

How To Winterize Your Pool

Step 1



Test and balance your chemical levels. One week prior to closing your pool, test the levels of pH, alkalinity, chlorine and calcium hardness using Aqua EZ Chlorine test strips. Your levels should be:

- pH: 7.2 – 7.8
- Alkalinity: 80 – 120 ppm
- Chlorine: 2- 3 ppm
- Calcium Hardness 180-220 ppm



Step 2



Clean pool and skimmer. Use a Scrub Brush with Aqua EZ Tile and Vinyl Cleaner to scrub the waterline and remove buildup. Clean the inside of the skimmer, ridding it of any black residue. For above ground pools, scrub and rinse the outer pool walls, top rail, uprights, etc. Give your pool one last vacuuming for the season, with your Aqua EZ automatic cleaner or manual vacuum and do not forget to brush the pool surface. Liners and plaster concrete pool surfaces are porous and require brushing to remove particles that could promote staining and/or algae growth.

Clean Filter System. If you have a sand or DE filter system, backwash the filter. If you are using a cartridge filter system, clean the cartridge using Aqua EZ Cartridge Filter Cleaner.

Step 3



Add Winterizing Chemicals to your pool. Start with the Aqua EZ Winterizing Kit and Winter Aid following directions on the label. The Winterizing Kit treats pools with 10,000 to 20,000 gallons of water. Add the chemicals supplied in this kit separately. First add bottle #1 broadcasting entire contents of bottle equally over surface of pool water. Circulate water for at least 8 hours. Backwash or clean filter system to remove metal deposits. Then add entire contents of bottle #2 to a bucket of pool water and broadcast over surface of pool water. Be sure to distribute some in the deep end and some in the shallow end. Then add bottle #3, broadcasting equally over water surface. Finally add Aqua EZ Winter Aid into the pool water which will provide additional protection during the winter months. Use as directed, 1 gallon per 10,000 gallons of pool water. If you are not sure of your pool volume you can use the Aqua EZ pool volume calculator located at <http://aquaez.com/poolvolume>

Step 4



Lower Pool Water Level. After all winter chemicals have been added and fully circulated according to label instructions, lower the pool water level. Partially drain your pool using the filter pump, or a submersible pump so that the water line is 2 inches below your return jet(s).

Step 5

Winterize return jets, skimmer and filter equipment.



Above Ground Pools: Remove Skimmer weir, basket and any other interior parts from skimmer. Detach inner eyeball fitting from pool return jet(s) by unthreading the outer locking ring. Replace the eyeball with an Aqua EZ Threaded Winter Plug. Disconnect the hoses from your filter and skimmer. Drain all water from chlorinator, pump and filter by unscrewing drain plugs. (Store drain plugs in pump basket for safe keeping) Store filter system inside if possible. If system remains outside, add Aqua EZ non-toxic antifreeze into filter and pump. Aqua EZ Non-Toxic Antifreeze will coat sand, settle in small areas and prevent possible freeze damage to the equipment.

In-Ground Pools: Remove Skimmer weir, basket and any other interior parts from skimmer. Detach inner eyeball fitting from pool return jet(s) by unthreading the outer locking ring. It is important to remove most of the water from plumbing. Using a compressor or shop vac to force air from skimmer and pump inlets is the most common and effective way to force air thru plumbing and remove trapped water. Add Aqua EZ Non-Toxic Antifreeze into plumbing. Start at the pump strainer basket and skimmers until antifreeze flows out the return inlets on side walls of pool. Use threaded winter plugs to trap antifreeze and prevent rain water from reentering the plumbing. Drain all water from chlorinator, pump, filter and heater by unscrewing drain plugs. (Store drain plugs in pump basket for safe keeping) Add Aqua EZ Non-Toxic antifreeze to filter and pump. Aqua EZ Non-Toxic Antifreeze will coat sand, settle in small areas and prevent possible freeze damage to the equipment.



Step 6



Remove pool accessories. Take all accessories out of your pool (ladders, floats, etc.), and properly clean, dry and store them for winter.

Step 7



Add air pillow(s). An air pillow will absorb the pressure of freezing water and allow forming ice to crack inward. Apply air pillow(s) in the center of the pool to evenly distribute rain water and create less stress on your pool cover. When adding your air pillow(s) make sure you secure them using strong cord tied across the pool. You will most likely only need one pillow for a round or square pool and two for an oval or rectangle pool.



Step 8

Install a winter cover.



Above Ground Pools: Installing an Aqua EZ winter cover over your pool is a two person job. A tight fit of your pool cover is essential. Your cover should not have holes or gaps where leaves and debris may enter the pool. First check pool surface for any sharp edges and apply foam padding to prevent damage to the winter cover. Install air pillow and secure to center of pool. Then spread the winter cover out on a clean surface next to your pool. With one person on each side of the cover, drape it evenly over your pool. Once the winter cover is covering your pool, secure it to pool wall with the cable and winch included with your cover. If you have a pool with a deck, place Aqua EZ water tubes filled $\frac{3}{4}$ full around the edge of your pool to hold down your cover. The water inside will freeze and act as a weight keeping your cover in place through the winter season.



In-Ground Pools: Installing an Aqua EZ winter cover over your pool is a two person job. A tight fit of your pool cover is essential. Your cover should not have holes or gaps where leaves and debris may enter the pool. First check pool surface for any sharp edges and apply foam padding to prevent damage to the winter cover. Install air pillow and secure to center of pool. Spread your winter cover out on a clean surface next to your pool. With one person on each side of the cover, drape it evenly over your pool. Once the winter cover is covering your pool, place Aqua EZ water tubes filled $\frac{3}{4}$ full around the edge of your pool to hold down your cover. The water inside will freeze and act as a weight keeping your cover in place through the winter season.



Finished



Some basic maintenance is required during the winter season. Pay attention to the amount of water that accumulates on the cover. If too much water accumulates on your cover, use a cover pump or a siphon pump to remove surface water. It is important to keep some water on the surface of cover to prevent wind damage. Follow all label and installation directions.
