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In Ground Winterizing

Seaside Pools, Inc. Recommended In Ground Pool Winterizing Instructions

These instructions are intended for Seaside Pools, Inc. constructed pools only. Your particular Seaside Pool installation may require additional winterizing procedures. If you are unsure, contact one of our offices. Use of these instructions to winterize a pool not constructed by Seaside Pools, Inc. may result in damage to your pool. If your pool was not constructed by Seaside Pools, Inc, you should contact the original contractor/installer to obtain proper winterizing instructions.

POOL

1. Clean up pool, remove any leaves and debris, vacuum if necessary.
2. Test and adjust pool water pH and chlorine levels. We highly recommend taking a water sample to one of our stores every 4-8 weeks during the winter to help maintain proper water balance. Improper water balance can cause problems with the internal surface of your pool, from discoloration, etching, scale build up, etc. There are various chemicals that can be added to your pool during the off season that can make starting your pool up in the spring easier. Consult with one of our stores to find out what options are available.
3. Maintain water level as follows:
 - a. Gunite Pools: 1 inch below tile line.
 - b. Vinyl Pools: Do not lower water, but maintain water at normal operating level.
4. Place block of styrofoam or empty plastic bottle in the water in the skimmer. Place float assembly (if so equipped) in basket and replace basket to hold styrofoam or bottle in place. NOTE: Seaside Pools, Inc. does not recommend using freeze protectors that screw into the skimmer line (trade name Gizzmo). Do not use anti-freeze in your pool water lines.
5. Remove and properly winterize pool cleaner as follows:
 - a. BOOSTER PUMP CLEANERS (Poolswop, Polaris, etc.): Drain in pool unit and store preferably indoors. Hoses can be coiled, but it is preferred if possible to store them straight. Remove leaf basket from bottom of pool if so equipped. Detach one end of the black hose on your booster pump and using a wet/dry vacuum blow out the cleaner line and while air is bubbling freely into the pool, place a vacuum plug in the fitting in the side of the pool.
 - b. SUCTION SIDE CLEANERS (Kreepy Krauley, etc.): In pool units drain easily when removed from pool, disconnect hoses and store straight (hoses cannot be coiled), preferably indoors.
6. Examine the exposed plumbing at your equipment pad. If loops exist that will hold water, you should find a drain plug at the bottom of the loop. Call our service department if you can't find it.

- a. . ab. Low pH may result in etching of pool interior.
- c. High pH may result in scaling or staining of pool interior.

If you have problems maintaining your chlorine or pH at recommended levels contact one of our stores, we may be able to help you.

3. Maintain water level approximately 1 inch below tile line in Gunite pools, and at normal operating levels in vinyl pools.
4. If a solid cover is used keep standing water off of the cover during freezing weather. Water can be removed by siphoning or using a cover pump.
5. If you do not cover your pool you should periodically remove leaves and debris that have accumulated in the pool. Leaves and debris may stain your pool finish.

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7. **CUSTOM INSTALLATIONS/EQUIPMENT LOWER THAN POOL:** If your pool or equipment is a customized installation and appears different from above (as is the case when wood docking is used and the ground level outside the pool is lower than the top of the pool wall), or your filter equipment is lower than pool level contact our service department for additional winterizing instructions.
8. **SPECIAL, NOTE ON CHLORINE FLOATERS:** Before you use a chlorine floater in your pool make sure that none of the following apply to you: **DO NOT USE A CHLORINE FLOATER IF**
 - a. Your pool is on Softswim or equivalent.
 - b. Your pool is colored plaster.
 - c. Your pool is a vinyl liner.
 - d. You have a solid cover.
 - e. If you have a spa, attached or detached, do not put one in the spa itself.

EQUIPMENT

1. **PUMPS:** Remove all plugs from pump. Normally there is one on the strainer pot and one behind the strainer in the lower middle area of the pump. Check to make sure that there is not any additional plugs. If there are, remove them also. Clean out the hair and lint basket. It is a good idea to place all removed plugs in this basket for safekeeping during the winter.
2. **FILTER TANK:** Remove drain plug (or cap) from the bottom of your filter.
3. **BACKWASH VALVE:** Your filter will have one of the following types of backwash valves:
 - a. Push/Pull valve: Remove plug from bottom, leave piston in valve between filter and backwash.
 - b. Rotary valve on top of filter: Place valve handle between any 2 positions (Some valves are marked with "winterize" positions).
 - c. Rotary valve side mounted to filter: Take out plug normally located on lower part of valve. Place valve handle between any two positions.
4. **PRESSURE GAUGE:** Remove pressure gauge and store pump strainer pot. Try to shake water from gauge prior to storing. It is difficult to get all the water from gauge and it is not uncommon to have the gauge be inoperative in the spring.
5. **BOOSTER PUMP FOR POOL CLEANER (IF SO EQUIPPED):** Loosen four bolts that attach motor to pump if pump is a vertical style. Leave these bolts loose. Make sure water drains from the lower pump area. If pump is a horizontal style there will be a plug inserted in the lower forward area away from the motor that will need removed (See #5 under POOL for additional instructions).
6. **HEATER:** Remove plug and/or open petcocks on each side of heater. If plumbing to heaters has been done with flexible hoses remove them. Using a wet/dry vacuum blow thru the water lines to allow all water to be released from heater. After this is done, replace hoses but do not tighten clamps. Newer installations have a plug installed in the lines to allow this to be done without removing any plumbing. Replace plug after blowing out heater.
Remove heater access door and disconnect copper tube from pressure switch located in the upper right corner. Turn off gas supply to heater.
7. **AUTOMATIC CHLORINATOR, FROG UNIT, ETC.:** Empty chlorinator or remove cartridge. Drain water from unit.
8. **SPA VALVES:** If your pool is equipped with a spa, turn valves to middle position to allow water to drain.

PERIODIC PROCEDURES DURING THE WINTER

Your winter chemistry maintenance is very important to avoid surface problems and/or an undesirable water condition when opening in the spring. Following these guidelines will help to avoid potential problems.

1. It is highly recommended that you bring your pool water into one of our locations to have it tested for water balance during the winter months at 4-8 week intervals.
2. At a minimum, check chlorine and pH levels every 2-4 weeks and adjust as necessary. We can't stress the importance of water testing enough. The problems that can be avoided are listed below.
 - a. Low chlorine or other sanitizer (Softswim, etc.) will allow algae to grow.