



# Aboveground Pool Closing

Approximately forty-eight (48) hours prior to closing your aboveground pool, we suggest bringing in a water sample to our lab in order to get your chemicals properly balanced before closing. Your water will be in your pool for the next six months and its chemistry is important to the longevity of your liner, light, & any other parts that it comes in contact with during this period. For example, copper or iron in your water can stain your liner. Improper pH, alkalinity, and calcium can be very destructive and corrosive to the pool and its equipment. Algae will be easier & less expensive to get rid of now than in the spring. Let's make sure your water is properly balanced & algae free before you cover the pool.

- 1) If you use a solar cover, remove it from the pool, we recommend using Speed Clean Citrus to clean & deodorize your cover before storing it for the winter. **IMPORTANT: DO NOT store your cover in your shed or garage, mice & ants can destroy it.** We recommend using a large, clean plastic or rubber container to store your cover.
- 2) Vacuum your pool of the larger foreign material. If you have leaves, remove them with a leaf net because they can stain your liner.
- 3) Clean your liner above the water line with Speed Clean Citrus (NOT a corrosive home cleaning agents) this will remove harmful dirt, grease, suntan lotions, and air pollutants to better protect your liner.
- 4) Now you're ready to add your closing chemicals. It does not matter what order you are adding them as long as your filter is running, and they are added separately
  - a. Pool Magic + Phosfree is an excellent opening/closing algacide that will be added through your skimmer. An entire bottle of this chemical treats up to 25,000 gallons of water. Make sure you shake this bottle well before adding it.
  - b. Sequa-Sol is a coagulating agent that's used to tie up minerals such as copper & iron so that they can be filtered out. It's also used in preventing staining of your swimming pool liner. Add the "initial water treatment" dose while walking around the perimeter of the pool.
  - c. Oxy-Brite is a super-shocking agent in effectively eliminating bacteria & germs that may be in your pool water. This chemical is 100% water soluble and contains no residue. Add this shock while walking around the perimeter of the pool.
- 5) Circulate the pool water for approximately 1-2 hours to ensure that your closing chemicals are mixed in well before closing.
- 6) At this point you can either drain the pool below the skimmer & return jet, or we recommend keeping all of your pool water by using a skimmer plug and/or Gizzmo/Wizzmo and a return jet plug. Either route you choose, you will still need to maintain about an inch (any more should be pumped off—ask us about our cover pumps) of water on top of the cover to prevent it from flopping in the wind, the more the cover "flops", the quicker the cover wears out—plus "wind flop" isn't covered in our winter cover warranties. With that being said, if you drain the pool below the skimmer & as water gathers on top of your cover, your cover will be strained with the weight of the water which will also put strain on your pool walls. Plus, if you keep your water through the winter, you'll have the extra water when you open your pool back up in the spring.
- 7) Turn off the pump, take out the skimmer basket & install the Gizzmo/Wizzmo by threading it into the bottom of the skimmer. Next, remove the eyeball return fitting, to ensure you have the complete fitting out, you should see threads in the hole where the fitting was, this is where you'll thread in the

plug. If you are unable to get the last piece out, we sell a key to help remove it. **\*we recommend having a place to store all of these parts so that they're easier to find when spring rolls around\***

- 8) Drain the filter tank & pump completely of water. If you have a sand filter, there should be a drain plug at the bottom that you can remove & store for the winter to keep water from settling in the filter, same goes for the pump. Disconnect all the hoses from the filter system and the pool. Remove the pressure gauge & sight glass from your filter. We highly recommend bringing your pump/motor, hoses, ladders, and any other accessories inside or somewhere out of the weather, however, your filter is fine to leave outside (we have some customers who will cover the filter with a tarp just to be safe). The plugs, caps, sight glass, and pressure gauge should be stored somewhere for the winter (our service guys typically store these items in the pump basket so that it's easier to find in the spring) **DO NOT store any of your equipment with your chemicals!**
- 9) If your pool has a light, we recommend removing it from the light niche & securing it to the deck. **Also, if you have a deck ladder**, you should remove the flanges, which secure the ladder to the deck. If these are left installed, they could wear down and/or tear your cover. **It's important to leave your steps and/or ladder out until your pool is clear and balanced in the following spring.** We recommend completely draining your ladder/steps of water and wiping it down with a bleach water mixture, as well as cleaning out any openings in the ladder/steps with this mixture.
- 10) Using an air pillow is optional, we recommend using one if you choose to drain some of your water for the winter. The air pillow lifts up the cover in the middle of the pool so that water, leaves, & debris will gather around the edges of the pool, making clean up easier in the winter and for opening in the spring. **We always recommend blowing the air pillow up a couple days before closing to ensure it holds air.** Inflate the pillow about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full of air and secure it in the pool by using fishing line or some kind of string. The pillow does not have to be in the dead center of the pool. Expect the pillow to "pop" during the off-season.
- 11) Put the winter cover on the pool, securing it with the cable & winch and/or water bags. If you use water bags, only fill them 2/3 full. **Do not suspend water jugs from the cover to secure it, covers are not designed to hold water weight in this manner & if any damage occurs, it will not be covered under warranty.**

#### **YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES OVER THE WINTER**

- Maintain about 1" of water on your cover to prevent wind damage. (our winter covers aren't completely solid—some water seepage is normal)
- Remove excessive water (anything over 3"). If you use an electric pump, make sure you put a Frisbee or a similar object under the pump, if you don't you may draw pool water through the cover.
- You should remove the leaves before the first freeze, if they remain on top they can rot & seep through the cover and contaminate your pool.

#### **IF EXCESSIVE WEIGHT IS ALLOWED TO COLLECT ON THE COVER YOU CAN EXPERIENCE THE FOLLOWING:**

- The water under the cover will become displaced, resulting in the loss of chemically-treated water in the pool.
- Damage to the cover
- Debris from the cover may fall into the pool if the cover tears or is pulled into the pool.

If you have any questions or concerns, give us a call at either of our locations:

Madisonville: (270) 825-8513

Owensboro: (270) 215-1565

