

Winter Pool Care Options 2020-2021

For swimming pool owners, it would be great if we knew exactly what the weather was going to be this winter. Unfortunately, we do not so the best that we can do is look at long range weather forecasts and then base our decisions on these forecasts. Regardless of the weather, there will soon come a time when pool owners will need to decide what to do with their swimming pool this winter. Depending on several variables (number of trees surrounding the pool, pool location, whether you heat the pool in the winter, etc.), there are basically four options for winter pool care, which are:

1. Continue to operate the pool

For the past 15-20 years, this has been the most popular option. One of the main reasons why is that pools have become more aesthetic and many pools are now the focal point of the backyard. The advantage of not covering a swimming pool is that you get to visually enjoy the pool over the winter. The disadvantage is you will still need to run the pump and chemically treat your pool, both of which cost money. In addition, if you have trees which drop leaves, you will have 6-8 weeks in the fall when maintaining the pool will be a job - it can be a daily chore to remove the leaves from the pool. Once the leaves have fallen, pool care once again becomes manageable and pump run time can be cut back substantially. If this is the option that you choose, be sure that the pump is running when the air temperature is freezing. This will prevent freeze damage to the plumbing and the filtration system. If you decide to continue operating your pool and you really enjoy swimming, you might consider having a pool heater installed. Pool heaters allow you to swim at least 9-10 months out of the year, as opposed to approximately 6-7 months without a heater. When the weather is extremely cold, typically in January and February, even pool owners that have heaters usually surrender to the weather.

2. Cover your pool using a mesh cover 🛁



Due to the number of trees (especially oak trees) that the Denton area has, mesh covers have become increasingly popular in recent years. Mesh covers by Anchor Industries, Inc. allow water to get through but catch the leaves. Basically it allows you to keep the leaves and other debris out of the pool, but since the cover allows the rainwater to pass through, you will still need to run the pump periodically and also add chemicals as needed. A properly installed mesh cover (which resembles a trampoline-look over your pool) sometimes even allows you to blow the leaves off of the cover.

3. Cover your pool with a solid cover

While a very popular option in the past, due to the mild winters we have been having, this method is being used far less often in recent years. It is a good method to use if you do not want utility or chemical costs over the winter, as the filtration equipment is drained and turned off for the winter.



4. Drain The Equipment & Do Not Cover The Pool

This is the worst option. Draining the filtration equipment does protect the pool from freeze damage, but without any chemical treatment and allowing rain, leaves, and other contaminants to enter the pool, the pool turns into a swamp. The debris, if not cleaned out, can cause staining on the pool surface. In addition, this method usually calls for a big clean up in the spring.

North Texas area pool owners have used all of these winter pool care options, but the best method is the one that fits you and your pool. Should you have any other questions about winter pool care, talk to your pool professional. Give us a call at (940) 384-7665.





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pages pool cover information on Winter pool care options and



(b) Be sure you are 000 F a

- Cartridge filters only ш. О.
- auxiliary pump
- <u>Check heater and freeze guard</u> or proper operations

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Over the years, pools can become outdated and in need of a renovation. Some pool owners desire minor changes and some desire dramatic overhauls. Due to the availability of new products and materials that weren't available when the existing pool was constructed, often times the pool looks better than it did when it was new. Other than the shape of the pool, virtually anything is possible when a willing homeowner is paired with a creative designer/craftsman.

Renovations can include, but are definitely not limited to, replacement of the filtration equipment, the addition of a heater or automatic cleaner, the addition of computerized pool and spa control systems, replacement of the tile or coping, resurfacing the interior of the pool with a dark finish which can give your pool that lagoon look, or virtually anything else that one can imagine. Pool renovations can do wonders for the overall appearance of the backyard. Following are some tips in selecting a pool renovation contractor and how to finance the project.

Selecting a Renovation Contractor

Finding a dependable, experienced contractor is the key to a successful renovation. Pool owners whom have had a pool renovation done are often the best source of advice when trying to select a pool renovation contractor.

When obtaining estimates ask the following of the contractor:

- Do you have completed renovation projects that I can see?
- Can you get me a list of referrals?
- What type and length of warranty will you provide?
- What is covered and what is not covered under the warranty?
- Can you provide a copy of your liability and workers compensation insurance?
- Who will supervise the job?
- How long will the project take?
- Who is responsible for cleaning up after the project is complete?

Financing a Pool Renovation

After the contractor has been selected. a pool owner must decide how to fund the project. Very few people are in a financial position to pay for a swimming pool renovation project without borrowing money. Therefore, financing (or borrowing money) is a very common method of funding these types of projects. The two most popular types of loans that are available are a home improvement loan or a home equity loan. Each of these two types of loans has its advantages and disadvantages. Denton is blessed with fine lending institutions that are able to provide assistance and advice when it comes to financing.



By selecting the right contractor and financing plan, you will be ready to start the swim season this summer with a renovated pool that should provide many more years of enjoyment.

We believe that we measure up well — give us a call at (940) 384-7665 to schedule an on-site appointment to begin the process of transforming your pool.