

How to winterise your pool

When you swap the boardies for the hoodie, it's probably fair to say you won't be swimming anytime soon. This is the best time to winterise your pool. Even though you won't be swimming doesn't mean you can just forget about it. When you neglect the pool the chances of damaging your equipment or staining the pool surface is greatly increased. To avoid potential stain removal and equipment repairs here's a few tips to help your pool shut your pool down for the winter.

Clean your pool

Remove the leaves and other debris out of the pool. Organic debris such as leaves and sticks left on the bottom of the pool for extended periods can cause staining if not removed. Clean the skimmer and pump baskets. Use a Clarifier (such as Zodiac Natural Clarifier) to help remove dirt and dust and make your water sparkle.

Clean your pool filter

Backwash your sand filter or hose out your cartridge filter element before you balance your pool water. Give your sand filter or cartridge element a good rinse. You can now give your filter a good clean to remove grease and organic matter with a filter cleaner. Filter cleaning products (such as Zodiac's Filter Cleaner) help remove excess grease helping to unclog your sand filter getting it set for the winter.

Balance the water

Unbalanced pool water can corrode and damage pool equipment and surfaces. Prevent costly start up bills by keeping your pool running at it's optimum.

Use algae preventative chemicals

Add Long Life copper-based algaecide to keep black-spot and green algae at bay over the winter months. Algaecides (such as Zodiac's Phosphate Remover 1lt) help to prevent black and green algae growth. They also allow your pool running times to be dramatically reduced. Make sure to add approximately 500mls of pool acid every 2 weeks to keep the PH under control to help in the prevention of copper staining.

Check equipment is working properly

Make sure your pool equipment is working correctly and if you have a chlorinator it is imperative that the output is turned right down. You can reduce the pool filtration hours down to as low as 2 hours per day. 2-3hours a day. Check regularly for a free chlorine reading between 1-2ppm and a PH below 7.8ppm. Adjust the chlorinator output and add acid as required.

Monitor over winter

Over the winter, check the pool water chemistry at least once every 2 weeks. Also check the water level and adjust where necessary. Keep clearing skimmer baskets and remember to remove the pool cleaner from the water when not in use. Check the filter pressure gauge regularly to see if another backwash is needed.

