

Inground Pool Care

How to Winterize & Close an Inground Pool

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The Pool Company



CLOSING VS. WINTERIZING A POOL

Closing your pool refers to putting the cover on. You can close your pool for a night or for the entire winter season. Winterization is the process of closing your pool for the winter and is vital to keep everyone and everything safe. You generally winterize a pool when it won't be used for several months.

How to Winterize Your Pool in Cold Climates

(Temperatures drop between 25 and 50 degrees)

- 1. Adjust Pool pH:** Adjust **pool pH** to 7.2-7.8. This will prevent staining, **scaling** and algae growth.
- 2. Shock the Pool:** **Shock the pool** following product directions.
- 3. Run the Filter:** Run the filter for 24-48 hours depending on how dirty the water is.
- 4. Vacuum the Pool:** Skim out floating debris and vacuum the pool thoroughly.
- 5. Add an Algaecide:** Add an algaecide to prevent algae from forming before the water has frozen.
- 6. Lower Water Level:** Follow your pool manufacturer's directions for lowering your water level approximately 1" beneath the skimmer.

7. **Drain Equipment:** Turn off the filter pump and drain the pump, filter, heater, and other equipment. Store equipment to prevent damage. Follow manufacturer's directions for lubrication and proper covering.

8. **Turn off Power:** Turn off all power to the support equipment and remove fuses or turn the circuit breakers to off.

9. **Remove Accessories: Remove and store accessories.** If you have a slide or diving board, check with your pool professional.

10. **Cover the Pool:** Cover the pool securely with a **seasonal safety cover**. Be sure that the edge of the cover is sealed so that wind does not get under it. A good pool cover resists water, weather, and pool chemicals and keeps out leaves and other debris.



CAN I LEAVE MY POOL UNCOVERED IN THE WINTER?

We strongly advise against leaving a pool uncovered in the winter. If your pool will not be in use for a prolonged period of time, cover it for safety reasons. This will also help to prevent algae growth, keep debris out of the pool and maintain the water chemistry.

How to Winterize Your Pool in Mild Climates

- 1. Check Your Freeze Protection:** Make sure to check your freeze protection. It can often be a manual dial or built into your pool pump or pool automation. As the temperature begins to drop, ensuring your freeze protection is working will prevent any cracked or damaged equipment.
- 2. Cut Filter Run Time:** Cut your filter running time in half and reduce the amount of run time on the pump. If possible, set the run time to be during the evening when it is coldest so that when your freeze protection activates, it is also counting toward the amount of time needed to filter the pool. This results in a little cost savings that can add up if done properly.
- 3. Adjust pH and Chlorine:** Keep pool pH between 7.2-7.8 and test regularly to keep free available chlorine between 1.0 and 3.0 parts per million.
- 4. Winterize Pool Equipment:** Follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper care and maintenance of your pool equipment even during this time of reduced use. Consider winterizing additional pool features you may have such as slides and other accessories to prevent any damage.

5. **Maintain Your Pool:** Unless you cover your pool, clean the skimmer weekly, maintain the filter according to the manufacturer's instructions, and vacuum as needed.

6. **Cover the Pool:** **Covering your pool** will keep out debris and reduce the need for chlorine. Before covering it, shock treat the water according to the chemical manufacturer's directions.

Professionals Are Here to Help

If any of these pool maintenance tasks seem a little too daunting, it is never a bad idea to call your trusted independent builder to provide these services for you.

[Speak to a Builder](#)