



Fall Newsletter

Crystal Clear Swimming Pools

Fall 2016

Do Not Feed the Birds

Keep your backyard swimming pool friendly

It is nice to have birds in your backyard over the winter. Waking up in the morning to the sound of birds chirping and watching them fly around can be very therapeutic.

Unfortunately, birds can cause many problems for your pool. In addition to winter they can continue to cause problems all summer long.

During the winter, bird droppings on the cover not only make a mess but it can contaminate your pool water if you have any tiny holes in your cover or if the cover happens to fall in the pool.

This also encourages more and larger birds to your backyard.

In the spring the cover water may start to smell as the ice begins to thaw out. This will encourage the birds to use your pool as a bird outhouse.

They will begin nesting in your area and cause a problem all summer as well. As the birds clean their nests they will drop their waste in their bird outhouse.

This may also attract larger birds to your pool, like ducks and geese. They may also nest near your pool causing an even larger problem once your pool is open for the summer. Typically, you will see bird droppings all around the edge of your pool creating a big mess on your deck.

If migrating birds get to know your pool as a nice place to stop, they will stop off every year on their migration north in the spring and south in the fall. Of course they will bring all their friends too. The next thing you know you will have an entire flock of birds using your pool as a stopover.

If you get Canada geese nesting in your area it is illegal to disturb or remove a Canada goose nest once it has been established. This means you are stuck with them until they decide to move on. This may be all summer if they really like the environment around your pool.

Bottom line:

DON'T FEED THE BIRDS.

A Word About Salt Cell Winter Storage



If you have a salt water pool there are special winter storage requirements for the salt cell. Follow these simple instructions to extend the life of your salt cell.

The salt cell should be removed from the plumbing and kept inside the house for the winter.

It is a good idea to clean the cell before storage.

To avoid condensation and corrosion on the metal plates inside the cell you should **not** store the cell in a plastic bag or wrap it in plastic.

Store the cell in a cool dry area of your home. Typically the cell is stored in the basement if you have a **dry** basement.

Do not store the cell in an area with **any** type of heat source such as the laundry room or near the furnace. The constant change in temperature may cause the cell to warp or crack.

Keep the cell in an open area to provide maximum air flow to keep it as dry as possible.

Treated swimming pool water is deadly to birds!

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.

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.

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

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, whereas, 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.

Keep your pets off of the pool. This makes a mess and they could fall in as the ice begins to melt.

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.

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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