

Closing procedures for vinyl in-ground pools

Note: Carefully read this entire document before proceeding with the closure of your pool.

For easier opening in spring, Trévi recommends that you close your pool as late as possible, ideally once the water temperature drops to about 10°C (50°F). We recommend that you have a complete test of your water done in one of our 3 superstores. Adjust alkalinity to between 100 and 120 ppm and pH to between 7.2 and 7.4 in order to maintain neutral water. Maintaining the water and the bottom clean longer will help prevent the accumulation of dirt and minimize the formation of bacteria and algae. Closing your pool late also ensures that the vinyl liner is exposed to the sun's rays for a shorter period of time and therefore less likely to dry up and fade. Make a drawing or take a photograph of your filtering system to facilitate reassembly come spring. Be sure to monitor the water level in your pool in order to detect leaks. Any necessary repair work must be carried out prior to winterizing, as ice will begin to form on the surface of the water once temperatures drop below freezing. In the event of a leak, the water level gradually drops and the ice falls to the bottom of the pool, exerting pressure on the pool walls and stress on the vinyl liner, which may result in serious damage. To protect equipment against freezing and maintain clear water, do not turn off the filter system prior to winterizing your pool.

1) **PROCEDURE**

- Check that there is no water in the dry well.
- Add half a container of **TRÉVI STOP** (optional) and wait 12 hours.
- Vacuum and clean liner if necessary using **TREVI VINYLE NET**.
- Set filter on **BACKWASH** and run the pump for 4 minutes.
- During the backwash, pour 2 litres of **TRÉVI FILTRE** (optional) into the skimmer and close the bottom drain (do not add this product if you have a cartridge filter system).
- Lower water level to 5 cm (2 inches) below the returns. There are three ways to do this:
 - **Bottom drain connected to the skimmer**
Leave both holes open, place vacuum plate on basket and block hole using plug. Hold it down with a heavy object (e.g., a gallon of antifreeze). Insert the garden hose into the skimmer and turn the water on low. Place filter handle on **DRAIN** or **WASTE** and start pump. In the case of cartridge filters, open the valve leading to the discharge line.
 - **Bottom drain connected directly to the pump**
Close the skimmer valve and leave the drain valve open. Place garden hose in the skimmer and allow a trickle of water to run out. Place filter handle on **DRAIN** or **WASTE** and start pump. In the case of cartridge filters, open the valve leading to the discharge line.
 - **No bottom drain**
Prepare as if for vacuuming. Place the garden hose in the skimmer. Place filter handle on **DRAIN** or **WASTE** and start pump or use a submersible pump. In the case of cartridge filters, open the valve leading to the discharge line. While the water level is going down, remove solar blanket, rinse, let dry and store for winter. Remove all accessories, e.g., thermometer, baskets, solar blanket winder, robot cleaner, cable and floats. Remove ladder, taking care not to remove rubber pads. Apply lubricating gel or Jack Formula (not Vaseline) on any apparent O-rings and to the anchor block screws and all bolts. Remove diving board. Never remove base. Remove return holes rings, eyeballs and all spa jets located in the step. Be careful not to remove the plate held in place by four screws. Remove skimmer accessories (basket, vacuum adapter, skimmer weir).

2) **DRAINING THE PIPES**

There are two ways to flush water from underground pipes:

➤ **If you are using a Shop-Vac type vacuum:**

Place filter handle on **WINTERIZE** or **CLOSE** and remove the gauge. In the case of cartridge filters, open the valve leading to the discharge line. Ensure that discharged water is directed as required. Use the vacuum to draw water into the filter intake. Draw water in one of the return holes by connecting the vacuum hose in a return hole and plugging the other hole, start blowing the return hole furthest from the filter. Repeat with the other return hole. For special return holes located in the spa steps, use a #10 or #11 black screw-on rubber cap. Do not forget the discharge line.

➤ **If you are using a blower:**

Use a vacuum blower and connect the vacuum hose to the skimmer intake. For cartridge filters, remove cartridge. For sand filters, set the filter handle to "WHIRLPOOL" or "RECIRCULATE". Leave the pressure gauge in place. Activate the filter pump for one minute. Blow into the furthest return hole and plug the other holes until no more water comes out of the unplugged hole. Plug this hole, and repeat the operation immediately for the second furthest hole. Repeat this operation for all the holes, working your way to the hole closest to the filter. Stop the blower when water ceases to drip from the last hole. **DO NOT FORGET** to blow the additional lines (the water cascade hole, for example). For the backflow line, set the filter handle to "DRAIN" or "WASTE" while activating the blower.

3) **WINTERIZING COMPONENTS**

Place the filter handle on **WINTERIZE** or **CLOSE**. Drain pump and filter by removing drain plugs. Make sure they are empty. Remove the pressure gauge and the bottle. Do not reinstall plugs. Screw the Teflon covered plugs in return holes and skimmer openings after having poured in ½ gallon of antifreeze per return line. As well, add 1 gallon of antifreeze for the bottom drain line. Place the foam tube into the skimmer connected to the bottom drain. Place the specially designed styrofoam cube inside the skimmer. Flush any chemicals and water from the chlorinator to avoid damage. Rinse properly.

4) **SPECIAL EQUIPMENT**

Note: To avoid unnecessary breakage, make sure the power is off (breaker in **OFF** position) during winter. Put tape on the breaker to prevent anyone from reactivating it.

- **SALT SYSTEM:** Disconnect power supply by switching OFF main circuit breaker. Disconnect white cable from electrolysis cell. Turn filter pump off or open bypass valve (if there is one). Ensure that no water flows onto cell. Unscrew the unions in order to dismount cell. Set the cell on its cleaning stand, with cable at bottom. Fill the cell with 1 litre of phosphoric acid in order to decalcify it. (Take all necessary precautions and read the instructions on the container.) Allow 20 minutes of contact time. Pour product back into its container. Check if all scaling has dissolved. Repeat procedure if necessary to perfectly clean the cell. Remove the cell from its base. Rinse with clean water and reinstall. If the box is outdoors and not

sheltered, be sure to cover it for protection from wind, snow and rain. If you have an Aqua Logic® system, be sure to cover any externally installed valve actuators as well for protection from wind, snow and rain.

- **TECHNOSOLIS (Preparing system for winter):** Technosolis solar panels are not warranted against winter damage. You must therefore be sure to completely drain the solar pool heater to prevent such damage. If the filter, solar panels or control valves are installed below pool level, use the specific winterizing procedures provided with your system. For most other installations, use the following procedure.
 1. Turn the main switch of the automatic control to ON.
 2. Stop the filter pump.
 3. Remove the drain plugs located below the rows of solar collectors.
 4. Drain the solar collectors using a Shop-Vac style vacuum.
 5. Drain any other pipes that may contain water (e.g., pipes located below the filter that do not drain automatically).
 6. Ensure that all lines are well supported.
- **CASCADE, FOUNTAIN AND SLIDE:** Drain plumbing lines. Make sure that lines are free of water.
- **OPTIC FIBRE:** Turn breaker off.
- **HAYWARD LIGHTS:** Firmly pull the light towards the swimming pool. A slit on the edge will help you remove it. Do not use tools. When you remove the bulb from its niche, you will have about 36 inches of cable to bring it up to the pool deck and secure it to a peg. Insert a chunk of styrofoam into the niche.
- **LUMI-O LIGHTS:** First unplug the breaker, then remove bulb and leave shell inside the casing. Lower the water level as recommended, regardless of the light.
- **AQUA LAMP LIGHTS:** Turn light about 2.5 cm (1 inch) to the left and pull towards you. Do not remove the screws that secure the seal and the liner edge. When you remove the bulb from its socket, you will have about 36 inches of cable to bring it up on the pool deck and tie it to a peg. (If cable is too short, let light hang down in the water.) Insert a chunk of styrofoam into the niche.
- **AMERICAN PRODUCTS, JACUZZI, SWIMQUIP LIGHTS:** Unscrew the screw at the top of the light. When you remove the bulb from its socket, you will have about 36 inches of cable to bring it up to the pool deck and tie it to a peg. (If cable is too short, let light hang down in the water.) Do not unscrew the six screws holding the seal on the front of the liner. Insert a chunk of styrofoam into the niche.
- **HEAT PUMP OR PROPANE HEATER:** Turn the heat pump control knob to *OFF* and deactivate the corresponding breaker. Disconnect the gas valve and blow out and/or vacuum water lines. This will prevent ice from forming and expanding inside the fittings during the winter. Rinse out the heat exchanger in order to eliminate any chlorine deposits which could corrode the zinc and copper alloy. We also suggest that you add non-toxic antifreeze to both exchanger pipes. In both cases, disconnect the fittings and blow out and (or) vacuum the water lines.
- **GAS (PROPANE OR NATURAL) OR OIL WATER HEATER:** To close your gas heater, you must first close the valve near the water heater and then close the valve on the tank. This leaves some gas in the line for faster and easier opening in the spring. For your oil heater, remove the plug and drain out all water. Leave the plug off for the winter. We suggest you add non-toxic antifreeze to the two exchanger hoses.
- **CARTRIDGE SYSTEM:** Drain the reservoir by removing the filter drain plug. Remove the cartridge(s) and rinse with clear water. Rinse reservoir interior as well. Clean the cartridge(s) with **Tréviergie CARTRIDGE CLEANER**. Soak in a bucket for 24 hours, rinse and let dry. Trévi recommends that you store the system indoors to protect it from frost.
- **SPILL-OVER SPA:** Drain the spa and remove the jets and drains by removing the screws. Blow out or vacuum water lines. Place rubber plugs in all spa openings and fill halfway.
- **SPA STEPS:** Lower water level to below the lowest jet, remove jets, blow out or vacuum water lines, place rubber plugs in all openings and fill water to 5 cm (2 inches) below the returns.
- **DRY WELL:** Always keep dry well empty until temperatures fall below freezing.
- **OZONE SYSTEM :**
Turn off power to the ozone system. Disconnect the see-through hose from the control panel as well as the hose attached to the pool. Cover with adhesive tape on the control panel.

5) **POOL CLOSING KIT**

Note: To find out which **PERMA POLAR** kit to use for your in-ground pool, refer to the directions on the packaging or ask your TRÉVI representative.

- Place the **POLAR CONDITIONER** in the styrofoam ring, punch two of the four holes and leave it to float in the pool.
- Dilute **PERMA 180** in a bucket of warm water and pour directly into the water, on all sides of the pool. Wait 4 hours.
- Pour **PERMACIDE** directly into the water. Wait 4 hours.
- Pour the other half of the **TRÉVI STOP** container directly into the water all around the pool in order to make the ring around the pool easier to clean in the spring.
- Install the styrofoam skimmer kit.

6) **INSTALLING THE WINTER COVER**

TRÉVI recommends the use of a winter cover because it protects the vinyl liner against the sun's rays and shields the water from debris, dirt and leaves. It also prevents chemicals from evaporating, which helps keep the water clear until it freezes. The winter cover is held in place by ropes and pegs or by water tubes. This last method is recommended as it holds the cover in place and prevents dust from penetrating under the cover. For mesh covers, it is essential to place inflatable balloons below your cover.