

The Biggest Headaches When Opening Your Pool and How to Prevent Them Now!

The best way to ensure a smooth carefree opening is to have a problem free pool prior to closing. This means no leaks, drips, or broken parts, combined with a proper closing and winter care. Here are some headaches that we and our customers have experienced during our opening season, and recommendations on how to avoid them.

The Green Swamp

The most common causes are “Mesh” safety covers. Also, covers that are old and worn, safety or tarp style, improperly balanced water chemistry prior to closing, and opening your pool too late.

Recommendations:

Replace your “Mesh” safety cover with a safety cover that does not let light through. If your tarp cover and water bags looks old and worn then replace them or have a new safety cover installed. Have your water clear and properly balanced prior to closing your pool. Open your pool in April before the warmer temperatures come.

Note: If your safety cover has been damaged over the past winter, it will need to be repaired before you close the pool or it will delay your closing.

Wrinkles and Floating Liners

This can be the result of many things or even a combination of things such as improper drainage around pool, landscaping, defective/broken concrete, leaks, cover issues, etc.

Recommendation:

We recommend if you have wrinkles in your pool, it is best to, if possible remove them now. Also, it is best to come up with a plan of action on why it is happening and how to prevent them from getting worse. Having French drains installed around the pool or redoing your landscaping may help by preventing the ground water from going underneath your liner.

Broken and Leaking Filtration Equipment

Overtime, your filtration system can be damaged due to age, freezing temperatures and simply being outdoors. PVC piping can crack, loosen and deteriorate. Many broken items can be traced to an improper winterization, especially underground plumbing lines. Small leaks lead to bigger headaches and more expensive repairs.

Recommendation:

All broken and leaking equipment should be repaired prior to closing and monitored for at least a week or two.

Leaking and Drained Pools

Never close your pool if you think it may have a leak. With just a small hole in the deep end of your pool, it can be completely be drained over the winter. This can lead to additional damage if left empty too long.

Recommendation:

Put a pencil mark at the skimmer faceplate and monitor the water level. It is typical to lose up to ¼” per day due to evaporation depending on the weather. Also, always monitor your water before and after you close your pool.

Note: If you suspect a leak, we can perform state of the art leak detection now and help avoid buying a new liner prematurely. If a new liner is needed, don't wait until opening the pool as it can be more cost effective, easier, and prevent further damage by fixing it now as opposed to the next year.

Filter Pressure too High

Overtime D.E. filters can be so clogged with excess D.E. that it becomes difficult for the water to properly flow through your filter. The extra D.E. can lead to poor water circulation, reduced filter capacity and increased pump strain. This can cause excessive algae growth or it can also cause premature failure on the pump and filter.

Recommendation:

Periodic backwashing may remove the D.E. powder, but it will not be enough to remove extreme amounts. Your D.E. filter should be opened and completely cleaned out annually. Your filter grids may also need to be chemically cleaned from suntan lotions and oils.

Liner Slipped out of the Track

Liners are held in by water tension and can slip out of the track. The liner can be very easy to reinstall while it is hot outside and the liner is soft and pliable. Most times when it is too cold or the liner is too brittle it cannot be corrected easily if at all.

Recommendation:

Secure your pool liner by installing “beadlock” around the perimeter of the pool as a preventive measure before your liner slips out of the track.

Note: Beadlock is a “T” shaped vinyl molding that fits into the gap between the liner bead and the tracking, after the liner is installed.

Remember...

The best way to have a smooth opening is to have your pool, and equipment, properly working before closing your pool.