

# Winterizing Your Inground Pool

*Pools are subjected to extreme stress and strain in the winter and if not properly winterized may sustain severe damage. The manufacturers' warranty does not cover damage resulting from ice, high winds, improper maintenance, or assembly. Take care to properly winterize your pool.*

## One Week Prior to Closing

1. **Leaks:** If you think there may be a leak, mark the water level with a piece of tape and observe any changes over the next three or four days. Any holes in the liner must be repaired before you close the pool. A solid sheet of ice can form across the surface of the pool. A leak will allow the ice sheet to sink in in the pool, possibly damaging your liner, and/or wall.
2. **Preparing the Sand Filter:** The sand needs to be replaced every 3-5 years. Typically, this is done in the spring. The sand will have dried out over the winter making it lighter and easier to remove.
  - A. **If you do not plan on replacing the sand** the next spring, Baquacil Universal Filter Cleaner, sand filter cleaner, should be used one week prior to closing. Universal Filter Cleaner is compatible with all chemical systems.
3. **Water Sanitation and Water Balance:** Continue to chemically treat and filter the water until the pool is closed. The water must have proper pH, Total Alkalinity, and Calcium Hardness levels. Allow 48-72 hours of circulation after adding any water balance chemicals before winterizing the pool.
4. **Housekeeping:** Make sure all leaves and debris are removed from the pool. Leaves left in the water over the winter may stain your liner as well as provide food for algae and other microorganisms. If there is a dirt ring at the water line, it should be removed with "Baquacil Surface Cleaner" (compatible with all chemical systems).
5. **Pool Accessories:** Remove the ladders, handrails, slides, etc. Clean and store in a safe place.
6. **Automatic chlorinator:** Disconnect the chlorinator from your filtration system and let it drain completely for indoor winter storage. Take great care in how you handle partially-used chlorine in your chlorinator.

**Partially-used chlorine tablets** will be wet or damp and they need to be absolutely dry before you store them. When absolutely dry, the tablets may be placed in a clean plastic container and triple wrapped in plastic bags or plastic wrap. Keep them in a cool, well-ventilated area away from anything organic and keep away from children, pets, or anything metal that can rust, pit, etc. Keep away from any open flame including pilot lights. Fire and/or explosion could occur.



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7. **Frog System:** or other canister type systems. The Bac Pac cartridge may still contain chlorine, allow it to dry out for at least one day. After that, the Bac Pac may be triple wrapped with plastic as mentioned above. Store in a cool well-ventilated area. The Mineral Reservoir can be thrown away as they only contain enough minerals for one season.
8. **Liquid Chlorine:** It will deteriorate over the winter. Empty all remaining chlorine into the pool at closing. This will be the end-of-season shock treatment.
9. **Test Kits:** Throw out all liquid reagents and replace them with fresh ones in the spring. **Test Strips**, have expiration dates on the side of the container. (Old reagents or test strips could give false readings).
10. **Before Lowering the Water Level:** Circulate contents of the Closing Kit for at least 12 hours before lowering the water level.
  - a. **Chlorinated pools, including pools with a salt system: poolife Closing kits** contain all the necessary winterizing chemicals for up to 20,000 gallons. Circulate for at least 12 hours before lowering the water level.
    - Broadcast 2lbs of Turbo Shock for 20,000 gallons of water.
    - Add 1 qt. Stain & Scale Remover for up to 25,000 gallons.
    - Add the Algae Prevent which will help control algae growth.
  - b. **Baquacil Pools:** Only use Baquacil brand products. Do not use any chlorine products such as the Closing Kit or any products containing metals.
    - Balance water's alkalinity, pH and calcium hardness.
    - Add Baquacil Oxidizer 1 gallon per 10,000 gallons of pool water
    - Add weekly dose CDX 2 pints per 10,000 gallons of pool water
    - Top-up Baquacil Sanitizer to 50ppm
    - Run filter system at least 12 hours before lowering the water level
    - Store any leftover product in an area that will not freeze.
11. **Skimmer:** The water level should be lowered below the skimmer faceplate. If you are in a high water table area, this recommendation may be modified. See store for details.
  - a. Remove baskets and weirs. Pour a non-toxic pool antifreeze in the skimmer. Never use automobile anti-freeze – it contains additives that can stain and damage the pool liner.
  - b. Plug skimmer. A “gizzmo” acts as a plug and an ice compensator and is recommended to avoid a cracked skimmer. (For inground pools only)



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11. **Return lines:** They must be blown out and plugged. An air compressor or special vac is connected to the line at the pump. Add ½ to 1 gallon of a non-toxic pool anti-freeze to each line.
12. **Pool Cover:** A pool cover is recommended to protect the pool and liner. The pool cover prevents leaves and debris from entering the pool and blocks out sunlight – preventing algae growth. If winterized properly, your pool will be ready to go when the cover is removed in the spring. Your cover should float on the water so that the pressures are equalized, and very little force is placed on the cover itself.  
  
Alternatively, a Loop-Loc mesh safety cover may be used. Many customers prefer these covers as they allow the water from rain and melting snow to drain through the cover and avoids the unsightly swampy water build up on top of the cover. They also provide peace of mind as no human or pet can accidentally fall through the cover. No water tubes are needed with this type of cover.
13. **Water tubes:** They are placed around the perimeter. Most covers have loops to insert the water tubes through them to prevent the cover from sliding from under the water tubes. The water tubes should be filled only 2/3 full to allow for ice expansion. **Never use cement blocks, bricks, or wood to hold the cover down. Weight from snow and ice could pull these into the pool, ripping the liner.**
14. **Storing your Filter:** The filter tank must be completely drained by removing the drain cap, pressure gauge and sight glass. A good place to store these items is in the pump's strainer basket so they are easy to find next spring. The safest thing to do with the pump and motor is to remove it and store where it will NOT freeze. Otherwise, all moisture must be removed. The filter multiport should be placed in the "winter" position. If there is no such marked position on your filter, then the handle should be left in between any two positions.
15. **If you have a heater,** heat pump and/or salt generator on your pool, they must be properly drained and winterized. In the case of a gas heater, the fuel must be shut off. (See manufacturer's recommendations or visit our store for details)

**NOTE: Pettis Pools offers professional inground pool winterizing services. Prices vary depending on size and location. For information, call us at 392-7711 x 191. But hurry -schedules fill up fast.**



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## Opening Your Pool in the Spring

1. Reinstall the filter and reconnect all the plumbing.
2. Vacuum the pool, backwash and rinse.
3. Add the contents of the Opening Kit (chlorine pools only).
4. Let the water circulated for at least 24 hours, bring in a 4oz sample of pool water to test at your local Pettis store.

## Free Water Test

Free Water testing is available at both Pettis locations. Samples of water should be taken after the pool has circulated for at least 24 hours. Samples should be taken approximately 18" under the water (at least elbow deep) and should be brought to us in a clean glass jar or if you prefer, pick up a free water sample bottle at either of our two locations.

## Free Pool School

Pettis Pools offers a Free Pool School to help you understand and care for your pool. Winterizing procedures are reviewed in the fall and opening procedures in the spring. We'll tell you everything you need to know and show you how to do it. Hands-on and one-on-one instructions will help you know what to do to protect your investment!

