



DIY GUIDE

Winterize your pool like a pro

Preparing your pool for winter can seem like a daunting task, but with the right steps and materials, you can easily protect your inground pool from damage during the off-season.

This comprehensive guide, with recommended materials from Taunton Pools, walks you through every step to ensure a worry-free winter and a smooth pool opening in the spring.

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Materials Required

- Wet/Dry vacuum
- Submersible pump
- Approximately 10' of foam pipe
- 3 winterizing plugs
- One skimmer GIZZMO
- Approximately 10-13 water bags
- Closing chemicals
- Teflon tape

Optional

Non-toxic antifreeze and funnel

Steps to close your pool

01

Balance water chemistry

Before starting the winterization process, ensure that the water chemistry is balanced. You can get your pool water tested at **Taunton Pool Lab**.

02

Apply winterizing chemicals

Add winterizing chemicals to the pool the night before shutting it down (at least 8 hours before). If you're using the **Dazzle Closing Kit**, it can be applied after the water level is lowered.

03

Lay water bags around the pool

Place the water bags end-to-end around the pool's perimeter. These will help keep the cover secure and in place during winter.

04

Fill water bags

Use a backwash hose with an adapter to fill the water bags by setting your filter to "waste" and using pool water. Alternatively, use a garden hose. Only fill the bags $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ full to allow room for expansion.

05

Drain the pool

If your pool has a main drain, install the vacuum plate in the skimmer and cap the hole (leave the main drain open). Set your filter to "waste" or "drain" to drain water from the main drain.

Or, use a submersible pump placed on the stairs to lower the water level just below the return jets.

06

Turn off the pool pump

Shut off the pool pump and turn off the breaker to prevent it from accidentally being turned on.

07

Remove pump drain plugs

Remove the two drain plugs from the pump basket housing — one from the front and one from the side of the pump. Also, remove the lid and strainer basket for storage.

08

Store pool equipment

Remove the backwash hose and pressure gauge. Store these indoors for the winter. Also, remove and store drain plugs or caps from the bottom of the filter.

09

Winterize Your Heater (if applicable)

1. Turn off the gas supply.
2. Turn in peepcocks and leave them turned in all winter, or remove drain plugs.
3. Open the pressure release valve and leave it open for the winter.
4. Lubricate all threads with a Teflon-based lubricant or **Jack's Lube**.
5. If your heater has a chimney stack, remove it (if not covered).

10

Remove Eyelets from Returns

Using your hands, remove the eyelets from the pool's return jets.

11

Empty the Skimmer

Remove the skimmer basket and vacuum cap from the skimmer.

12

Install winterizing plugs and GIZZMO

- Insert approximately 4' of folded foam rope into the main drain line and screw in a winterizing plug with Teflon tape.
- Use a wet vacuum to remove all water from the skimmer line, and blow air from the pump to the skimmer by reversing the vacuum.
- Insert a 4' length of foam rope into the suction line, then thread in the **GIZZMO** using Teflon tape.

13

Blow out the return lines

Use a wet vacuum to blow out the return lines by holding the vacuum up to the return hole until no more water comes out. Insert 1' of folded foam rope into the return line and screw in winterizing plugs with Teflon tape.

14

Cover the pool

Pull the winter cover over the pool, ensuring it lies flat and loose across the top. The cover should be flat against the pool walls, as shown in the diagram.

15

Secure the cover

Lay water bags end-to-end around the perimeter of the pool on top of the cover. Make sure the water bags completely surround the pool to prevent wind from getting under the cover and causing it to flap.

16

Add antifreeze (Optional)

For added protection, pour at least 4 liters of non-toxic antifreeze into the skimmer. Use a funnel to add antifreeze through the pump line to protect the skimmer lines.

17

Store all pool parts

Gather all parts that have been removed and store them indoors to prevent damage during the winter.