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Pool Opening

Remove the leaves and debris from the pool cover with a leaf net and/or skimmer net. Pump off any excess rain water with a submersible pump. If an above ground pool, the excess water may be siphoned off instead.

Remove cover. Place garden hose under cover and fill pool. This will make removing the cover much easier. Try to minimize the amount of water and/or debris that gets into the pool water. Some dirty water will always manage to get in - don't worry about it. You will be adding shock to the water and filtering it soon, so a little dirty water will not hurt anyone!

Lay out pool cover and sweep or brush off any remaining debris. If you do not store your cover indoors, and you keep it outside or in a shed, then you do not have to worry about getting the cover spotlessly clean. If you do keep it in the garage or basement, you may want to clean it to a greater extent. Properly fan-fold cover and store away.

Empty the water out of any water tubes you may have. On above ground pools, deflate the air pillow. Clean off items and fold properly and store away.

Unplug all return jets and skimmer.

Re-attach any deck equipment you have such as ladders, rails, diving boards, etc. Make sure to reconnect any grounding wires or straps that may have been attached to the metal parts last year.

Lubricate all bolts on the dive board, ladders and/or rails. This will prevent them from rusting over the summer. Remember, you are probably the one who will be closing the pool, so you want the bolts to come off easy at closing time!

Re-install the skimmer baskets and any return jet eyeball fittings. If an above ground pool, you may have to re-attach the actual skimmer and return fittings onto the pool (depending on how the pool was closed). If an above ground pool, also hook-up any hoses from the skimmer and return jets to the pump and filter.

Hook up pump, filter and any other additional equipment you might have (booster pumps, spa equipment, waterfall circulation pumps, heaters, etc.). Replace any plugs that were removed for the winter into pump, filter, chlorinator, booster pump, and/or heater.

Turn on the power to the pool system. You may have to turn on the circuit breaker from the house. Start and check system. Check for leaks or drips. Make sure any grounding straps or wires are properly connected to the pump and any other components that need them. Make sure pump primes properly. Check for proper flow. Backwash the filter thoroughly. Add new DE if you have a DE filter. If some pieces of equipment do not appear to be operating properly, contact a local pool professional for assistance.

Shock the pool with chlorine shock product. You want to add enough to raise the chlorine level of the pool to at least 3.0 ppm. If the pool is clear, add 1 lb. per 15,000 gallons. If your pool is a "green swamp" when you open it, remove any debris by dipping or vacuuming and add shock at 1 lb. per 10,000 gallons.

If your pool water is relatively clear, circulate for 3-4 hours and take a sample of water in a clean plastic container to Marie's Pool Store for a thorough test.