

Pool Closing

Guide* - In Ground



Materials

2-3 Winter Plugs
1 Skimmer Plug (Gizzmo/Suction Line Blow Out)
1-2 Gallon(s) Anti-Freeze
Winter Closing Kit
Winter Cover
Water Bags 8' (for solid Covers - Not needed for safety Covers)
Balancing Chemicals (Pool Water should be clean and balanced before closing.)

Preparation

1. Balance Pool Water and Clean Pool.
2. Begin the process by adding all closing chemicals to the water per the enclosed instructions and allowing the chemicals to circulate for at least 2 hours.
3. Backwash the filter system one last time.
4. Lower the water level to a point that is 1 Inch below the skimmer face plate.
5. After the water has been lowered remove deck hardware. This includes ladders, hand rails, diving boards and safety lines.
6. Next Remove the skimmer basket(s), Directionals('eyeballs', these usually have three parts). The light can typically stay in the pool.

Pump and Filter

7. Shut off the electric for the pump at your breaker box
8. Disconnect the Pump and Drain the housing by turning the pump upside down.
9. Store the pump in a place that will not freeze such as your basement.
10. Sand filter - Turn the handle to the Winter or Open position the valve on top of the tank. This allows the water to drain from the tank. Drain the filter tank by removing the plug at the bottom of the tank.(allowing the tank to drain is very important. If you do not get all the water out it will freeze and crack) Also remove the pressure gauge and site glass. (Put the tank plug, site glass and pressure gauge in a safe place as we will want to leave them off all winter). Place a large garbage bag or tarp over the tank and secure it for the winter weather.
11. Earth Filter - Open the Valve or Remove the plug at the bottom of the tank to allow the water to drain out. Earth Filter should be chemically cleaned before storing for the winter. This typically involves disassembling the tank in order to degrease and possibly acid wash the fingers or Grids. After the filter has been cleaned place it with the pump in the basement.

Plumbing

12. Suction Side - Thread the Gizmo/Suction Line Blow Out in the skimmer and remove the cap from the top. Turn your suction port valve to the skimmer side and connect blower side off your shop vacuum into the valve. Turn the vacuum on and hold it tight into the valve. Blowing air through the line should push the water out and you should see it bubbling out the Gizmo in the skimmer. Hold the vacuum in place until all the water is out. Then pour 1 gallon of Anti-Freeze into the Gizmo top and replace the cap and skimmer cover plate. Also the empty Anti-Freeze bottle with the cap on can be placed in through the front of the skimmer to displace water. Turn the valve to closed.

13. Return Side - (This part usually requires two people.) Connect the shop vacuum blower hose to the return port valve. Turn the vacuum on and blow air through the line until bubbles began to come out the return in the pool. Have the other person thread one of the plugs into each of the return(s). Continue to run the vacuum the entire time. Stopping will allow water to go back into the line. Note: you may have to adjust the valve during this process to get the air into all lines. Use a hose to pour Anti-Freeze into the return lines. The hose between the pump and filter usually works well. Turn the valve to closed.

Cover (The cover placement is also a two person job.)

14. Solid Cover - Place your empty water bags around the pool. Then use your garden hose to fill the bags about 1/2 to 2/3 full. (Filling the bags all the way will cause them to split when they freeze.) Next stretch the cover out over the pool and place the bags on the edge of the cover all the way around. (You should have enough bags to cover the entire perimeter of the pool (Windy Areas may require additional bags). You should not leave Gaps between them.) Use the loops attached to the cover to help secure the water bags.
15. Safety Cover - Adjust Anchors around the pool into the up position. Optional! Place an inflated Air Tube or Pillow under the center of the cover to reduce sagging & leaf accumulation. Stretch the cover out over the pool and begin to loop the spring brackets onto the Anchors. Use the Long bar tool provided with your cover to pry the remaining brackets onto the anchors. Adjust the buckles at each strap to make the cover tight. The straps should be tight, but the springs should not be fully compressed.
16. That's it. You have completed your pool closing.

*This Guide is not meant to take the place of any manufacturer requirements or suggestions. No results are implied or guaranteed and we hold no liability.