ground Pool (Chlorine Pools)

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 not only the clarity of the pool water, but the safety of the pool and its equipment as well. Since all pools are different it would be impossible to cover everything on this sheet, but we want to, at least, give you some helpful guidelines to assist you the best we can. Remember, if you have any questions, we are here for you! Call us or stop by for help!

The Items You'll Need:

- Chlorine Shock
- Winter Chemicals (more on this)
- Pool Anti-Freeze
- Shop Vac
- Gizmo
- Plugs for Return fittings/Jets
- Winter Cover
- Water Tubes
- Pump Protector
- Pool Cover Pump or Submersible Pump
- Non-Petroleum Lube (Magic or Jack's)

1) **The first things that should be done** are simple housekeeping chores. To properly close your pool for the season, it should be first skimmed, brushed and vacuumed and be as clear as possible. The cleaner you close your pool, the cleaner it'll be in the spring.

2) **Next, you'll need to add the proper chemicals** to help ensure the water clarity during the coming months. The best time to add these chemicals is the night before you close your pool and then let the filter run overnight to circulate them. "Backwash" your filter thoroughly in the morning before you move on to step 3.

The Proper Chemicals:

- Add 1 lb Granular Shock OR 1 gal. Liquid Shock per 5,000 gallons of pool water.
- Add an appropriate sized "Winter Chemical Kit" or the proper amount of Algaecide/Winterizer. (If adding our famous "Winter Pill," add this pill right before you put on your cover--read directions on the Winter Pill.)

3) **Lower the water level** in the pool approximately 3 - 6 inches below the skimmer(s). If you have a main drain (at the bottom,) a good trick to drain the pool is to shut off the valve(s) for the skimmer(s) and run the filter on "Backwash" or "Waste." If you don't have a main drain, using a submersible pump is the fastest and easiest way.

4) **Disconnect the filter system** and remove all drain plugs from the pump and filter. If you have a Sand Filter, drain all water completely, remove filter's valve and bring it inside and then tarp the filter body so rain or snow does not sit right on the filter or get inside the filter. If you have a DE or Cartridge Filter, remove element and rinse with water. Bring complete filter inside with the element. "Chemically Clean" the element in spring. Use pump protector on your pump. The spray pump protector works best and is easy to use. After pump protector, bring pump inside. You then want to use a non-petroleum lube on all the filter's and Pump's o-rings to prevent them from drying out.

These Directions Are Continued On The Back

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5) Blow out underground Skimmer and Main Drain lines. Using the exhaust from a shop vac or similar device, blow water from the skimmer line(s) at the skimmer(s) so that water comes out at the pipe that connects to the pump. Stop and restart the blower repeatedly until no more water comes out the pipe. Pour one gallon of non-toxic pool anti-freeze down each skimmer. Install a Gizzmo in each skimmer.

If you have a wall suction, you'll see bubbles coming from it while blowing into pipe for skimmer(s.) If this is the case, follow directions like described in "Blowing out Return lines" section.

If you have a main drain, you'll see bubbles coming from there as well. If this is the case, do this after all the above. Pour one extra gallon of anti-freeze down pipe and then close the main drain vale (if you have a question on this, please call us!)

6) Blow out underground Return lines and the Heater. The return lines will most likely be under the water and in order to blow these lines out correctly, you'll need 2 people. With the shop vac, blow into the pipe(s) coming out of the ground that were connected to your filter, chemical feeder or heater. Blow into the lines for at least ten seconds or until a steady stream of bubbles is coming out from the returns. Install the 1.5" threaded winter plugs while the blower is still running and as the bubbles are still coming from the returns. Make sure the plugs have good o-rings and get quite tight so that no more air is getting out. After all plugs are installed, turn off blower and add 1/2 - 3/4 gallon of anti-freeze for each return down pipe(s) you blew into. After adding for each return, blow into the pipe with shop vac for 3 - 4 seconds and then repeat.

7) 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 (such as the couplings for handrails or ladders) should be padded so that they will not rip winter cover. Tears from sharp edges are not covered by warranties.

8) Putting on your Winter Cover (using water tubes.) Pull the cover over the pool, allowing it to sit on the water, taking care that the edges don't fall in. Adjust the position of the cover loosely. If you pull the cover too taut, it will be pulled into the pool when rain or snow collects 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.

-If you have a winter "Safety Cover," you do not have to use water tubes. Follow the directions that came with the cover for correct installation. If you don't have the directions, please call us and we can go over how easy putting on a Safety Cover can be!

9) To hold the cover in place, use water tubes. Never use rocks, blocks or bricks or other solid objects for this purpose. They will damage your cover and if they fall in the pool, they will damage the surface of your pool. Tying the cover down at the grommets is recommended as a supplement to water tubes, never a replacement for water tubes. 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 to two feet between tubes, so that wind cannot get underneath the cover. Single tubes are adequate if your cover has loops to hold them in place, but double tubes are the best for all covers, since they roll less than the single tubes. Water tubes should be filled to approximately half capacity, so 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 snow melts. You also want to get as much snow off as you can. You should do this regularly.

-If you have a mesh Safety Cover, when the ice first melts in spring, it is recommended to add "Super Algae Bomb 60" under the cover and stir with skimmer and pole. This will help prevent any algae growth.

**If you have any questions or concerns, we are open all winter,
so call us or stop by at anytime! Have a great winter!**