



Pool Care 101

Opening your Pool

The first order of business for any pool (be it In-ground or Above-ground) is basic housekeeping. If your pool has been covered during the off-season, now is the time to remove and clean your cover. Skim off any accumulated water from the cover before you remove it, so it doesn't spill into the pool. Clean and dry the cover well before storing it for the summer to prevent mildew. Start the season off right with freshly cleaned pool walls and equipment. If your pool was left uncovered during the winter, skim off any leaves or debris that has fallen into the pool. Next, brush down the pool wall and floor, and then vacuum thoroughly. Make sure all the equipment (skimmer, pump, basket, filters, drains etc.) is free of debris and buildup before reconnecting it. If you didn't chemically clean the filter before closing your pool last fall, do that now. Dirt and debris left on the filter may have hardened during the off-season and could damage the filter media. When everything is back in place, turn on the filter pump, and watch to make sure the skimmers, bottom drains and filters are all working as they should. Bring the water level back to the proper level, usually several inches above the bottom of the skimmers flap.

Balancing the water

Once your pool is awake after the long winter, your first task is to get the water in balance. For pools with chlorine, start the balancing process by adjusting the P.H. to 7.2 and shock the pool through the skimmer and run the filter overnight. If your water is warm enough the next morning, test it by using an appropriate home test kit or test strips. It's best to wait until the water temperature is above 65 degrees before you check your water balance if you are on a chlorine base pool.