



# McCarthy Pools

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## Pool Closing Instructions

In ground McCarthy Pools: Do not drain any water from your pool for the winter

Half in/half out of ground McCarthy Pools: Drain water just below the skimmer and use 1 1/2" threaded PVC plugs for the main suction and return line fittings. Also, disconnect the union in front of the pump. If there is no union, disconnect the lines from the pump.

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## Pool Closing Chemicals

Adding chemicals to the pool at the closing will reduce the amount of algae buildup while the pool is closed. The pool water should be properly balanced and the pool should be vacuumed prior to the pool closing. **The vinyl liner can suffer irreversible damage due to improper water chemistry levels during the winter months. Low pH and Total Alkalinity levels can result in staining, fading, and wrinkling of the vinyl liner.** We recommend the following chemicals

1. Pool Shock - add Shock directly to the pool just before covering.
2. Algaecide - add algaecide directly to the pool just before covering.
3. Winter Stain Out - add Winter Stain Out directly to the pool just before covering.
4. Pump Protector - use 1/2 to 1 full can of this foam lubricant to help prevent corrosion and rust build up in all pool pumps.
5. Non-Toxic Antifreeze - non-toxic antifreeze is used to prevent freeze damage to pool components. Should be used in pumps, cartridge filter bases, and heaters.

## Pool Closing Supplies

Specialized equipment is required to properly protect your pool and pool equipment during the winter months. This equipment is reusable from year to year.

1. Gizzmo - A Gizzmo is designed to absorb ice expansion in pool skimmers.
2. Winter Plugs - Winter plugs are used in your pool wall fittings to protect the pool from water loss.
3. Hydroseat Removal Tool - A specialized tool designed to remove the threaded body of the hydroseat from the return wall outlet.

## Pool Closing Procedure

The instructions outlined below are generic instructions and may not apply to all pool and equipment brands. If you have any questions regarding how to properly winterize your pool please consult your equipment manuals and/or contact us.

## Gas Heater Winterizing

Your gas heater can suffer freeze damage if all the water inside the heater is not drained out. Below are generic instructions on how to winterize a gas heater. Please consult your owner's manual for the specific instructions for your heater model.

1. Remove any and all drain plugs on heater.
2. If present, disconnect copper tubing from pressure switch.
3. Shut off gas supply.
4. If possible, remove the inlet and outlet tubing and force air into the inlet port exhausting any remaining water inside the heater out the outlet port.
5. If possible, flush non-toxic antifreeze through the heater.\*

## Electric Heat Pump Winterizing

Your heat pump can suffer freeze damage if all the water inside the heater is not drained out. Below are generic instructions on how to winterize a gas heater. Please consult your owner's manual for the specific instructions for your heat pump model.

1. Remove any and all drain plugs on heater.
2. Turn off electric breaker.
3. Remove the inlet and outlet tubing and force air into the inlet port exhausting any remaining water inside the heater out the outlet port.
4. If possible, flush non-toxic antifreeze through the heater.\*

\*Flushing antifreeze through the gas heater or electric heat pump can only be done on pools that have a sand filter with a multiport valve that has a recirculate position. Place the sand multiport valve selector in the recirculate position. Drain any water from the pool pump. Disconnect the outlet piping from the heater. With the pool pump cover off, turn on the power to the pump and pour anti-freeze into the pump housing. Continue to pour anti-freeze into the pump housing until you see it drain out the heater outlet port. It may take more than 1 gallon of antifreeze to properly flush out the heater.

### **Pool Filter Winterizing**

Your pool filter can suffer damage if it is not properly winterized. Below are generic instructions on how to winterize a pool filter. Please consult your owner's manual for the specific instructions for your filter model.

1. Remove all drain plugs from the filter. If your filter does not have a drain plug disconnect the inlet and outlet nuts on the side mount multiport valve and allow water to drain out. After water has drained, loosely reconnect the inlet and outlet nuts on the side mount multiport valve to the filter tank.
2. Remove the pressure gauge from the multiport valve and open the air release valve (if present).
3. Open the backwash/waste valve (if present) and leave open.
4. For cartridge and DE filters, remove filter element(s) and chemically clean. Add non-toxic antifreeze to the filter tank by pouring directly into the tank to guard against any possible freeze damage from water left inside the tank.
5. For sand filters, flush non-toxic antifreeze through the tank by pouring antifreeze into the pump with the pump running and with the multiport valve selector in the "filter" position until you see antifreeze coming out the drain port on the filter tank. Leave the filter drain plug off for the winter.

### **Pool Pump Winterizing**

Your pool pump can suffer freeze damage if it is not properly winterized. Below are generic instructions on how to winterize a pool pump. Please consult your owner's manual for the specific instructions for your pump model.

1. Remove drain plugs from pump housing, allow water to drain out, reinstall drain plugs into pump housing.
2. Spray 1/2 to 1 can of pump protector into pump housing. With the pump cover off, run the pump for 20 seconds.
3. With the pump cover off and the pump running, pour non-toxic antifreeze into the pump housing.
4. Open all valves on the pump manifold and leave open.
5. Turn off electrical timer (if present) and remove trippers. Turn off circuit breaker.

### **Chlorine Generator Cell Winterizing**

Your chlorine generator cell can suffer freeze damage if it is not properly winterized. Below are generic instructions on how to winterize a chlorine generator cell. Please consult your owner's manual for the specific instructions for your chlorine generator model.

1. Remove the chlorine generator cell by unthreading the inlet and outlet union nuts.
2. Drain the cell and inspect the metal blades. If there is any calcium buildup on the metal blades (white crusty deposits) clean the cell with vinegar per owner's manual instructions.
3. Reinstall the cell leaving the union nuts loose enough that if water gets into the cell it will be able to drain out.

### **Automatic Chlorine Tablet Feeder Winterizing**

Your automatic chlorine tablet feeder can suffer freeze damage if it is not properly winterized. Below are generic instructions on how to winterize a feeder. Please consult your owner's manual for the specific instructions for your feeder model.

1. Remove drain plug (if present) from feeder tank or disconnect feeder inlet and outlet tubing from pool piping and drain feeder.
2. Remove any chlorine tablets in feeder.
3. Flush out feeder with clean water and store in an area that will not allow any water left inside feeder to freeze and that will not expose any metal equipment to the chlorine fumes that might be left in feeder. Chlorine fumes will cause metal equipment to rust.

### **Pool Wall Fittings and Skimmer Winterizing**

1. Remove the skimmer basket(s) from the skimmer(s) and install the Gizmo(s).
2. Remove the grate from the wall suction and the hydrosweep fitting(s) from the wall returns. Install a #10 plug or an 1 1/2" threaded plug into the wall fittings. Be sure to winterize your pool equipment before plugging the skimmer and the wall fittings.

### **Deck Equipment (Ladders and Handrails)**

1. Remove all ladders and handrails.
2. Store ladders and handrails out of the weather and not in the same area that you are storing any pool chemicals. Fumes from chemicals can cause the ladders and handrails to rust.

### **Winter Cover Installation**

1. Install your Loop Loc pool cover with the installation rod that came with your cover. Make sure the cover is tight and does not sag into the pool water.
2. Traditional solid covers should be held down with water tubes. There should be very little space between the water tubes to prevent debris or wind from getting underneath the cover. Do not siphon or pump water off the top of the solid cover without replacing water underneath the cover at the same time.