

11. Install ladders & deck equipment. Be sure to securely tighten anchor bolts, diving board bolts & slide anchors (if equipped). Check to make sure the bolts and hardware are in good condition. Replace worn or corroded nuts & bolts for your safety.

12. Filter 24 hours before bringing in an Opening water sample for Testing & Analysis. Adjust pH, Total Alkalinity & Calcium Hardness as needed.

13. Chemically clean the filter with BioGuard Kleen It or Strip Kwik Filter Cleaner after 2 weeks



to remove the filtered winter stuff. A more natural alternative is Natural Chemistry's Filter Perfect which uses natural enzymes and acids which are not only great cleaners, but they are not harmful to area landscape and plantings. Chemically cleaning the

filter about every 8 weeks lengthens the life of the filter media and promotes longer filter runs. Simple backwashing just rinses off excess dirt & debris but doesn't remove accumulated greases & oils.

Here's a very important note: NEVER DRAIN your pool. In vinyl liner pools, the liner will shrink, which will void the warranty and could further cause damage to your pool. In gunite, plaster, or even fiberglass pools removal of the water from the pool could result in the entire pool structure "floating" or "popping" causing serious damage to the structure. Always check with your local builder for specific instructions.

Now the chemicals:

These are the Start up chemical doses for chlorine, bromine, ionizer, and salt-chlorine pools. Shocking must be thorough in order to break up residual chloramines (known as combined chlorines) from the winterizing process. If chloramines are not dealt with now, a lingering chlorine demand (which is an inability to maintain a solid chlorine or bromine level) problem will develop. Curing chlorine demands can be costly, so do it the right way now.

Chlorine shock: use BioGuard Burn Out or Burn Out 35 as the preferred products on an initial spring shock. Burn Out & Burn Out 35 get in, oxidize winter waste, then gets out (gasses off). Use these products at a rate of 3 to 5 lbs per 5,000 gallons for best results. Do NOT use a non-chlorine shock with the initial start up. You need to have a good chlorine residual.

Initial Algaecide: don't skimp with the algaecide! BioGuard Back Up or Algae All 60 are 2 of the best algaecides that kill, prevent and control swimming pool algae. Be careful using algaecides with copper as an active ingredient; improper use of copper based algaecides may lead to staining of pool surfaces. Gallon jugs of algaecide typically contain less than 10% active ingredients and are a waste of money. Follow the label directions for an INITIAL dose, typically 1 – 2 quarts per 20,000 gallons.

After adding the initial shock and algaecide, be sure to run the filter for 48 to 72 hours continually. DO NOT backwash the filter during this time. Let the filter and the chemicals do the work.

Properly balance the water: pH, Total Alkalinity & Calcium Hardness. Review our Water Balance brochure for details

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How to Open Your Swimming Pool.

Getting Your Pool Started the Right Way.



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Whether you have an above ground pool or an inground pool, the basic work is the

same or similar. Follow these simple steps with details & tips:

1. Remove all the leaves, dirt & debris from the winter cover before removing it. I can't tell you how many times I've seen people let all of the winter mess just go right into the pool! Talk about extra work. I've seen really clean "winterized" water become black with the "leaf & twig tea" & other debris from the winter cover.



Remember, it's not just last fall's leaves; it's the spring pollen, those tree helicopters or spinners & pine needles too.

2. Remove all winter & ice expansion plugs (Gizzmos). You can't start the pump & filter system if water can't flow from pool to filter & back! Be sure to replace the respective directional returns (eyeballs), suction grates (usually used on lower suction fittings), Circulator fittings, etc. If you are using standard, stationary eyeballs, remember to point the flow of water DOWN toward the bottom of the pool to optimize the circulation.

3. Bring the Water Level up to normal operating level. If the water on top of the cover is relatively clean & algae free, use that water to fill the pool. It's free! It may be a little dirty, but that's okay, it will be treated with the rest of the pool. At this time it's a very good idea to add an algaecide to the water and a natural pool enzyme such as Natural Chemistry Pool Magic Spring & Fall to start cleaning up the water and prepping it for the initial shock. If you are adding fresh tap water to top the pool off, add a good stain & scale control product such as Jack's Magic Blue Stuff or Pink Stuff to prevent sudden metal stains, especially iron or copper, when the pool is first shocked.

4. Carefully remove the winter cover. Clean it up, fold it up & store it away. When cleaning, use a good cleaner that is specifically made for cover material such as BioGuard Stow Away or Natural Chemistry Cover Cleaner. A good chemical cleaning of the winter cover will lengthen the life of the cover by removing the dirt & soil from the fabric. Not only will your cover get clean, but these products will also control the growth of mold & mildew – which shorten a cover's life – while stored over the summer.



Think of it this way: you wouldn't put dirty clothes away in the closet for the next season would you?

5. Hook up the filter system. Properly attach the correct hoses or pipes to the proper valves or fittings on the pump and filter. Even I've made this mistake: the right hose goes on the wrong filter fitting & 2 weeks later, the pool is still not clear! Here's the easiest way to remember: basket to basket (skimmer basket to pump basket) and hole to hole (exit – "to pool" - hole on filter valve or tank body to return opening on pool wall). Properly lubricate all multiport or shut-off valve "O" rings with a silicone lubricant. Don't over-tighten clamps on above ground hoses; over-tightening will often "crimp" the hose allowing air leaks. **REMEMBER:** replace ALL of the drain plugs to the pump, filter tank & heater (if equipped).

6. "Prime" the pump with water. Don't start it dry, not only can harm be done to the pump, extra stress & strain is placed on the entire system. If your pump is below the water level, as on most above ground pools, priming probably isn't necessary because the water is naturally "falling down" to the pump (we call that a gravity feed). If the pump & filter system is more than 3 ft above the water level, priming is an absolute must. Keep in mind that the system could take several minutes to "catch" and start in this situation. **SPECIAL NOTE:** it is normal for LOTS of bubbles to come out of the return fittings when first starting.

7. Clean & vacuum the pool of all dirt & debris. Get all of the excess stuff out of the pool before adding shock & start up algaecide, especially if the water is relatively clear & clean. The less stuff in the water, the more effective your initial shocking and chemical treatment will be. Be sure to vacuum & brush the side walls of the pool to remove any build-up of bio-films there as well. A Wall Whale makes brushing easy - just one hand & 10 minutes or less each week.



8. Clean the liner or tile line with a good quality pool surface cleaner like BioGuard Off the Wall Surface Cleaner. DO NOT use household cleaners as they can affect the pH and add phosphates to the water which will contribute to algae growth later on. This is where most of the winter's scum has left its mark. Prevent this scum line (also known as a biofilm) from reforming with regular cleaning or by using AquaFinesse Pool Water Care Tablets.

9. Add initial doses of shock & algaecide. Now you can add the chemicals! When starting, don't skimp. Do a "heavy" shocking and proper dosing of algaecide at opening. You're going to save a lot more money by doing this the right way.

10. Allow the opening or start up chemicals to circulate for 24 - 36 hours before doing any testing or water balancing. Why? **2 Reasons:** 1. Additions of Shock & Algaecide will change the water chemistry and water balance. That little bit of time will allow the levels to settle back down for a more accurate reading. 2. Some of the chemicals already in the pool water from the prior season and winterizing will be settled toward the bottom of the pool. This is especially true of pool conditioner or stabilizer. If the water is not allowed to circulate what's on the bottom, you will add stabilizer to a pool that doesn't need any. This is a great way to save money.

