

# HOW TO CLOSE YOUR ABOVE GROUND POOL AT THE END OF THE SEASON

Closing an above ground pool at seasons end should be a fast and worry-free process - learn how by reviewing the detailed instructions below.



Closing a saltwater swimming pool at season's end should be an easy and worry-free process. Our pool specialists at The Pool Factory™ have put together the following tutorial to ensure proper pre-maintenance and closing of your investment at the end of the season.

## Recommended Pool Closing Supplies



Winterizing Chemical Kit



Skimmer Winterizing Plate



Winter Cover



Air Pillow  
(Ice Compensator)



Threaded Winterizing  
Plug for Standard Return



Filter System Winter Cover



Cover Pump

## Step 1

Gather Supplies - Before you start, make sure you have all necessary supplies on hand:

- Winter Cover
- Winterizing Chemical Kit
- Skimmer Winterizing Plate
- Threaded Winterizing Plug for Return
- Air Pillow

## Step 2

Clean the pool:

- Brush and Vacuum: Thoroughly brush the walls and floor of the pool to remove any dirt, algae, or debris. Vacuum the pool to ensure it's clean.
- Remove Debris: Skim the surface to remove leaves, bugs, and other floating debris.

## Step 3

Balance the Water Chemistry:

- Test the Water: Use a pool water testing kit to check the chemical levels (pH, alkalinity, and chlorine).
- Adjust pH and Alkalinity: Ensure the pH is between 7.4 and 7.6, and the total alkalinity is between 80 and 120 ppm. Adjust if necessary.

## Step 4

Add Winterizing Chemical Kit and clean your filter system:

- Add Dry Granular Winterizer, follow directions for use and precautionary statements on label.

- Add Sequestering Compound, follow directions for use and precautionary statements on label.
- Add Winter Oxy Plus, follow directions for use and precautionary statements on container.
- You will wait approximately 1 hour between adding each chemical. Once you add the last chemical, you should run your filter system for another 3-4 hours to circulate the treated water before moving on to the next step.
- Clean the Filter System: Backwash the filter (Sand filter or D.E. filter) or clean the cartridge (Cartridge filter).

## Step 5

Close off thru-wall skimmer and return fitting:

- Install Skimmer Winterizing Plate.
- Install Threaded Winterizing Plug for Standard Return

## Step 6

Clean and Store Equipment:

- Remove any debris from the skimmer and pump baskets.
- Disconnect the filter system and remove all of the drain plugs in the filter tank and pump. This will allow the filter system to completely drain out any water and dry before storing indoors over the winter time. You also have the option to use an Aquapro Filter System Winter Cover to protect the filter system from the fall and winter elements if left outside.
- Take out all pool accessories like ladders, lights, and solar covers. Clean them thoroughly and store them in a dry place.

## Step 7

Install the Air Pillow:

- Inflate the Air Pillow: Inflate the air pillow to about 60-70% of its capacity. The air pillow helps to absorb ice expansion and protect the pool walls.
- Place the Air Pillow: Place the air pillow in the center of the pool and secure it with ropes or tethers.



## Step 8

Cover the Pool:

- Install the Winter Pool Cover: Spread the pool cover over the pool, making sure it covers the entire pool and air pillow. Drape the winter cover over the air pillow so it lays on the surface of the water all around the pillow.
- Secure the Cover: Use the cable and winch to secure the cover tightly around the pool. Ensure there are no gaps or loose areas where debris can enter.
- Add 1-2 inches of water on the cover to prevent wind damage.



# Tips for a Successful Pool Closing

- Perform regular checks: Throughout the winter, periodically check the pool cover and remove any debris or water that accumulates on top.
- Avoid heavy weight on the cover: Ensure the cover is not weighed down by heavy snow or ice, as this can damage the cover and pool.
- Winter Cover Pumps are strongly recommended to keep excess water from building up on your cover. Excess water on your cover means excess stress and a torn cover or damaged pool.

By following these steps, you can help ensure your above ground pool remains in good condition throughout the off-season and is ready for use when the warm weather returns.

## Additional Tips



Blow out excess water in the pool heater using an air compressor or shop vac and plug inlet and outlet lines of heater.



As water, ice and snow build up on your winter pool cover during the winter, always drain the cover when possible using a winter cover pump.



Too much water on the winter pool cover can destroy your pool if not drained off. The weight of the water pulls the cover into the pool. The cable, which holds the cover in place, will then pull the top ledges, the skimmer and the return up. This will damage the above ground pool beyond repair. Your pool warranty does not cover winter damage.



Excess water on the cover can also tear your liner. The weight of the water will cause more movement in the ice below, which can rip your liner. Never attempt to break ice on your pool winter cover or in your above ground pool. This will tear your liner. Wait for the ice on your cover to melt and then pump it off. Ice below the cover should be left alone. Let it melt on its own. Never let anyone step on the ice, cover or on the pool. This will damage your pool.