

## Pool Care Maintenance

**The skimmer:** the skimmer constantly draws water and floating debris from the top of the water. It catches leaves, dirt, twigs, and insects before they sink to the bottom of the pool. The skimmer houses a large "leaf" basket that must be frequently cleaned to assure adequate water flow through the filter. Check the basket once a day and more frequently during spring and fall. To check the basket, remove the skimmer cover, gently lift basket straight up, and empty debris away from pool. Replace basket and skimmer cover. **Never leave basket out of skimmer when pool is in use. Also, always leave basket in when vacuuming pool.**

**Water level:** During swim season; proper water level must be maintained.

The skimmer faceplate has two (2) small arrows in the middle that indicates where the minimum water level must be. If the water level drops too low, the skimmer will draw air that may damage the pump. If the water level is too high, floating debris cannot properly filter out.

**Pump & Filter:** The pump has a strainer basket to catch larger debris before it can enter the filter. This basket must be kept clean. (A heavy accumulation of debris can increase filter pressure before filter needs normal back washing). Check the basket at least twice a week and empty when necessary.

### Cleaning pump basket:

1. Turn pump off.
2. Remove clear pump lids. (It screws off and on)
3. Remove basket and empty debris. (Rinse with hose for small particles)
4. Replace basket in "full down" position and replace pump lid, checking the o-ring is properly seated.
5. Turn pump on.

## Opening Your Pool

Whether your pool is newly installed or you are opening it after a winter shutdown, getting the right start can make all the difference. All you need is a personalized treatment plan... then relax and "happy swimming!"

1. Fill your pool: If the water level is low, fill the pool to the middle of the skimmer opening. If your pool was covered, fill before removing it. This will make it easier to remove the cover.
2. Remove the cover: If you have a "solid" cover, drain off the water. Avoid letting the "standing water" get into the pool. After removal, the cover must be swept and cleaned with a pool cover cleaner. We recommend you store the cover in a large trash can with water and a cover cleaner. Solid and mesh "safety covers" must be cleaned and stored in a dry place.
3. Additionally: Remove the "Gizzmo" (if installed) from skimmer, insert the skimmer basket and replace the skimmer lid. Rinse the "pump protector" from pump housing and reinstall the pump and filter drain plugs. Place the pump filter basket into the pump and secure the pump lid, making sure the o-ring is clean and treated with a silicon lubricant. Reinstall the filter pressure gauge securely. Reinstall the handrails and ladder.

4. Filtration: With filter valve lever in "filter" position; turn pump on and thoroughly brush your pool. Run the pump/filter for at least 24 hours, then backwash. If you did not chemically clean the filter before closing the pool, do so now, following label instructions.
5. Housekeeping: Vacuum the pool thoroughly to remove all debris.
6. Testing: Circulate the water for 48 hours, and then bring a sample to our water analysis lab. You will receive printed instructions for your start up procedure.
7. Resume normal weekly routine: Remember to have your authorized dealer check the water balance once a month during the swim season.

### **While You Are On Vacation**

If you will be away from your home for a week and up to a month, please contact us for a "vacation maintenance plan."

1. Super oxidize your pool, per label instructions.
2. Add a start-up dose of algaecide.
3. Top off your sanitizer level.
4. For best results, continue normal pool filtration and circulation

### **Winterizing Your Pool**

Bring a 1 quart sample of your pool water, **in a clean container**, to our store "water lab".

You will get the prescription you need to prevent stains, scaling and damage to your equipment and re-circulating system. **This will avoid unnecessary clean up and repairs when re-opening your pool in the spring.**

#### **STEP BY STEP:**

Balance your water: Your pool may be balanced already. If not, you will find out from our testing lab. Should test show the presence metals or high calcium, please follow the directions of our lab personnel.

Adjust total alkalinity: If low, raise to 80 – 150 ppm

Adjust pH: Test should show a pH of 7.2-7.6. If not, Adjust

Raise calcium hardness: Raise to 175 - 350 ppm or as recommended by our lab personnel.

"House keeping" chores: Brush walls, vacuum pool, clean water line with surface cleaner, clean skimmer and pump filter baskets.

Backwash and clean filter thoroughly.

Super-chlorinate pool water:

Algae protection: When pump and filter are shut down, any algae present in the water will grow and flourish. Prevent this by adding the closing amount of algaecide to your pool.

Partially drain pool: Drain pool approximately 4 inches below skimmer inlet, unless otherwise instructed.

Prepare equipment: Drain water from pump, filter, heater and plumbing lines. (store "plugs" in pump filter basket for safe keeping) **Make sure electricity/gas is turned off.**  
**Never use any kind of anti-freeze.**

Cover the pool: A well designed cover will protect your pool from unwanted debris and "help" keep the water "clean".

If you decide not to cover your pool, you will need to add a second dose of winter chemicals around mid-winter. **Please check with our lab personnel regarding this procedure.**

## **Recommendations For Care of Vinyl Lined Swimming Pools**

1. Maintain proper water balance:
  1. pH in the 7.2 to 7.6 range.
  2. Total alkalinity at about 80 - 150 ppm.
  3. Calcium hardness: 175 - 350 ppm.
2. Maintain free chlorine residual between 2 - 4 ppm. If free chlorine drifts below 1.0 ppm algae and bacterial growth can take hold more easily and may cause staining of the vinyl liner.
3. A low pH of less than 7.0 should be especially avoided, since it can cause liner to form wrinkles and with a greater probability if the water is not stabilized with cyanuric acid. For this reason it is recommended that all vinyl lined swimming pools be routinely stabilized with cyanuric acid and that a minimum of 25 ppm be maintained.
4. Test for the presence of dissolved metals in pool water. Dissolved metals may cause staining of the vinyl liner directly or may combine with calcium hardness and form discolored deposits on vinyl liner. Follow manufacturer's recommendation concerning the use of a sequestering agent (chelating materials) to inactivate dissolved metals.
5. Chemicals should never be mixed together and added to the pool water at the same time. Certain combinations of the chemicals that individually will have no effect can cause bleaching of the liner if concentration is allowed to remain high in the vicinity of the liner. Always allow a chemical to disperse throughout the pool by means of water recirculation, before adding a second chemical.
6. Never close a pool without circulating the pool water for several hours after the final addition of chemicals. Even liquid chlorine can concentrate in the deep end and cause liner bleaching, if not sufficiently blended with the rest of the pool water.
7. Use a well fitting winter pool cover that is tightly sealed around the entire perimeter of the pool to prevent accumulation of debris such as leaves, worms, etc. during the winter period. Organic matter has the potential to cause staining and/or bleaching of vinyl liner.
8. Avoid the Use of any abrasive cleaning agents or cleaning aids (e.g. such as steel wool, sharp bristled brushes, scouring pads, etc.).
9. Use only manufacturer's recommended vinyl liner cleaner for removing accumulated soil at water line or other solid areas