



## **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 (Poolsweep, 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.

c. ROBOTIC CLEANERS: Remove from pool and store preferably indoors.

6. Examine the exposed plumbing at your equipment pad. If a plumbing "loop" exist that will hold water, you should find a drain plug at the bottom of the loop. Call our service department if you cannot find it.

7. CUSTOM INSTALLATIONS/EQUIPMENT LOWER THAN POOL: If your pool or equipment is a customized installation and appears different than described above, (for example as is the case when wood decking is used and the level outside the pool is lower than the top of the pool wall, or your filter equipment is located below pool level), contact our service department for additional winterizing instructions. Pools with water features depending on the individual installation can require additional winterizing procedures.

8. SPECIAL NOTES ON CHLORINE FLOATERS: Before using 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 Soft-swim or equal
- B. Your pool has colored plaster.
- C. Your pool is a vinyl lined pool
- D. You have a solid cover
- E. If you have a spa, attached or detached do not put one in the spa.

## **EQUIPMENT**

1. PUMPS: Remove all plugs from pump. Each pump can have multiple drain locations. Locate all drain plugs and place in pump basket for safe keeping for next spring.

2. FILTER: Remove all plugs from filter. Each filter can have multiple drain locations. Located all drain plugs and place in pump basket for safe keeping for next spring.
3. BACKWASH VALVES: All filters, with the exception of cartridge filters will have one of the following types of backwash valves.
  - A. Push/pull valve: Remove any plugs, leave piston assembly between positions.
  - B. Rotary valve on top of filter: Place valve handle between any 2 positions to allow to drain. (Some valves have a position marked "Winterize")
  - C. Rotary valve side mounted to filter: Remove any plugs and place in pump basket. Place valve handle between 2 positions.
4. PRESSURE GAUGE: Remove pressure gauge and store preferable inside. If placed in pump strainer pot try to shake all water from gauge prior to storing. It is difficult to get all the water from the gauge and it is not uncommon to have the gauge be inoperative in the spring.
5. BACKWASH SIGHT GLASS: If your filter valve is equipped with a backwash sight glass, remove it and store with the other removed items.
6. BOOSTER PUMP FOR CLEANER (IF SO EQUIPPED). Locate all plugs and remove. Disconnect flex hoses from pump.
7. HEATER: Remove all plugs and/or open petcocks on each side of heater is so equipped. If plumbing to heater 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. Turn off gas supply to heater.

8. CHLORINATOR, FROG UNIT, ETC.: Empty chlorinator or remove cartridge. Drain water from unit. Remove any plugs.
9. SPA/ACCESORY VALVES: If your pool is equipped with a spa or accessories that have valves, turn valves to middle position to allow water to drain. If equipment is equipped with a CHECK VALVE loosen screws and manually rotate valve to middle position to allow lines to properly drain.
10. AUTOFILL-If pool is equipped with a autofill it is most likely connected to your irrigation system. After irrigation is winterized place styrofoam in auto fill vessel at pool side and preferably remove float valve assembly from autofill.

## 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 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 intervals.
2. At a minimum, check sanitizer levels 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 sanitizer level will allow algae to grow.
  - B. Overall water balance that is not maintained can result in etching or scaling of the pool interior if it is a concrete gunite pool. Vinyl pools are subject to issues with pattern fading and liner material instability issues.

If you have problems maintaining your sanitizer and water balance at recommended levels, contact our stores, we may be able to help you.

3. Maintain water level approximately 1" below tile line in concrete gunite pools, and at normal operating levels in vinyl pools.
4. If a solid cover is used, keep standing water off 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.