

You'll need these items for pool closing

Inground pools

- Safety cover or winter cover
- Leaf net
- Swimming pool antifreeze (1 gal. per 10 ft of pipe)
- Water bags or winter cover blocks
- Skimguard winterizer (One per skimmer required)
- Submersible pump
- Pipe blowout device (Blowout extension or plugs)
- Winterizing freeze plugs (One per return fitting required)

Above ground pools

- Winter cover
- Leaf net
- Air pillow(s)
- Cable and winch assembly
- Cover clips or winter wrap
- Water bags
- Pool pillow pal
- Skimmer plugs
- Submersible pump
- Siphon pump

We make custom safety covers to fit any type of pool

Ask a Leslie's store associate for details.



Want Leslie's to do it?

Get help with equipment installation, repairs or pool closing and opening services.

Our certified service technicians are here to help. To schedule, visit Lesliespool.com/service

Service not available in all areas. Ask your local store for details. Trained. Licensed. Insured.

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Pool Closing Guide

5 easy-to-follow steps

to winterize your pool for clean, safe, and beautiful water next spring.

Don't close your pool too early

Pool water needs to be at a constant 65 degrees or less to close your pool. Closing too early can lead to more work and the risk of algae growth with added expenses when opening in spring.

Why cover your pool?

In hard freeze areas, the pool must be winterized to prevent freeze damage to the pool, plumbing, and equipment. Covering the pool after the water and plumbing have been winterized will keep debris and leaves out of the pool and make spring opening a breeze.

In areas where freezing isn't a problem, covering the pool is an economical and easy way to care for the pool in the off-season. Pool covers keep debris and leaves out, reduce chemical and electrical expenses by at least 50%, and eliminate many of the normal maintenance procedures. It is, however, important that minimal maintenance be performed.

Failure to winterize the pool properly can result in stains, scaling, and equipment damage; all of which can be costly to correct.

To extend your swimming season, add a heating system.

We have everything you need to close your pool

Shop your way



Have your order delivered or pick it up in store. Find your nearest store and shop online at Lesliespool.com.



Lesliespool.com



Steel Guard
15-year warranty

Deluxe Cover
12-year warranty

Economy Cover
8-year warranty

Step 1

Balance water

- Brush and vacuum the pool thoroughly to remove all dirt, leaves, and debris.
- Test and adjust the Free Available Chlorine, pH, Total Alkalinity, and Calcium Hardness to within the recommended ranges. Bring a sample in to Leslie's for a free AccuBlue water test. If using a closing kit, follow the directions for the included chemicals.
- Let the pump run for at least one complete cycle after adding chemicals. This is usually 4–12 hours, based on normal pump run times. Backwash the filter (if applicable) before closing the pool for the winter.
- Using a submersible pump, lower the water level below the skimmer and all return lines (normally about 18 inches below the tile line). This partial draining will allow all of the water to drain

out of the equipment and plumbing lines. If the plumbing is properly configured, an air compressor or the exhaust from a wet dry vac may be used to blow out the lines.

NOTE: Never drain a fiberglass or vinyl pool. Refer to manufacturer's draining instructions.

Step 2

Winterize plumbing

Only in freezing climates

- Remove the drain plugs from the pump strainer basket housing, pump volute (if applicable), filter tank, booster pump, automatic chlorinator, heater, and any other equipment. Be sure to turn off the main power supply and remove the "on" and "off" trippers from the time clock (if applicable). Position the multi-port valve handle (if applicable) between any two settings. Place all the drain plugs in the strainer basket of the pump and replace the strainer cover. For above ground pools, disconnect the filter hoses from the skimmer fitting and from the pool return fitting, and move the equipment to a non-freezing location, such as a basement.

NOTE: Other equipment may need to be winterized according to manufacturer recommendations.

- When the water has completely drained out of the plumbing lines, put winterizing plugs into the return and skimmer line(s).
- Add swimming pool antifreeze (DO NOT use automotive antifreeze) to all lines and place a Skimguard Winterizer into the skimmer to take up any expansion due to freezing. The Skimguard Winterizer will also seal off the skimmer line and trap any air in the line. If the skimmer is connected to the main drain, this air lock will prevent water from rising in the plumbing line when adding water to the pool.
- Refill the pool to 4–6 inches below the skimmer inlet in vinyl liner pools or 4–6 inches below the tile line in gunite, and plaster pools. This will prevent ice damage to the tile.
- In moderate freezing climates, a freeze protector is an option. Freeze protectors trigger the equipment to run at certain temperatures assuring water flow, preventing equipment, plumbing, and valve damage.

Step 3

Prepare deck

- Remove all ladders, hoses, over-the-top skimmers, etc. Remove the automatic pool cleaner and drain completely. Lay the hoses out straight in a non-freezing location.
- If the coping or deck around your pool has a rough surface or edge, protect the pool cover by placing foam, old solar cover material or other soft material around the perimeter of the pool. This will help prevent premature wear.
- Inflate air pillow(s) (OPTIONAL for above ground pools only). Use an air pump or the exhaust from a home vacuum cleaner. NEVER use a hair-dryer to inflate. Generally, 2 or 3 pillows are sufficient for an average pool (16' x 32') and two pillows are sufficient for a 24' round above-ground pool. Air pillows on the pool surface help relieve the pressure of expanding ice and help support the cover. In addition, water removal from the top of the cover is easier to accomplish.

To keep the air pillow(s) in place in the center of the pool, tie the air pillow(s) to the rope anchors, the diving board base, or any other stationary object. If using more than one pillow, tie them together using the grommets. Pool Pillow Pal attaches to the air pillow and cover to hold the pillow in place.

Step 4

Size cover

Sizing for above ground pools

- Usually the standard cover for your pool size will provide enough coverage for an above ground pool. So, a 24' round pool will require a 27' round cover. This allows 3' to compensate for the air pillows and for the distance between the water and the top ledge of the pool.

If you are in a hard freeze area or intend to lower the water any more than 12", add 2' to each measurement to ensure proper coverage.

Avoid "tenting" of the cover by ensuring that the cover lays flat against the sides of the pool walls and the water surface. If the cover is stretched and "tenting", damage will occur when rain or snow accumulate stressing the cover.

Sizing for inground pools

- When covering an inground pool for the winter, the standard cover for your pool size will usually suffice. For example, a 16' x 32' pool will use a cover 21' x 37' cover. This cover would allow 16' across the pool, 2' from water to deck (6" to 12" each side) and 2' on the deck (12" on each side) for the water bags to sit on.

IMPORTANT: If your steps extend further than the length of the pool, purchase the next larger size. For example, a 16' x 32' pool that has steps that extend further than 32', the next larger cover size would be needed.

If you are in a hard freeze area or intend to lower the water level any more than 12" below the skimmer or tile line, add 2' to each measurement to ensure proper coverage.

IMPORTANT: Make sure that the cover does not "tent." This condition, is where the cover is not lying flat against the sides of the pool and water surface, but rather pulled away from the wall at an angle. If the cover is "tenting," then as rain or snow, fall on the cover it will gradually pull the water bags into the pool or rip the cover.

Step 5

Covering your pool

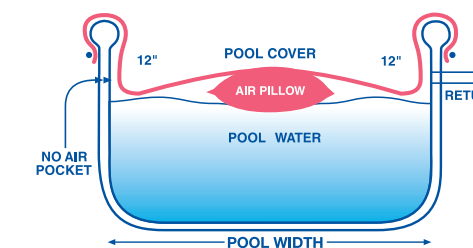
Above ground pools

- Carefully unfold the cover and pull it across the pool. Make sure that the cover is centered on the pool. Thread the cable through all of the grommets. Attach the winch to the cable ends and tighten the cable so that it is snug against the side of the pool. Do not hang weights on the grommets as this will stress the cover and eventually cause a tear. If wind is a problem, use small water bags on the surface of the pool to hold the cover down. These should be placed on the pool according to the manufacturer's recommendation (2' – 3' apart). Place a water siphon on the cover to drain rainwater or melted snow from the cover. A small submersible pump also works well.

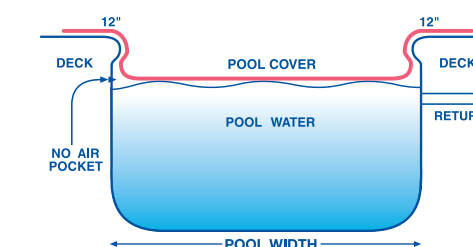
NOTE: The chemical balance should be checked at least once a month and the pool visually inspected.

Inground pools

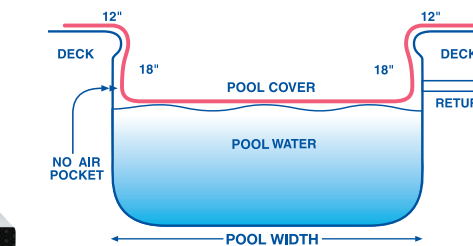
- Carefully unfold the cover and lay it out on one of the long sides of the pool. Place the water bags end to end down the length of the cover with the fill caps facing up. If the cover has water bag straps place the water bags in the straps before they are filled. Never use rocks, cinder blocks, railroad ties, etc. Laying the water bags end to end will prevent dirt, leaves, and debris from blowing under the cover. Fill the water bags ½ to ¾ full with tap water from a garden hose. Do not overfill! This allows room for expansion due to freezing. Once the cover is anchored on one side, carefully pull your cover across the pool. The cover should be loosely draped over the pool. The cover should then be tucked in place, flat against the pool walls, and the water surface. The cover is designed to stop the passing of rain, snow, or debris into the pool water. It is not designed to hold weight. Do not "tent" or stretch the cover. Once the pool cover is in position, place the remaining water bags around the cover and fill them according to the instructions. Many winter covers have grommets on the four corners of the cover. For added security, nylon or polyethylene rope may be tied to each grommet and the line secured to any stationary object. Do not stretch the cover tightly. Doing so will cause stress damage if snow or rainwater collects on the cover. Using a garden hose, add about 1/8" of water to the top of the cover. This will help keep the cover in place and help prevent the wind from lifting the cover.



Installing a pool cover on an above ground pool



Installing a pool cover in non-freezing climates



Installing a pool cover in hard freeze climates



Winter Cover Sealer wraps tightly around your above ground pool to help secure the winter cover



Everything you need in one convenient kit

Water Bag Requirements

Pool Size	4' Bags	8' Bags	10' Bags
12' x 24'	0	6	4
15' x 30'	2	0	10
16' x 32'	0	4	8
18' x 36'	2	2	10
20' x 40'	2	0	12