

Inground Pool Closing (Winterizing)

Balance the Pool , then add .

- **5 lbs of shock**
 - **1 qt of Pool-zyme into the skimmer**
 - **1 qt Of Metal Out Plus into the skimmer**
 - **1/2 qt of Super Algaequell Plus into the skimmer**
 - **(you will use the other half in the spring for opening)**
 - **One gallon of anti-freeze per skimmer**
1. Locate all your winterizing supplies. This should include the cover, the water tubes, the plugs for the skimmers (gizzmos) and return jets and your winterizing chemicals. You will also need an air compressor or a powerful shop vac. You need these items for proper winterization. If you are using the green Gizzmos to plug your skimmers, check them out and make sure that they are not cracked. This is very important when dealing with gizzmos. Gizzmos with holes or cracks will not work !
 2. Backwash the filter very well to clean it out, or remove filters and clean with Filter Perfect.
 3. Disconnect your pump and filter. Make sure that pump is totally drained out of any water. Remove any drain plugs from the pump. It is a good idea to store any small plugs or parts in the pump basket. This way you will be able to find them easily in the Spring.
 4. If there is a heater, drain it and make sure there is no sitting water inside. Blow it out with a compressor or shop vac. Drain heater totally and remove all drain plugs (if any). Put drain plugs in the pump basket for safe keeping.
 5. Unscrew and loosen any quick disconnect fittings or unions at your pump and filter system. Remember, the name of the game is "no freeze cracks". If the water is all drained out of your pipes and fittings, it cannot freeze and expand and crack.
 6. Remove all return jet fittings (the entire fitting !). If you crack a fitting while removing it, don't panic!! You can get a replacement come Spring. Remove all skimmer baskets. Put fittings and any other items that you remove in one of the skimmer baskets or the pump basket to avoid loss.
 7. Blow out all return jet pipes using an air compressor or shop vac. Hook up air compressor or shop vac to the return lines at the filter system - or - some people prefer to screw the compressor fitting into the drain plug of the pump. This will

give a good seal and allow you to blow out the entire system from that one spot - but this is up to you. Keep the air blowing until the air bubbles start to become visible from the return jets in the pool. Put a plug in the fitting under the water when you see the bubbles blowing at full force. This will mean that 99% of the water is out of the pipe. Make sure plug is in tight ! This is most important.

8. Blow out all skimmer (suction side) pipes in a similar fashion as noted in #7-10. Put a Gizzmo-type screw in plug in the skimmer when bubbles start to become visible. We know that this is sometimes difficult, but proper gizzmo installation is important. Make sure that you put PTFE tape on the gizzmo threads before installing. This insures a tight seal. If you don not want to use Gizzmo plugs and want to use black rubber-type plugs instead, that is OK as long as there is something in the skimmer to allow for water expansion when it freezes.
9. Blow out main drain line (if any). No, you don't have to dive down and plug the drain pipe. When you see bubbles coming out of the drain, plug the pipe on your end or close the gate valve. This is as much protection as you can give to a main drain line. By doing this you will cause an "air lock" in the line and no more water should enter the pipe from the pool side.
10. Water level. This is an area of a little controversy with some people, so we are going to tell you how they close the pools for freezing conditions. You do not have to drain any water out of the pool provided that you have properly blown out and plugged all your underground pipes as outlined above and you do not have a pool that has decorative ceramic tiles at the water line. Most pools are drained 2-4 inches below the skimmer.
11. If you use water tubes, lay out the water tubes, placing them through loops on cover. Fill tubes with water to approx. 85% and tightly seal all tubes. Do not overfill the tubes - when they freeze you do not want them to expand and split.