

PRESTO POOL PRODUCTS LTD.

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How to close your pool the Presto way

Read all instructions before you begin

Before starting the winterizing procedure it is important to have the water tested. Poor total alkalinity and calcium hardness levels over the winter can damage the pool liner, fiberglass, paint or concrete finish over the winter.

1. For most pools, drain pool water level just below inlets (jets) (about 1-2" below). This can be done with a submersible pump or by using your manual vacuum. Other pools water level must remain above the jets because they have been plumbed much further down. If you are not sure where to drop the water level to in your pool, ask a Presto staff member.

If you are using your vacuum and are having trouble keeping the vacuum from sucking air, wrap a wet tea towel around the hose where it is plugged into the suction hole of the skimmer and trickle the garden hose into the skimmer. This will form a water seal so that it will not suck air causing the pump to lose prime. This is a good time to vacuum any debris out from the bottom of the pool.

Now is also the time to take out your light if you have one. Take the entire fixture and wrap tightly in a plastic bag. You want to avoid as much moisture from getting in the bag as you can. The light should be stored on the deck sticking out past where the water bags will be placed. Do not place the water bags over top of the light.

2. Fill all your water bags and place around the pool to make sure you are going to have enough bags to cover the entire perimeter of the pool. Water bags should only be filled 2-3" full so they do not burst when the water expands from freezing. Also, if the bags are too full, they tend to roll into the pool, which causes the cover to fall in.
3. To winterize your pump, take all the small plugs out of the pump and allow to completely drain. Only put plugs back in if you are going to store the pump over the winter with anti freeze in it. Put all plugs in the pump strainer basket to be sure they don't get lost over the winter. If you have an above ground

pool and it is easy to take the lines off, you may want to bring the pump inside for the winter.

4. Before you winterize your filter, you may want to give it a good cleaning. A sand filter should be chemically cleaned at least every two years. Cartridge filters and D.E. filters may need to be cleaned more often. This can be done with either *Bio-Guard Filter Brite*. Ask a staff member for more information.

Whether you clean your sand filter or not, it should be backwashed and rinsed (if your filter has a rinse setting) well. Remove the cap or plug from the bottom of tank and let it drain completely. (it will take a little while depending on the size of the tank) Leave the drain cap off and put it in the pump strainer basket with the other plugs. Turn the dial to winterize and leave it there throughout the winter. If you have a D.E. filter, open the back valve and keep bumping it until all the D.E. has been flushed out. Leave the valve and the top air vent open. If this doesn't seem to apply to your model of D.E. filter, ask one of our staff members how to winterize your particular model. For a cartridge filter, just be sure to remove the drain cap and drain all the water out of it.

5. If you have a Chlorinator or Brominator, remove all pucks, sticks or tablets. For most models, take off hoses and store upside down. This will ensure it doesn't fill up with water, which will keep the canister from cracking. If you have a canister that is hard plumbed and it can't be removed; it should have drains at the bottom. Other canisters are put on with unions and can be completely removed. In this case remove them and store upside down as well.
6. Winterizing the lines is the most important part of closing the pool. All eyeballs and retainer rings must be taken out. Do not take any face plates or fittings that are attached to the pool wall out. These are permanent. If you are not sure ask a staff member.

All the water must be drained from the lines. This can be done a couple of ways, either blow the lines using a shop vac on reverse or use a blower. Depending on your pool, a shop vac may be used to suck the water out. If your jets are very low on the pool wall and the water level must stay above them, you are going to have to blow the lines. This procedure usually takes two people. One person must take the return line off the filter and hold the blower or shop vac to the line. The air will blow the water through the lines and out the jets. The other person must put about one foot of foam rope in the jet fitting (to absorb any expansion due to freezing so the fitting won't crack). Then take either a threaded plug that has been freshly wrapped with teflon tape or use a rubber expandable plug and plug the jet. This method will ensure that very little or no water is left in the lines.

If the water level is below the jets you may suck the water out with a shop

vac. With the shop vac, suck the water from the jet end. Continue doing this until there is no water coming out. Place about one foot of foam rope in the jet to protect the wall fitting from cracking due to expansion. Use a rubber expandable plug or a threaded plug, which has been freshly wrapped with teflon tape, to plug the hole. After plugging the returns do not refill the pool. You may also want to pour a couple liters of pool grade antifreeze down your return lines just as an extra precaution. (Do not use any other type of antifreeze. They are toxic. The pool grade antifreeze will be blown back into the pool in the spring and is safe for your pool).

7. Winterizing the skimmer is also a very important part of winterizing your pool. The very first thing you should do is to put about three feet, or as much foam rope as you can, down the main drain hole and plug it off with a rubber expandable plug or a threaded plug that has been freshly wrapped in teflon tape (unless the main drain is permanently plugged due to a main drain break or leak in the past). Now you can use a shop vac and suck all the water out of the skimmer and suction line. When this is done we recommend that you pour two liters or so of pool grade antifreeze down your suction line and put about one foot of foam rope down the suction line as well. Use a "Gizzmo" to plug off this line. A "Gizzmo" absorbs any expansion in the skimmer due to rainwater or melted snow freezing. Without a "Gizzmo", if the skimmer fills with water and freezes it could easily crack, which is a costly repair for the spring. After the "Gizzmo" is in place, pour another liter or two of pool grade antifreeze in the skimmer. This is another precaution so that if the "Gizzmo" drips over the winter it will be a combination of water and antifreeze and should never totally freeze. The last step is to place the empty 4L-antifreeze container in the mouth of the skimmer. This keeps foreign objects out of the skimmer and keeps the "Gizzmo" in place.
8. All winterizing chemicals should go in after the water level has been lowered. The chemicals you will need are a winterizing **algaeicide** (*Bio-Guard Hibernate II Algaecide*), a **stain and scale** (*Bio-Guard Hibernate Stain and Scale*). To shock you can use any of the following: liquid chlorine, *Bio-Guard Burn Out 35*, or *Bio-Guard hiber shock (specially made for winter shocking of the pool)*. Ask a staff member what is best suited for your pool. Remember that a water sample is always a good idea before you begin to close the pool. Bad water chemistry can cause nasty surprises in the spring.
9. The last thing to do when closing the pool is to put the cover on. This is usually a two-person job if not more. The cover should be big enough to lay on the water surface, go up the wall and have two feet on the deck for the water bags to lay on. For above ground pools the cover should be big enough to lay on the water surface and easily be secured by the cord and winch underneath the top rail of the pool. In both cases it is sometimes a good idea to put a couple of inches of water on top of the cover to weigh it

down. This will help prevent wind from blowing the cover and causing it to balloon.

Every pool is different so if there are any questions regarding closing your pool please contact us and we will be glad to help.

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