

# Get Off to a Good Start

At one time or another, we have all heard someone complain about their pool. Perhaps these are people who do not use their pool, do not have time to care for their pool, or have an older, more high-maintenance pool that is wearing them down. We believe that life is too short to be unhappy with something like a swimming pool, not exactly a necessity. In cases where the pool owner is very unhappy with owning a pool, perhaps it would be better to consider hiring a pool service company, moving to a house that does not have a pool, or possibly filling in the entire pool. However, we have also seen swimming pool owners that were to this point, that ended up loving their pool. Their attitudes were changed due the pool owners learning more about basic pool care, which resulted in less time taking care of the pool and more time to enjoy it with their family and friends.

Pool care can be very simple. Unintentional neglect causes most pool problems. Being consistent and uniform in chemical treatment, vacuuming, basket cleaning, and filter cleaning are the keys to success. Pool care is like most things—it is much easier to maintain it than it is to repair it. If you do not change the oil or filters in your car, you will eventually have problems. If you don't maintain your pool, you will eventually have very expensive and time consuming problems. The old adage "*An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure*" is really true when it come to your swimming pool.

One of the biggest mistakes that we see pool owners make is jumping from one brand of chemical treatment to another, and from one pool store to another. We recommend you establishing a relationship at a pool company that you have had success, and following a chemical program that best fits the needs of your pool. Then, when you do have a problem, you will have someone to depend on that is familiar with your pool. When you run into other chemical or parts issues, you can contact your pool store and the can help you, or get ahold of the manufacturer in order to better assess your problem. We would like for that company to be Gohlke Pools.

Another mistake that is often made is not getting off on the right foot. One of the keys to having a clear and sparkling pool is getting an early start. Following are some of the step to take when preparing your pool for the winter, being at #1. If you did not cover your pool, being at #5.

1. Fill the pool to the middle of the skimmer opening to make cover removal easier.
2. Brush debris off the pool cover and rinse it off well with a hose. If you have a solid cove, try to keep rainwater that has collected on the cover from spilling into the pool. Apply a good cover treatment product to the cover in order to keep it in good condition while in storage. When removing and refolding your cover, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions. We can recommend a good cover treatment product, that will lengthen the life of your cover. If you have a mesh cover—Simply remove the cover and store according to manufacturer's recommendations
3. Reinstall pumps, motors, drain plugs, filters and any equipment that was dismantled for the winter. Turn on the pump.

4. Check ground wires for proper connection. After you have started the pump, turn on the heater and reset the thermostat.
5. Clean your filter with a good filter cleaner/degreaser. This is very important to ensure peak pool operation. The filter should be cleaned now, as you're opening your pool, during regular 3-month intervals during the swim season, and when you close it for winter.
6. Circulate the water and vacuum the pool.
7. If your water is clear, circulate it for 24 hours. If your water is cloudy or light green, chemically treat and run the filter 24 to 48 hours. If your water is dark green, bring in a water sample and we will recommend the necessary treatment.
8. Test your water to ensure it is properly balanced. Before doing so, replace your test kit reagents or test strips, as they are usually accurate for only one year.
9. Bring your water (approximately one pint) in for a free water analysis and to restock your chemical supply.

After tending to the pool, please do a safety check on your pool. Do you have a ring buoy and/or life hook? Are your fences and gates in good working order and up to code?

## **Note:**

-The information in this brochure is true and complete to the best of our knowledge, but without guarantee on the part of Gohlke Pool Supply, Inc., and Gohlke Custom Pools, Inc., or on the part of any of its employees who disclaim all liability incurred with the use of this information.

-Always follow label directions and manufacturer's instructions for each product used.

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