



CLOSING AN INGROUND POOL

It is important to winterize and close your inground pool ahead of the frost to ensure your equipment and water lines do not freeze. But is also important that you don't close your pool too early. If you wait until the water temperature is below 60 degrees before you close your pool, you will have less algae growth in your pool during the winter months.

The following closing guide is applicable to inground pools that are sanitized using chlorine or salt water.

Step 1 – Organize your Equipment

Before you close your pool for the winter, make sure your equipment is in good shape and you have everything needed to properly close your pool. It is a good idea to look at the following components:

- [Winter Cover](#) – Inspect your cover for rips and tears. If you find small rips or tears, they can be repaired by using a vinyl pool patch (vinyl covers) or pool cover patch tape (lightweight covers)
- [Water Bags](#) – Check your water bags for leaks or tears. Make sure you have enough water bags to cover the entire perimeter of your pool
- [Skimmer Plugs](#) – Check your skimmer plugs for holes or cracks.
- [Return Jet Plugs](#) – Check your return jet plugs for holes or cracks. It is also a good idea to replace the gaskets on these plugs every few seasons.
- [Winter Chemicals](#) – Be sure to have the proper chemicals needed for closing and the correct amounts based on your pool size.
- [Air Compressor/Shop Vac](#) – An air compressor or shop vac will be needed to clean out the lines.

[Purchase one of our pool closing kits and get all of your winter chemicals in one box!](#)

Step 2 – Prepare the Pool

- Remove any floatation devices, toys, ropes, and any other pool accessories. Clean, dry, and store them for the winter.
- Remove diving board (if applicable)
- If you have a waterfall or water slide, drain and blow out the lines.
- Drain your pools water level just below the return lines.

Step 3 – Prepare your Pump & Filter

- Disconnect your pump & filter. Once the pump is disconnected, pull the drain plug to completely drain all water.
- Clean your filter and drain the tank. It is a good idea to leave the backwash valve open during the winter.
 - **For Sand Filters:** Be sure that the multi-port valve is completely drained. If necessary, blow the multi-port valve out with a shop vac or air compressor. Unplug the drain plug and leave it open.



- **For Cartridge Filters:** Disconnect the cartridge filter from all lines. Clean the cartridge and remove all water from the filter tank.
- Remove jet fittings
- Store your pool pump & filter in a dry place for the winter.

Step 4 – Prepare your Pool Heater (if applicable)

- If you have a pool heater, it is important to completely drain it. Once drained, blow out the lines with a shop vac or air compressor.
- Check the owner's manual for your heater to see if it necessary to remove the heater tray.

Step 5 – Blow Out, Drain, & Plug your Lines

- Use a shop vac or air compressor to blow out the water from your plumbing lines.
 - Hook the shop vac or air compressor to your filter's return lines. You can also screw the compressor fitting into the pump's drain plug
 - Keep air blowing until you can see air bubbles coming from the pool's return jets. Plug the return when you begin to see bubbles. It is important that you plug the jets tightly.
- Make sure you drain water from each line and be sure to plug each line once it is empty. Threaded plugs work best. Plugs with rubber o-rings will help to form a better seal so water does not enter the lines during the winter. If the fittings in your pool are not threaded, you will have to use expandable rubber drain plugs.
- If you have a main drain line, you can create an air lock by blowing out the line until bubbles appear from the drain. Now you can plug the line by closing the valve.

Step 6 – Plug the Skimmer

When it comes to plugging the skimmer on your inground pool, you have a few options:

- **Gizzmo** – This allows for ice expansion without damaging the skimmer system. A Gizzmo is a hollow tube that will collapse if water gets into the skimmer and freezes. It is a good idea to use teflon tape on the threads of the Gizzmo before installing it into the skimmer.
- **Skimmer Plate** – A skimmer plate is a plastic plate that will prevent water from entering your skimmer. When using a skimmer plate, you can avoid draining the water below the skimmer for the winter. Skimmer plates are only recommended for pools with vinyl liners.

Step 7 – Balance your Chemicals

In both chlorine and salt water pools, it is very important to properly balance your chemicals before closing for the winter. Balancing your pH, Alkalinity, and Calcium Hardness will avoid your pool liner from staining.

A [Closing Chemical Kit](#) will have everything you need to keep your water clean over the winter. Make sure any granular chemicals are fully dissolved before closing. Always follow the instructions in your closing chemical kit.

DO NOT use a floating dispenser for chlorine or bromine. If the dispenser gets stuck against the wall, the chemicals inside will stain the wall of your pool or liner. Never throw chlorine or bromine tables



directly into the pool. If they sink to the bottom and do not fully dissolve, they will stain your pools liner.

Step 8 – Install your Pool Cover

It is much easier to keep your pool clear of winter debris if you have [a cover](#) that is properly installed and in good condition. A winter cover with holes in it will allow debris and dirty water to leak through, making for much more clean-up time when you open your pool in the spring.

Installing a Winter Pool Cover

Lay the [cover](#) evenly over the pool. Place and fill [water bags](#) along the edge of the cover, surrounding the perimeter of the pool. Tuck the water bags into the cover's corner pockets for a better anchor. Only fill your water bags $\frac{3}{4}$ full, when they freeze, they will expand. If the water bags are too full they could burst.

Installing a Safety Cover

Before installing your safety cover, inspect all anchors, especially if you have anchors on your pool deck. All anchors should be in good shape and remain flush to the surface they are mounted onto.

Snap the safety cover into the anchors, following the manufacturer's instructions. Removing debris such as leaves and sticks during the winter months will make your spring pool opening much easier.

Once your cover is in place, store any remaining pool accessories, equipment, and toys in a dry place for the winter.