



Fall Newsletter

Crystal Clear Swimming Pools

Fall 2015

Gas Heater Care

Make your Gas Heater last as long as possible

There are several things you can do to make your gas heater last longer.

Firstly, a gas heater should always be inspected and cleaned at least once a year by a qualified gas technician (best done in the spring). This is extremely important not only for your family's safety but your home insurance may also require this be done each year.

Keep everything away from your heater. Make sure that there is nothing around your heater that may melt or catch fire. Do not store things on top of your heater. If your heater is not situated in a shed you must continually inspect your heater to ensure leaves and other debris have not accumulated on top of it.

There are several things that can reduce the life of your gas heater.

Water chemistry has a huge impact on the life of your heater. You must keep your water in balance. Do not allow your pH level to fall below 7.0 for extended periods of time as it will deteriorate the core of your heater and cause it to fail.

Operating your pool heater correctly is vital to the overall operation, performance and life of all of your pool equipment including filter, pump, chlorinator and any other equipment you may have. Improper operation may cause failure or damage to other pool equipment.

You MUST turn your pool heater off at least 5 minutes before turning off your pump. Your pool heater is made to heat cold water as it passes through the core. Core temperature can reach hundreds of degrees during operation. If you turn off the water flow, the inside of the heater will boil over and send hot steam back through the pipes and into your filter head and other equipment. This steam can reach incredibly high temperatures and melt any equipment it comes in contact with, including filter heads and chlorinators. **If you think you may have a POWER FAILURE**, such as a lightning storm or other power outage, you must immediately turn off your heater.

A word about Safety Covers

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Safety covers are just that, they are for the safety of any children or pets that may inadvertently wander onto the pool during the winter months. They are not meant to be walked on.

A safety cover will keep large debris from getting into the pool over the winter. However, the main drawback of this type of cover is that it allows rain water and snow melt into the pool, thus contaminating the water below. When you open your pool in the spring the water may be green and require extra chemicals and time to get the pool in swimming condition.

What can you do to help lessen the impact of this problem?

1. Open early, before the water is warm enough for algae to start growing.
2. Close late, after the water is too cold for algae to start growing.
3. Put a chemical kit in the pool when opening and closing.

TIP: Use your cover for short periods in the summer months to keep out any falling debris such as maple keys.

A major cause of equipment failure is over-heating!

Believe it or not!

How to maintain your pool over the WINTER months

A swimming pool is a year round commitment!

Winter is a sad time of year for swimming pool owners. That beautiful blue oasis has been replaced with an ugly cover that collects debris and encourages aquatic life reminiscent of the "old swimming hole".

Just because your pool is now closed for the season does not mean you can just forget about it until the spring and hope everything will be good to go.

Regardless of the type of cover you have, please read this entire article.

You should be inspecting the pool at least **once a week** until it has completely frozen over, and then start weekly inspections again as soon as it starts to melt, even a little bit of melting.

There are **3 types** of pool covers and each one has a different set of winter maintenance requirements.

What to look for if you have a **tarp & water bag** cover. The main reason for failure here is with water bags that

go flat. The main cause of failure would be from pets and wildlife walking on the bags. Even the cutest little wild bird hopping along your water bag can put small holes in the bag, especially after they have frozen. Extreme changes in temperature can rupture a water bag, as we saw in the 2014-15 winter season. If a water bag goes flat it must be replaced immediately and the cover must be put back into place. Most water bags go flat right after closing or right after the first spring thaw. If you use bricks or any other substitute for water bags you risk damaging your pool if they happen to fall in the pool, where as, water bags are designed not to do any damage in the case of failure.

What to look for if you have a **hanging or fitted** cover. The main reason for failure here is the age of the cover. When your cover is new it will fit the pool perfectly but as time goes on the cover will shrink and change shape ever so slightly. This causes the cover not to fit like it did previously. You must check to make

sure that the cover stays in the track all the way around the pool. It is very important to check this **BEFORE** the water on the top freezes. It is impossible to fix once it is frozen.

What to look for if you have a **safety** cover. You need to make sure that you remove any large debris that may fall onto the pool. Also remember that water from rain and snow will go through your cover and into the pool. If there is major rain and/or snowfall over the course of the winter, you may need to drain a bit of water from the pool in the early spring just after the ice has melted.

The main thing to remember, regardless of the type of cover you have, is to make sure that it stays in place all winter and does not allow the pool water under the cover to become contaminated by the environment on top of the cover.

Contact us if you need any winter help with your pool

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Contact us if you have any questions or require further information about the contents of this newsletter, or wish to book an appointment.

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