

# Safety Cover Care Sheet

Thank you for purchasing your new safety cover from North Eastern Pool and Spa

O.K. – my pool is closed, is there anything else that needs to be done during the closed season?

Even though your pool may have been professionally closed, there are still responsibilities over the winter that are not practical for the pool company to handle. We will be talking primarily about monitoring your water level over the winter.

Why is this important???

- Did you know that the average precipitation in our area from October through May is 13.22 inches?
- In 2011 there was 17.68" of precipitation from January to the end of May.
- In 1973 there was 30.02" IN THE MONTH OF APRIL-and yes that was the record

So why is this important? **YOUR POOL CAN OVERFILL!!!!!!**

- **If you own a pool, it is best to own a good submersible pump.** Although a little bit more than some of the other cover pumps, we have found the "little giant" submersible to be an excellent choice. We sell them here or you can find various models at home improvement stores as well. When using an electrical submersible pump, be sure to plug it in to a "G.F.I. outlet".



What happens if my pool overfills?

If your pool overfills, usually what happens is it leaks through what's called the extension collar on your skimmer or actually makes it all the way up to where the liner clips in and leaks there. In both cases, water will end up on the other side of the liner and more than likely will cause the liner to "float". A floating liner is when water gets behind the liner and causes it to float up and cause wrinkling or the liner to become unclipped. Water can also end up under the concrete decks, which can erode the soil under your decks. Both scenarios are undesirable. If you open your pool to find newly formed wrinkles in the liner, and your water level is high due to lack of monitoring, then your pool has most likely overfilled.

Re-setting liners is costly and usually cannot be done until after opening season, which means we may be draining your pool during the swimming season. This is costly and not covered under warranty.

**All this sounds pretty scary, but the good news is that it is not difficult or time consuming to monitor your water level, so let's get started.**

We recommend that you drain your pool to the bottom of the face plate, just below the aqua genie return just prior to closing. This height allows for just under 10” of precipitation before a potential over fill. See the diagram below.

Pool with Aqua Genie:



Maximum water level before overfill

Top screw in faceplate

Safe zone is between the arrows

Drain to here when you close pool.

Do not drain lower than this.

Pool with Conventional Skimmer:



Maximum water level before overfill

Top screw in faceplate

Safe zone is between the arrows

Drain to here when you close pool.

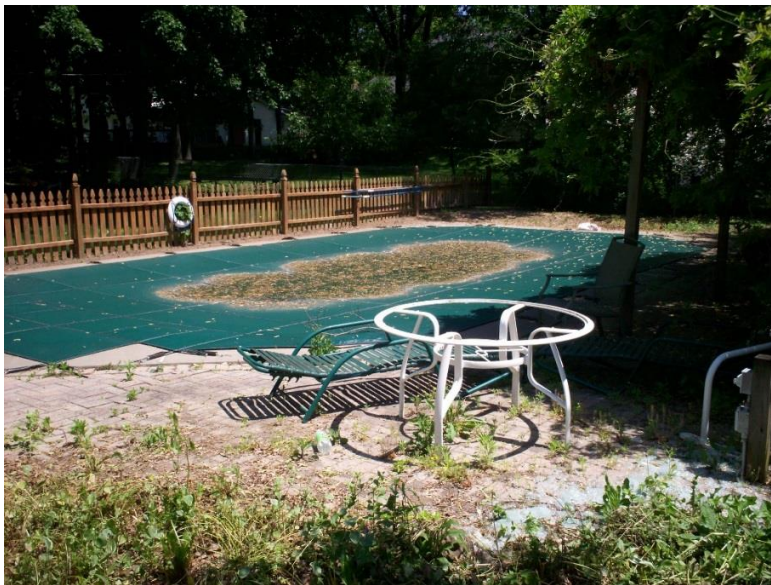
Do not drain lower than this. (2” below faceplate)

If you do not have an Aqua Genie brand skimmer we recommend an inch or to below the bottom of the conventional skimmer faceplate.

One might ask-why don't we just drain the pool lower so we don't have to worry about it? Here are the two main reasons.

1. If you drain your water to low, you may cause your liner to “float” – especially in high water table areas or conditions that effect water tables such as heavy rains or saturated soil in the spring.
2. Whether you have a regular cover or a safety cover- each **must be supported by the pool water** or they may fall in-especially with heavy snow loads

If you have a safety cover, there are several things to be aware of



- When we install your safety cover, you will receive your owner's manual, storage bag and an installation bar. The bar is used for putting on and taking off the springs that attach to the anchors. You will need the bar and to learn how to use it so that you can pull the cover back enough to check water levels or pump water out if needed over the winter. You will need the storage bag once the cover comes off in the spring. **Do not store the cover where rodents or insects can get to it.** Some people hang it up by the bag to keep it off the ground. We have rodent repellent bags available at the store. It is recommended to read through your owner's manual.
- Converse to a conventional solid cover, a mesh cover allows rain and snow melt to go through the cover, thus filling the pool. So instead of pumping off the top of a solid cover, it is likely you will need to pump water out of the pool from underneath the cover. What we recommend, and what is usually sufficient, is to check the water level prior to the first major freeze and to check

again after the first major thaw and lower the level as needed. It is not very hard to pull back a corner of the cover to have access to the pool. This is when you need the installation bar. **Pull your cover back to check water levels and lower if need be.** You may be able to check the water level by pulling your skimmer cover off and looking down through there. Some smaller pumps will fit in there.

- We have talked primarily about the risk of your pool overflowing. The opposite of that could happen too. Whether your pool is one year old or fifteen years old, it is possible to develop a leak that you were not aware of during the season. Being that the cover is securely fastened, you may not know that you lost water without taking a closer look. As discussed earlier, we do not drain the water too low, as the cover needs to be supported by the pool water. If your cover becomes unsupported by the water and we get a heavy snow, generally what happens is the brass anchors will shear off, letting your cover fall into the pool. It also oval out the springs and can tear the cover. **Your cover manufacture will void your warranties if the water level is not maintained between 6" and 16" from the top of the cover.** If you maintain the water as per our diagram of the aqua genie, you will meet those parameters.
- Cover chafe/wear and coping wear will happen to some degree over time. Everyone's pool is different and every situation is different and the degree of wear on the cover and coping can vary. Some typical causes of this are:
  1. High winds- High winds can cause the cover to "buffet"
  2. Different types of coping such as Cantilever (concrete) coping pools may be more prone to cover chafe as this type tends to be slightly more abrasive than typical aluminum coping

Some sections of the cover, over time, may wear at a faster rate than others. This is to be expected and can easily be mitigated by applying a cover patch to the affected area or placing a sacrificial pad to the problem area.

3. Your pool cover has *wear bars* underneath the straps at the perimeter to help prevent premature wear on the cover material. This straps under high snow/ice loads and/or wing can put tremendous pressure on the cover and can cause wear on the coping itself. Your coping may need to be touched up from time to time. If this becomes a chronic issue coping clips can be applied during the closing. Coping clips are plastic clips that clip onto the coping underneath the wear bar which creates a buffer between the two.
- When you open your pool, you should expect a bit of silt on the bottom. This is normal but easily handled by a good vacuum. Here are some tips to make sure you do not open up to a green pool.
    1. Close your pool with clean, balanced water. It is also recommended to do a phosphate treatment. See our retail department for more info on that.
    2. Many times leaves will simply dry up and blow away on your cover. If they don't then use your pool brush to push them off. Sometimes the wet leaves are an indication that the water level is too high. When this happens, the leaves tend to sit in the water and break down and large amounts of organics filter through. You want to avoid this.
    3. Keep animals and their business off the cover.
    4. A couple other factors can make a big difference on how your pool opens. One is the duration that your pool is closed for, and the other is the weather. **If you want to ensure**

**you will open up to clear water with no algae regardless of the above, then do the following, it is not a huge amount of effort and makes a big difference!** Once the weather has broken and it's starting to warm up and we are finally through winter, take your cover bar and pull the cover back a little in the deep end and in the shallow end. For tips on how to remove the cover please search youtube (how to remove a pool safety cover). Put your submersible pump in the deep end and put the discharge end of the hose in the shallow end and plug it in. now ,for an average size pool , say 22,500 gallons, dump two gallons of liquid chlorine in the deep end and two in the shallow end. Let your pump circulate it for 6 or 8 hours. Remove the pump and put your cover back on- that's it. **Never dump chlorine through the cover because it will bleach it.** The reason we like to see it circulated with the submersible pump is because liquid chlorine is heavier than water and will sink to the bottom. If you over chlorinate and do not circulate it, you may bleach the bottom of the liner. Many people will use their pool brush to agitate the water. This will work too as long as you are not over chlorinating.

Any other questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call 585-385-7946 and ask for Nick at Ext. 215 or Gene at Ext. 218