

ABOVE GROUND

WINTERIZING GUIDE

Winterizing your Above Ground Pool

At the end of the swimming season, you must follow these directions to make your pool ready for the Winter.

Step 1) Prior to Winterizing

Several days prior to closing your pool, test the water for the pH level, total alkalinity, and chlorine. The water balance is important to protect the pool from corrosion or scale build-up during Winter shut down.

Step 2) Perform a Complete Inspection

a) Finding Leaks

Caution: Make sure the pool is not leaking before covering. Serious structural damage can occur if leaks go undetected through Winter shut down from ice movement. Maintain a strict leak inspection during the fall, Winter and Spring months.

To determine if the pool is leaking, mark the liner at the water level with a non-permanent marking device such as tape or a wax pencil and observe the water level in the pool for 10 to 14 days after the pool has been closed for the season.

b) Check the Liner

Make sure the top of the liner is still attached to the pool wall. Make sure there are no leaks. Repair any liner holes with a vinyl patch: any small punctures in the liner can be easily repaired with underwater repair kits available from your pool dealer. Do not remove the liner from the pool, as removal of the liner will void the existing warranty.

c) Check all Joints and Screws

Make sure all the frame joints are fitting together properly and make sure the pool wall has not shifted from the bottom rail. Ensure all screws and bolts are tight.

ABOVE GROUND

WINTERIZING GUIDE

d) Check for Rust

Periodically inspect the metal parts for any corrosion – especially around the skimmer area. If corrosion is found, immediate corrective action must be taken. Wire brush any rust and add a coat of enamel primer followed by a coat of color matching anti-rust enamel paint. Pool structure failure could result in major property damage and bodily harm. Paint any scratches with anti-rust paint.

Step 3) Add Closing Chemicals

Add your pool closing chemical kit and allow chemicals to circulate.

Step 4) Lower the Water Level

- a) Lower the water level in your pool until it is about 6" (15 cm) below the skimmer opening. In areas where temperatures reach -30 to -40 degrees, lower the water level until it is about 18" (46 cm) deep but no more than 24" (61 cm) deep when freezing begins. **Do not drain all the water from the pool.**
- b) The water level must be maintained at least 3" (76 mm) below the skimmer opening throughout the winter. Surplus water must be removed by pumping, draining or siphoning, so that it doesn't enter the skimmer during the Winter.

Or

- c) Ensure skimmer drain is left open and unobstructed so water can freely flow out. **DO NOT PLUG THE SKIMMER.** Remove all hoses attached to the skimmer and return fittings. Do not let water freeze in the skimmer. Leave the skimmer attached to the pool wall and ensure that the skimmer lid is installed.

Step 5) Filter Preparation

Disconnect the hoses from the filter. Follow the winterizing instructions in your filter manual.



ABOVE GROUND WINTERIZING GUIDE

Step 6) Install Your Winter Cover

Now you can cover your above ground pool with a Winter pool cover. It should be in a state of good repair to do the best possible job of protecting your pool through the Winter months. Feed the cable through each grommet hole in the cover and secure tightly using the winch to prevent the edges of the cover from being caught by blowing wind. If you are installing an Eliminator Winter Cover, follow the instructions included with the product, as installation of these types of covers will vary.

For more information and other winterizing products for your Above Ground Pool, be sure to visit the Winter Supplies page on our website, at www.PoolSuppliesCanada.ca