

Dear Friend,

Each month, BOWA Home Advisor provides you with important tips on how to improve and protect your home's value. We hope the following is helpful.

**Everybody out of the Pool!**

With the cool weather approaching it's time to begin thinking about closing your pool for the winter. A good rule of thumb is to close your pool when nighttime temperatures start to dip reliably into the 40's, and daytime temperatures range in the 60's to low 70's. Much sooner than that and you risk an algae bloom. Much later and you could be fishing out a ton of leaves.

While it is important to heed your manufacturer's instructions, keep in mind these pool-closing tips from Lowe's How-To Library:

- Adjust pH level between 7.2 and 7.6.
- Use a shock treatment on the pool.
- Remove, clean and store any pool ladders, diving boards, ropes and furniture.
- Turn off heater.
- Run the filter continuously for one to two days.
- Brush and vacuum the pool walls and floor. Remove debris.
- Pour pool antifreeze into the pump and allow it to cycle through the system for two minutes.
- Unscrew the fittings on the return lines. Plug them with expandable rubber plugs.
- Drain the water level in your pool with a submersible pump to 18" below the skimmers.
- Flush and drain hoses.
- Drain, clean and store all equipment indoors, including the filter, pump and motor to prevent freezing.
- Turn off electricity to the pool.
- Retest pH and free available chlorine levels.
- Coat exposed metal, such as permanent ladders, with petroleum jelly to protect from rust.
- Cover the entire pool with a water, weather and

chemical-resistant pool cover. Use water bags or sand bags to secure sheet vinyl covers.

- Retest pH and free available chlorine levels at least once every month and adjust if necessary.

If you use a service to take care of your pool, keep in mind the following helpful tips:

- As most people in the area will be looking to close their pools at the same time, give your service company at least two-to-three weeks notice, to make sure they can get you on their schedule.
- It is best to use the same pool service season after season and year after year. This may help to ensure issues are addressed properly and avoid finger pointing should a problem arise.

If you have questions regarding closing your pool, please contact BOWA's Customer Service Team for assistance.

For your convenience, past issues of the *BOWA Home Advisor*, are available in the 'About Us' section of our [web site](#).

If you would like more information on any of these topics or if there are other ways we can be of service, please contact [BOWA Builders](#).

Regards.



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P.S. Have a specific issue you would like addressed in a future BOWA Home Advisor? Please [let me know](#).

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