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Aboveground Pool Winterizing Instructions

The swimming season is coming to a close so it's time to think about closing your pool for the winter. Closing an aboveground pool is easy to do, but it's very important that it's done right! Properly closing your pool will increase its life expectancy as well as making the opening easier. Follow the steps listed below:

1.) Maintenance - The very first thing that you should do is thoroughly vacuum the pool. A good cleaning eliminates possible staining from leaves and debris as well as keeping your winter chemicals strong to fight other contaminants. This is also a good time to clean the waterline on your liner using Baquacil Surface Cleaner or Sparco SC-4000. Lastly, inspect your pool very closely for any leaks as even a small leak over the winter could be disastrous. Water is necessary to support your pool. Without it, the pool could collapse!

2.) Chemical Treatment - Prior to closing your pool you should take the time to check your water chemistry carefully. The water balance of a pool is frequently poor after a hot summer with heavy use. We suggest that you bring a water sample to the store before adding any winter chemicals. This service is **free** and will help keep your water and liner in good condition! After balancing your water you are ready to add your winter chemicals.

A. Simple Blue Users:

- The day before closing add a double dose of Simple Blue Pool Manager (Pre-dissolve)
- Wait 1 Hour and add 1 bottle of Simple Blue Winter Aid pre-dissolving in pail of pool water
- The next day after draining, add Liquid Shock at a rate of 1 gallon per 10,000 gallons

B. Simple Salt Users:

- The day before closing add a pail of Simple Salt Shield around perimeter of pool
- The next day after draining, add Liquid Shock at a rate of 1 gallon per 10,000 gallons

C. Chlorine Users:

- The day before closing add the contents of the Islander Winter Kit. Pre-dissolve powders in a pail of pool water 1 at a time (Do Not Mix Chemicals). The liquid Winterizer can be poured directly around the pool. Wait 30 minutes between chemicals.
- The next day after draining, add Liquid Shock at a rate of 1 gallon per 10,000 gallons

* **Do Not** leave chlorine tablets floating in the pool as they will deteriorate your liner and cover!

3.) Equipment

- **Cartridge Filters & DE:** Remove the drain plugs from both the pump and filter. Cartridge and DE filters should be dismantled and thoroughly cleaned. Chemically clean the filter cartridge as this will remove minerals, debris and oils that rinsing alone will not.
- **Sand Filters:** Start by thoroughly backwashing the filter. Remove all drain plugs from both the pump and filter. You should also use a shop vac to blow air through the filter making sure that the water is completely removed. Sometimes the sand will hold water; therefore the tank is not fully drained even though the plug is out. Next, remove the sight glass and pressure gauge, tapping the water out of the gauge. Store them in a safe place such as the pump basket so they can be easily found in the spring.
- **Automatic Chlorinators:** Remove drain plugs and any remaining water as well as any chlorine left in the unit.
- **Heaters:** Remove all drain plugs and the pressure switch. Gently tap the water out of the pressure switch. It is also recommended to blow air through the unit with a shop vac to completely remove all the water. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions on proper winterization.

Note: Make sure that all of your equipment is drained completely as manufacturers will not warranty parts broken due to freeze damage.

4.) Skimmer and Water Level - Prior to covering the pool you must drain the water below the bottom of the skimmer faceplate by no more than 1". Next, install a "Skimmer Plug". This is a special cover that press fits into the skimmer to close it off. It is very important that you use a skimmer plug as it will prevent ice from entering the skimmer and cracking it or tearing the pool wall! It will also greatly reduce the amount of water needed to refill your pool in the spring. **Do Not** put a plug in the bottom of the skimmer as you want any water that enters to drain out. Lastly, remove the eyeball from the return fitting and install a winter plug in its place.

5.) Covering – Start by blowing up your air pillow. The pillow is very important as it helps support the cover and absorbs the expansion of ice under freezing conditions. It is not uncommon for the pillow to pop over the winter due to ice pressure. To fill, use a shop vac in reverse, air compressor or hair dryer on low setting. Seal the valve with an "Air Valve Sealer" and attach the pillow to the cover using a "Pool Pillow Pal". Install the wire through eyelets on the cover and attach the winch to the wire. Pull the cover and pillow onto the pool and secure the wire around the pool tightening the winch. To prevent wind damage to the cover and pool we highly recommend cover clips and / or wall bags to tighten up gaps between grommets so that the wind cannot get under the cover.

6.) Water Accumulation – After the pool is closed, be sure to pump or siphon water off the cover. ***Allow no more than a couple of inches of water to accumulate on the cover as this will put undue strain on the cover and pool.*** If you notice anything that does not look right or if you have any questions, please give us a call.

You're All Done!!!

Now that your pool is closed, keep an eye on it throughout the winter. If there is an accumulation of water on the cover pump it off as soon as possible. If you notice any damage to the pool or cover over the winter call us for advice. We're open 7 days a week all year long and the advice is free.

Thank you for your patronage and have a happy and healthy winter!!!