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Pool Opening Guide

2025 Spring Opening — Step-by-Step Procedure

❑ NEVER reduce the water level without first checking the dewatering well. During spring, the ground is waterlogged — lowering the pool water could cause it to heave. Pool lifting VOIDS YOUR WARRANTY.

Before You Start

- Your sump pump should be in the dewatering well as soon as ice melts
- Check the dewatering well — water must be lower than pool water level
- If there's a lot of leaves or debris in the pool, remove them with a net BEFORE starting filtration (prevents pipe clogs)

Step 1 — Reassemble the Filtration

1. Check all equipment is operational — renew sand every 3–5 years; clean salt cell with cleaner
2. Screw the glass bulb back onto the sand filter (make sure the black gasket is properly seated)
3. Screw the pressure gauge back on — add or replace Teflon tape if needed
4. Screw the drainage plug back into the bottom of the filter (use pliers to tighten)
5. Set the filter multi-way valve to FILTER mode
6. Reassemble all piping and the pump — make sure to put O-rings back in each groove (valves and unions)

Tip: If the water return hose is connected, you can set the filter to WASTE mode first to flush out antifreeze before switching to FILTER.

Reinstall Salt System

System	Reinstallation Steps
Salt & Swim	Replace case (opening upward) → replace cell (check gasket) → reconnect electrical (check for grease on plug) → screw retaining nut tight
Aqua Rite	Screw cell into piping → plug electrical connector into control panel
MC50MINI / MC85MINI / MC50JUST	Screw cell in place → connect flow sensor → reconnect power + connectors
iChlor 15	Screw cell in place → plug electrical connector

Step 2 — At the Pool

1. Unscrew the Gizzmo (green tube in the skimmer) and the plug next to it — both holes must be free
2. Remove the grey foam tube from the bottom drain
3. Remove the skimmer plug from the front (inside the pool) and put the skimmer basket back



4. Remove the two return jet plugs and screw the return jets back on — outlet opening pointed slightly DOWN

Options to Reconnect

Option	What to Do
LED Lights (Mini Brio / Lacus-Hayward / Mini LED-MOOV)	Nothing — already connected
LED Lights (Gaia or Brio PinP)	Remove plug from socket, turn light back in until it clicks
Massage Jets	Unscrew wing nut plugs, screw massage jets and drain grates back on
Heat Pump / Gas Heater	Reconnect circuits, put O-rings back in valve grooves or fittings
Waterfall / Hydraulic Circuit	Reconnect circuits with O-rings, open valve(s) to flush antifreeze into pool at startup
Overflow Tanning Ledge	Remove plug and replace water return

Set the heater BYPASS valves so the heater is ready when water reaches desired temperature.

Step 3 — Pump Start-Up

1. Close the valve in front of the pump (or valves if overflow spa)
2. Open the clear cover on top of the pump and fill it with water until it overflows
3. Close the pump cover securely — check that the gasket is properly seated
4. Open the valve in front of the pump by only a QUARTER TURN (45°)
5. Start the pump
6. Wait up to 1 minute for water to flow into the pump and become constant
7. Once flow is constant, open the valve(s) completely — pump should fill fully (a few bubbles are normal)

⚠ CHECK THAT ALL OTHER VALVES ARE FULLY OPEN — a closed valve while the pump runs will pressurize the filter dangerously.

If water doesn't fill the pump after 1 minute, turn off the pump and repeat the startup steps.

☐ Save all removed items (plugs, Gizmo, caps, foam) — you'll need them again for closing!

Step 4 — Cleaning & Shock Treatment

1. Remove remaining debris with a net (if not done before startup)
2. Perform a BACKWASH followed by a RINSE to clean the filter sand
3. With filter set to FILTER mode, perform a shock treatment (65–75% calcium hypochlorite)
4. 4 hours later, test pH and adjust to 6.8–7.2 (7.2–7.4 with gas heater)
5. Let filtration run 24–48 hours

⚠ Before backwash (which lowers water): check dewatering well! Your sump pump should already be in place.

Vacuuming the Pool

1. Wait until water clears enough to see debris at the bottom (reduces pipe clogs)
2. Vacuum in WASTE mode (sends dirty water out, not through filter)
3. Check and clean pump basket regularly during vacuuming
4. WASTE mode drains water fast — monitor level and add water as needed
5. Perform BACKWASH + RINSE after vacuuming

❑ NEVER vacuum in BACKWASH or RINSE mode.

⚠ WASTE mode drains water rapidly. Make sure dewatering well is empty before starting. Stop and add water as needed.

Step 5 — Salt System Startup

DO NOT start the salt system right away. Wait until the pool is clean and water is clear.

Before Starting the Salt System

1. Finish all vacuuming in WASTE mode and all BACKWASH/RINSE cycles first
2. Test the current salt level in the water — salt doesn't evaporate, so some remains from last year
3. Calculate how much salt to add based on current level vs. manufacturer's target
4. Add the calculated amount of salt to the pool
5. Wait 24 hours, then re-test salt level
6. Confirm water temperature is at least 15°C (60°F)
7. Remove any chlorine puck from the skimmer basket

After Turning On the Salt System

1. Set the chlorination rate — target 0.8–2 PPM chlorine
2. Adjust pH to 6.8–7.2 (7.2–7.4 with gas heater)

⚠ Don't add salt and then immediately vacuum in WASTE mode — you'll send it down the street! Add salt LAST, after all cleaning is done.

If Water Is Too Cold for Salt System (<15°C)

- Use chlorine pucks in the skimmer basket temporarily:
- 1 puck for pools smaller than 12' × 25'
- 1–2 pucks for pools 12' × 25' and larger



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- Continue adjusting pH as normal
- Switch to salt system once water warms above 15°C

Refer to your salt system manufacturer's manual for specific salt levels and detailed instructions.

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