

Winterizing Your Inground Pool

When the autumn weather descends, it is time to close your inground pool for the Winter. You will want to time your close well enough ahead of the frost to ensure the safe keeping of your equipment and water lines.

The method of winterizing described in this guide allows your Winter pool cover to do its job and protect your liner over the Winter, and the use of a Gizzmo will allow for expansion within the skimmer without causing damage to the system.

Step 1) Get Organized

You will want to have yourself organized with all of the necessary tools and equipment to properly close your pool. This will include your Winter cover, water bags and Winter chemicals (which include: non chlorine shock, algaecide and stain and scale remover). You will want to have your return jet plugs and, if using a Gizzmo in your skimmer, inspect it for holes or cracks. If you find any, do not use the Gizzmo. You will also require a shop vac that is powerful enough to blow out the lines once they are disconnected.

Step 2) Prepare Your Pool

Begin by removing all ropes, floats and toys and letting them dry completely. Rinse and dry your solar blanket and allow it to dry thoroughly before putting it away for the Winter.

Backwash the filter well, ensuring it is completely cleaned out. Unplug your sand filters drain plug and leave it open, making certain that the multi-port valve is completely drained. If you own a cartridge filter unit, disconnect it from your lines, clean the cartridge out and make sure all of the water is out of it.

The next thing you will disconnect will be the pump. Pull out the drain plug and completely empty it, until absolutely no water is left in it. Leave the pump drain plug out and store it in the basket for the Spring.

You will then drain your heater, ensuring the water is completely out of the unit and lines. Pull out all drain plugs and use the shop vac to blow out

the lines if necessary. Leave the drain plugs out, but store them where they will be readily accessible for spring hook up.

Focus on complete removal of water in all areas in your equipment or lines to prevent any winter freezing damage from occurring; this includes all fittings and unions.

Step 3) Drain and Blow Out Your Lines

Using the shop vac or an air compressor, you can blow out all of the water in the return jets by connecting it to the return lines at the filter system, or you can screw the compressor fitting into the drain plug of the pump, which can be a very efficient way of blowing out the system entirely. This should be done until you see air bubbles coming from the return jets. Then plug the jet, ensuring the plug is installed very tightly.

It is not advisable to drain your skimmer and simply plug it over the Winter, as there is no room for water expansion to occur. Blow out the skimmer from the suction side and screw in the Gizzmo once you see bubbles appear. If you wrap the Gizzmo threads in Teflon tape prior to installation, you will get a more dependable seal. Some pool owners prefer to use a rubber plug to seal their skimmer, which works as long as something like a plastic pop bottle is used, to allow for water expansion.

Create an air lock to the main drain by blowing out the main drain line until bubbles appear from the drain, at which time you can plug the line by closing the gate valve.

Finally, it is important to drain all the lines and unplug all water features such as slides, boards and waterfalls. Make certain all of the lines leading to these features are properly blown out. Uninstall any items that are removable, and store in a dry space for the season. Keep all of the hardware readily accessible for the Spring. Store all other removable equipment away in a dry place such as a shed or pool house.

Cover all exposed pipes with something such as duct tape to prevent anything from getting into them once they have been cleaned out.



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If you have a pool with ceramic tile along the water line, it is advisable to lower the water levels below the skimmer and then blow out all of the lines and equipment, etc.

Step 4) Add Your Closing Chemicals

Add your winter closing chemicals, making sure that any granular varieties are well dissolved. Test the water alkalinity and chlorine levels.

Step 5) Install Your Pool Cover

Now you can cover your pool with the 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. Place your water bags along the edge of the cover, and tuck them into the corner pockets for best anchoring. Tubes should be end to end all the way around the pool for best performance, but a few inches between will also do the trick. Don't overfill water bags, as when the water inside of them freezes, the bags will expand which could cause them to burst.

Step 6) Store Your Equipment

Finally, store any remaining pool equipment and accessories in a clean dry place to ensure its safe keeping for the next swim season.

You're done - you have officially finished closing your pool. The countdown to Spring begins!

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