



Above Ground Pool Closing Instructions

TEDDY BEAR POOLS & SPAS



Approximately forty-eight (48) hours prior to closing your in-ground pool, bring in one QT of your pool water to our store for analysis. Winterizing your pool properly is critical because your water will not circulate in your pool for the next several months. Water chemistry is important to the longevity of your liner and 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 may be very destructive and corrosive to the pool and its equipment.
- Algae will be easier to get rid of NOW than in the spring.

Please utilize our free water test bottle or use a CLEAN one QT plastic container. Do not use empty chemical containers. Also, bring a list of your chemicals that you have at home with you.

1. If you have a solar blanket, remove it by slowly lifting over the edge of the pool, being careful not to catch or tear it.
2. Rinse any debris off blanket. Use "Teddy Bear Cover Cleaner" to clean and deodorize it before storing for the winter. Gently brush cleaner over entire surface. Rinsing is not necessary and will reduce odors and protect the cover.
3. Fold cover carefully and store in a Rubbermaid 20 or 30 gallon tub with a lid. It should not be stored in a shed or garage, where ants or mice may destroy it!
4. Vacuum your pool of debris and remove leaves with a leaf net because they can stain your liner.
5. Clean your liner above the water line with "Bear Buster". Place a small amount of cleaner on a pool scrubber (available in our retail store) and gently rub in a circular motion. This will remove harmful dirt, grease, suntan lotions and air pollutants. Do not use corrosive home cleaning agents.
6. You should now add all of the chemicals from your Teddy Bear Winterizing kit. It does not matter what order you are adding them as long as your filter is running and they are added separately.
 - **BEAR ALGAE OUT**- This is a broad spectrum non-foaming algaecide used to inhibit algae from growing. Add directly by walking around the perimeter of the pool surface.
 - **BEAR MAGNET**- This is a chelating agent that is used to tie up minerals such as copper and iron so they may be filtered out, thus preventing staining of your swimming pool liner.
 - **BEAR SHOCK**- This chemical kills bacteria and algae. Fill a plastic bucket with water. Then, add Bear Shock and stir it with a wooden stick. Add by walking around the perimeter of the pool, pouring slowly to avoid splashing. If any shock remains on your pool bottom, brush it until it dissolves.
7. Try to circulate the pool water approximately 1-2 hours by operating the pump and filter to evenly distribute winter chemical treatment.
8. Turn off electricity to your pump and disconnect the ground wire.
9. Install the ice plate or Aquador on the skimmer. Do this by removing only the screws on the skimmer faceplate, which correspond to the holes in the ice plate. Sandwich the foam gasket in between the faceplate and the ice plate then reinstall the screws. (DO NOT remove the white faceplate). Next, REMOVE the eyeball return fitting. You may need to use a plastic key to remove all of it. (These are available from our Parts Department.) Now, install the threaded plug here (inside the pool). Make sure that it has a rubber o-ring and that it is not split or cracked.
10. Drain the filter tank and pump completely of water.
11. If you have a D.E. filter, backwash your filter. (For more information see operating your D.E. filter Handout.)
12. If you have a cartridge filter, drain your filter. (For more information see operating your Cartridge filter Handout.)

13. If you have a sand filter:
 - Backwash your filter.
 - Remove drain plug
 - Move the valve handle to the winter or closed position
 - If possible, remove the valve
 - Disconnect the hoses from the filter system and the pool
 - If possible, move your filter inside.
14. Disconnect union from between pump and filter.
15. If you have a chlorinator, disconnect each of the two hoses by loosening the clamps on each hose end.
16. If you have an ECOsmarte now is the time to disconnect the chamber from the plumbing and disconnect the 4 wires that connect to the chamber.
17. Disconnect both the suction and return lines from the pump and filter.
18. Remove the pump and filter from base.
19. If your pool has a light, we recommend removing it from the light niche and securing it to the deck or top seat. **Also, if you have a deck ladder**, you should remove the flanges, which secure the ladder to the deck. If left installed, they could wear down and/or tear your cover.
20. Inflate the pillow 3/4 full of air and secure it in the pool with kite string. NOTE: The pillow does not have to be dead center in your pool. Expect the pillow to “pop” during the off-season.
21. Put the cover on the pool securing it with cable and/or water bags or Quick Clips. If using 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 damage to the cover occurs due to the use of water jugs, it WILL NOT be covered under warranty.

THE HOMEOWNERS OFF-SEASON RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Keep some water (1 inch) on your cover. This helps to prevent wind damage. **NOTE:** Covers are not 100% water barriers. Water seepage is a normal occurrence.
2. Remove excessive water (anything more than 3 inches) from the cover during the off-season. If you use an electric pump, make sure you put a Frisbee or similar object under the pump. If you don't you may draw your pool water through the cover. You should also remove the leaves from the cover before the first freeze. If they remain on top, they will rot and seep through the cover and contaminate your pool.

If excessive weight is allowed to collect on the cover:

- The water under the cover will become displaced, resulting in the loss of the chemically- treated water in the pool.
 - Damage to your cover may occur
 - Debris from the cover may fall into the pool water if the cover tears or is pulled into the pool.
3. In the early spring, raise the water to normal swimming height (half-skimmer). If the water has started to turn color (look under the cover, immediately add algaecide to the pool under the cover).

Teddy Bear Pools & Spas wishes to thank all of our customers for their continued support.

See you in the spring!!