

IT IS TIME TO WINTERIZE

Winterize Your Solar Pool System

Facts, Tips & A Helpful Guide For Homeowners

As you know from freshman chemistry class, water expands when it freezes, but your Solar Pool Collector Tubes do not. So, as temperatures begin to drop, especially in areas with freezing winters, its important to be ahead of the weather and make sure you have given proper attention to your Solar Pool Heating System!

Facts About Solar Pool Heating & Freezing Temperatures

- ❄ The collectors & piping should be installed in a manner that allows them to drain down by gravity when the pool pump shuts off. This is especially important in areas of the country where freezing conditions occur. Like most plumbing components, solar pool heating collectors will be damaged if water is left to freeze inside them.
- ❄ While solar pool heating collectors can handle freezing temperatures they cannot withstand, nor are they warrantied against, water freezing within them.
- ❄ If, as a result of a unique roof design or adverse pool equipment locations, it is not possible to achieve complete automatic draindown, manual drain down valves should be installed in appropriate places in the plumbing or at the end of the bottom (feed) manifold. These valves should be opened when shutting down the system for the winter months or when freezing conditions are possible.
- ❄ Your solar pool heating collector representative can assist you with the parts necessary for manual draindown installations. Water should never be trapped anywhere in the solar pool heating system when not in operation.
- ❄ **NOTE:** Water left inside collectors may freeze even when air temperatures do not drop below 32 F. This is due to radiative heat loss to space on clear nights which can cause the collectors themselves to become colder than the air around them. This phenomenon could cause water inside to freeze even if the air is 35-38 F.

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MANUAL SYSTEMS: TURNING THE SYSTEM OFF

- ❄ Turn the pool pump off.
- ❄ Allow all water to drain from the collectors and piping.
- ❄ Turn the three-way diverter valve so the “closed” indicator points toward the solar feed side of the valve.
- ❄ Isolate the collectors by closing the isolation valves on the feed & return lines after you are sure all the water has drained out of the collectors and plumbing.
- ❄ Turn the pool pump on to filter the pool as needed.

AUTOMATIC SYSTEMS: TURNING THE SYSTEM OFF

- ❄ Follow controller manufacturer operating instructions.
- ❄ Set the controller to ‘off’ mode and make sure the pump is not running.
- ❄ Allow all water to drain from the collectors and piping.
Ensure that the three-way diverter valve is turned so the “closed” indicator points toward the solar feed side of the valve.
- ❄ Isolate the collectors by closing the isolation valves on the feed & return lines after you are sure all the water has drained out of the collectors and plumbing.
- ❄ Turn the pool pump on to filter the pool as needed.