



Pool Closing Guide

2025 Fall Winterization — Step-by-Step Procedure

❑ IN FALL, LEAVE THE PUMP RUNNING 24 HOURS A DAY. Do not switch off before winterizing the pool.

⚠ Give this closing guide to whoever is closing your pool so they can follow every step carefully.

Before You Start

- Check the dewatering well — water must always be 60 cm (2 feet) below the winterized pool water level
- Dewatering well must be visible and accessible — buried/hidden well VOIDS WARRANTY
- Leave sump pump (vertical float) in the dewatering well permanently
- After winterizing, check dewatering well after heavy rain (if pool water hasn't frozen)

Materials Required

| Letter | Item |
|--------|---|
| A | Dry/wet vacuum that sucks and blows (Shop-Vac type) and/or compressor |
| B | 2 × water return screw caps with O-ring (1½" size) |
| C | 1 × skimmer screw cap with O-ring (2" size) |
| D | 1 × Gizzmo |
| E | 2 × 4-litre antifreeze (-51°C) |
| F | Teflon tape |
| G | Rubber plugs for massage jets (if applicable) |
| H | 1 × 4-foot foam tube, ¾" diameter (expansion coil) |
| I | 1 × skimmer plug (front) |
| J | 1 × winter treatment kit |

Optional: K. Mesh leaf net to prevent stains from tannin in leaves.

Step 1 — Lower the Water

1. Lower the water level just below ALL jets (return jets and massage jets) while checking that the dewatering well remains 60 cm below pool water level
2. To drain: connect pool vacuum to skimmer, set filter to WASTE mode, drain to the street

❑ Do NOT drain water around the pool — this raises the groundwater level in the dewatering well and can damage your pool.



Step 2 — At the Filtration

1. Disconnect the pump electrically
2. Empty the filter tank — unscrew the nut at the bottom completely. Put the nut away (do NOT close it again)
3. Remove the glass jar (and seal) and the pressure gauge — store above 0°C
4. Set the filter handle to WINTER position
5. Unscrew all white rings from pipe connections at the filter head and pump — remove and save the seals
6. Drain the pump — turn it completely upside down to remove all water — put ~1" of antifreeze (E) inside

If the pump is in a shed or garage, it can stay there. If outside, store it inside for winter.

Salt System Winterization

Disconnect and clean the salt cell. Store in a warm, dry place.

| System | Winterization Steps |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Salt & Swim | Unscrew ring → undo electrical connector → remove cell from case → clean with cell cleaner → turn case upside down to drain → store warm |
| Aqua Rite | Unplug cell from computer → unscrew cell from piping → clean → store warm |
| MC50MINI / MC85MINI / MC50JUST | Disconnect power + connectors → remove case + flow sensor → clean → store warm |
| iChlor 15 | Unplug from computer → unscrew from piping → clean → store warm |

Heat Pump / Gas Heater Winterization

1. Unscrew the connections at the back of the unit
2. Vacuum with Shop-Vac in the bottom opening — close top opening with palm for better suction. Repeat.
3. Tilt heat pump slightly backward to direct water toward outlet (not needed for gas heater)
4. While vacuuming bottom, pour antifreeze into top opening to protect remaining water from freezing
5. Empty the piping connecting to the heater before reconnecting

Step 3 — At the Pool

1. Place the skimmer plug (I) on the front opening (inside the pool) — tap firmly with palm until seated
2. Pour antifreeze (E) into the skimmer opening closest to the pool wall (bottom drain hole) — pour QUICKLY so it enters the bottom drain, not just the skimmer water. Wait 1 minute, pour another 1.5 litres.
3. Cut a 2" piece of foam tube (H) and save it. Put the remaining foam tube deep into the bottom drain hole — loop or knot the end so it stays
4. Apply Teflon tape (F) to the Gizzmo (D) and screw it into the bottom of the skimmer — apply pressure, check it's secure (wiggle test: if it pops out, it's not threaded properly)
5. Vacuum ALL water from the skimmer with Shop-Vac (A) — the pipe connected to the pump must be completely dry. Vacuum skimmer side, then pass antifreeze through from filtration side until you see it in the skimmer.
6. Screw a 2" plug (C) with O-ring into the now-empty hole



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7. Pour antifreeze directly into the skimmer (2" at the bottom is enough). Close the skimmer cap and seal the small top hole with the saved 2" foam piece.

Step 4 — Return Lines

1. Unscrew the water returns (3 pieces) — do NOT unscrew the wall feed-through
2. Blow air with Shop-Vac into the return line from the filtration side
3. Plug one return with your hand while blowing, then alternate — this dries the buried elbow and tee. Repeat until no water remains.
4. Pour antifreeze into the return line from filtration side and blow through until it comes out of the water returns
5. Plug the water returns with the 1½" return plugs (B)

Step 5 — Options (If Applicable)

Waterfall / Hydraulic Circuits

- Disconnect and purge all circuits (suction + blowing)
- Add antifreeze to piping — same procedure as return lines

Massage Jets (If Installed)

1. Unscrew massage jets from pool wall
2. Blow air from filtration side, plugging most jets — alternate which are plugged until all are dry
3. Vacuum from jets while alternately covering others to drain all manifolds completely
4. Remove venturi cap (pull or pry with flathead screwdriver)
5. Unscrew venturi head
6. Block the anti-return ball with small screwdriver, pour antifreeze until it flows from each jet — plug each jet as antifreeze appears
7. Seal with rubber plugs (G) — rubber flush with jet, wingnut vertical, tightened firmly

Overflow Spa (If Installed)

- Follow massage jet procedure above
- Remove bottom drain grates (Phillips screwdriver), blow out drain pipe from filtration
- Blow antifreeze through both drains, seal with rubber plugs

Step 6 — Final Steps

1. Open the winter closure kit — distribute both products evenly into the pool water
2. RAISE the water level back to the middle of the skimmer (same as swim season)
3. If spa is installed, fill it until it overflows
4. Use the skimmer basket to store all small parts that need to be kept warm



☐ **The pool water level MUST be at the middle of the skimmer at the end of closing. Low water level + high groundwater = pool lifting. WARRANTY VOID.**

Post-Closing Inspection

If You Have Pool Coping (Bullnose)

- Just before hard freeze: check dewatering well, empty if needed
- You can lower water to mid-skimmer — this prevents ice expansion from pressing on coping
- Properly installed coping won't lift even with higher water + ice pressure

If You Do NOT Have Coping

- If heavy rain after closing: let water rise, even overflow — do NOT lower it
- Check dewatering well after heavy rain and empty with sump pump if needed
- NEVER lower pool water without checking dewatering well first

⚠ **Keep sump pump in the dewatering well until everything freezes solid. Once frozen: remove the pump, leave the well alone until spring thaw.**

Leaf Protection

- Consider placing a mesh leaf net (K) over the pool after closing
- Leaf tannin causes brown stains on the pool surface that are difficult to remove

☐ **ONCE THE WATER HAS FROZEN: Do NOT lower the water level and do NOT break the ice. Leave everything alone until spring.**

Questions? Call (647) 234-7694 or email joe@okeanosontario.com