SUMMERIZING YOUR INGROUND POOL!

Allen Pools and Spas' staff are trained and equipped to prepare your pool for the coming season. For those who would rather do it themselves, we have put together an easy to follow, step by step procedure:

Removing the Cover:

Solid Cover If a solid cover was used, the water first must be removed from the cover. This water can be either pumped off the cover with a small submersible pump or siphoned off with a garden hose. If the water is relatively clean it can be pumped underneath the cover. This will save on refilling the pool. If you don't plan to pump the water underneath the cover, add water underneath the cover at the same time. If this cannot be done, call us for recommendations, **NEVER DRAIN THE POOL WITHOUT CONSULTING US FIRST.** After the water has been removed, remove all the debris from the cover. This can be done with a leaf rake or your pool brush. Pull the debris to the sides of the cover and remove it. When the cover is free of debris, pull the cover toward one side of the pool. If there is still water on the cover, consolidate the water into an area and pump the remaining water off the cover.

Mesh Cover If a mesh cover was used, remove the debris from the cover. Remove The water tubes from 3 sides of the cover, again leaving one side with water tubes in place. Pull the cover towards the side with the water tubes. Depending on how porous the mesh cover is, it may take a lot of pulling to get the water to sift through the cover. If you can get the cover really cleaned off, some people prefer to pull the cover underneath the water. This may leave a little debris in the pool that can be vacuumed up easily.

No Cover If no cover was used, it is best to open your pool early. With luck, when the water is cold it may be clear enough to see the bottom. Since there is probably an excess amount of debris this should be removed before adding any chemicals. The addition of chemicals would only disintegrate leaves and sticks and make them harder to remove and also cloud the water.

Before storing the cover, spread the cover out and clean it. This will help keep the odor down during storage. No chemicals should be used to clean the cover that will damage grass or shrubs. A hose and a brush work well. Dry the cover if possible.

If the pool is to be drained for repairs, be absolutely certain to check your pool builder's recommendations before draining. Damage can occur if there is a high water table around the pool. This is the case many times in the spring. **Never drain the pool without consulting us.**

Removing Plugs:

Remove all winterizing plugs and protective devices from the inlet fittings and skimmer. Replace small drain plugs in the pump (usually two). One plug is in front and the other is in the side of the pump. If you have a heater, there will also be at least two drain plugs that must be replaced.
If needed, fill pool to level approximately half way up the skimmer throat.

Getting the Equipment Started:

If an automatic chlorinator of the flow-through type is in use, fill the unit to the top with water. This will make pump priming easier. then you should check for leaks and tightness of the two fittings on the chlorinator and the two fittings that go into the (1) suction piping; (2) discharge piping to your pool. If either one of the suction fittings is leaking, the pump will not prime.
Next, replace the strainer basket, fill the pump strainer to the brim with water and replace the strainer cover. Turn on the pump; if it does not operate, double check your circuit breaker or fuse panel. If your pump hums but does not run, call us immediately.
If your filter is of the diatomaceous earth type, be sure to add the required quantity of D.E. at this time, with the pump running (add through the skimmer with the basket in place). If the water is still green, do not run the filter— shock

again. A D.E. filter will only plug up when live green algae is circulated through it. If you have a sand filter, backwash for a minute or two to make sure the filter is clean. If the water is relatively clean, the pool can be vacuumed. Because of the heavy dirt load, your filter may have to be cleaned a number of times.

Adding Chemicals:

If you suspect any iron present in your water supply, add one quart of **METAL and SCALE CONTROL, STAIN PREVENTER/IRON CONTROL** per 20,000 gallons of water. This will prevent or moderate staining and minimize or eliminate the problem of water turning green/brown when chlorine is added. Add **5 gallons** of **SUPER SHOCK** or **1 bag SMART SHOCK per 12,000 gallons** to the water along with a quart of **BANISH**. If you plan to add granular chlorine, be sure to mix thoroughly with water before hand. Large accumulations of granular chlorine allowed to remain on the floor of the pool can cause bleaching to the surface of the pool.

Cleaning

It is probably not a good idea to vacuum your pool until the water is clear. You won't be able to see what you are doing. If the water is very dirty, your filter may need to be cleaned a number of times before the water is clean. Keep an eye on the pressure gauge.

Vacuuming

If the bottom is very dirty, vacuuming may be very time consuming. The filter may have to be cleaned a number of times before you are done.

If you have a sand filter or a vertical grid D.E. Filter, there is a multi-port valve on the filter. You have the option of vacuuming to waste. This process bypasses the filter but it also drains the pool. If you use this method make sure that you have a good water supply to refill the pool.

After Vacuuming

The testing reagents for chlorine and pH have a relatively short life. Therefore, both the **OTO** and **PHENOL RED** should be replaced at the beginning of each season.

We recommend that good quality test strips be used which feature tests for pH, Free Chlorine, and Total Alkalinity. Most "economy" test kits will not give an accurate reading for pH if there is more than a trace of chlorine present. Read the directions in your test kit carefully.

If your pH is over 7.8, use **LO 'N SLO** to reduce to 7.4 - 7.6. In most cases in the northeast, your new water supply will be slightly acid (about 6.8) and will require the addition of **BALANCE PAK 200** to bring it up to proper level.

If you shocked your pool as previously suggested, the chlorine reading should be very high—a strong yellow/orange color indicating that the pool is still being superchlorinated. If it is not, add a sufficient amount of chlorine usually 1 gallon of **SUPER SHOCK per 10,000 gallons** of pool water or **1 bag of SMART SHOCK per 12,000 gallons.**

If your pool has ever been conditioned (commonly called stabilized) which means you have added cyanuric acid to prolong the life of chlorine, you should now determine how much of this material still remains in your pool. **Allen Pools & Spas** can test for stabilizer.

NOTE: Make certain your **automatic chlorinator** is in place and has been filled with chlorine tablets.

Contact us for your new **Allen Pools & Spas** catalog, featuring many new items to make your pool or spa even more of a pleasure.

Remember, we stand ready to either open your pool for you or give you all the instructions and materials you need to do it yourself. Don't be hesitant to contact us anytime for all the free advice you want.

We want to help!!

Any questions call **locally at 775-5952**, or toll free at **1-800-649-5952 Rutland Store**,
or **1-800-543-7665 WRJ Store,** or **1-800-644-0441 for our Williston Store.**