



HOW TO PREPARE YOUR POOL BEFORE A FREEZE





TIP #1

USE A POOL COVER

A pool cover is an accessory that can be useful year round, especially in the winter when the pool sees minimal to no use. Your pool cover should be free of rips and tears to keep debris out. Ideally, seek a cover with good insulation or a heated option to help maintain water levels and reduce the risk of freezing.



TIP #2

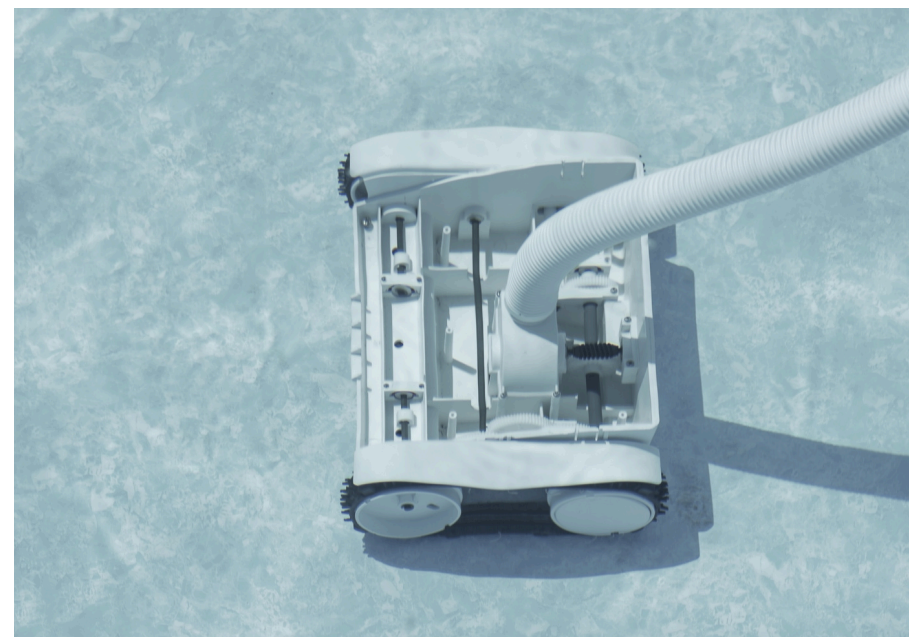
MONITOR WATER CHEMISTRY

Whether the pool is in use or not, checking water quality is very important, especially in the cooler months as chemicals are less active. Properly balanced chemistry prevents algae, bacteria, and corrosion. It also ensures clear water and protects your pool and equipment from unnecessary damage.

TIP #3

MAINTAIN REGULAR CLEANING

Maintaining your pool during winter is crucial, as neglect can result in bigger cleanups due to debris affecting water chemistry and promoting algae growth. While a high-quality cover helps protect your pool, regular monitoring is still necessary. Robotic cleaners can make the process easier, and scheduling professional cleanings ensures your pool remains in excellent condition throughout the off-season.



PRO TIP

Neglecting your pool during the winter can lead to poor water quality, equipment and pool damage, and can result in a longer reopening in the spring.

TIP #4

ADJUST TO THE WEATHER

Charleston may not often experience severe freezes, but snowstorms and frigid temperatures can still threaten your pool. Temperatures at or below 32 degrees can freeze pipes, expand and contract liners, and crack equipment. If freezing is forecasted and maintenance has been neglected, run your pool continuously to prevent freezing. If unprepared, insulating pipes can help, but you might need professional assistance to salvage your pool and equipment.

TIP #5

OPEN EARLIER THAN YOU THINK

You might wait for the ideal swimming temperature to open your pool, but preparing it early offers several advantages.

As temperatures rise, keeping the water clean becomes harder, especially if a cover traps unwanted organisms.

Opening your pool sooner not only gives you more swim time but also ensures better care and maintenance for your pool.

TIP #6

ADD ALGAECIDE MID-WINTER

Algaecide is an effective way to prevent algae growth, which can discolor your pool water and harbor harmful bacteria.

While vacuuming or shocking can treat algae blooms, it's more challenging during winter. Before applying algaecide, ensure your pool's pH is balanced, use the correct dosage, and brush the tiles to loosen any algae. For even distribution, apply the algaecide in multiple spots around the pool. If the pool is covered algaecides can be added through running skimmers.



TIP #7

MONITOR WATER LEVELS

Even with a pool cover, it's important to periodically check the water level in the pool. Keep the water level at the correct level. If filling is necessary, remember to disconnect hose bibs and test the water's chemical balance. Water loss is normal during winter due to lower humidity, but significant water loss or imbalance could be a warning sign. Never drain your swimming pool.

TIP #8

REGULARLY INSPECT POOL EQUIPMENT

During harsh winters, regularly inspect your pool equipment for cracks or damage, as it's crucial for maintaining a safe and functional pool. Before winter hits, check for excess moisture that could freeze and lead to malfunctions.

If you're unsure about what to look for, consider scheduling a professional inspection for added peace of mind.

TIP #9

STORE POOL ACCESSORIES SAFELY

Disconnect and store pool accessories in a designated area to prevent damage and keep everything organized. Items like ladders and chemicals should be stored properly, with chemicals placed according to the storage instructions on their containers to ensure they remain effective.



TIP #10

PROPERLY TIME YOUR POOL CLOSING

A lot of winter maintenance can be tackled before temperatures drop, making early preparation essential. While closing your pool can be complicated, hiring a professional can simplify the process. If you choose to do it yourself, be sure to balance the pool's chemistry before covering it, as early mistakes can be difficult to correct later. Ideally, keep the pool open as long as the water is circulating and temperatures stay above 32 degrees. If you've overlooked any tasks, Charleston's mild winter weather may allow for adjustments, so consider reaching out to a professional to help get your pool back in shape.



Professional assistance is available from Heritage Pools.
If you're in need of assistance this winter, you can reach us at
(843) 762-3417.

<https://www.swimhere.com>