

## **Winterizing your spa**

### **1- Cut the power**

Always start any procedure by shutting off the heater and then cutting the power to the spa.

### **2- Drain your spa**

Empty the water by opening the drain valve. Some spas allow you to hook up a garden hose to carry the water away. A spa vac or a submersible pump may also be used to speed the draining and to remove remaining water and debris from foot wells

### **3- Air blower**

If your spa is equipped with an air blower, you should purge it of water as well. This can be done by first shutting the heater off to prevent damage, and then with cover back in place and power restored, running the blower for 15 to 30 seconds. Shut off the spa circuit at your breaker panel. Obviously if you have no blower, you can skip this step!

### **4- Remove the filter(s)**

Remove the filter(s). Now is a good time to clean and soak them in filter cleaning solution, so that they can be put away in a dry location for the winter. If they've had a year or more of use, they should be replaced with new. Never store a dirty filter. Make sure to remove any remaining water from filter compartment. Clean the filter compartment, and skimmer basket if so equipped. If your spa has a separate filter canister, make sure it is completely drained.

### **5- Loosen fittings**

There may be several fittings on your spa's plumbing system that can be loosened enough to allow water to drain. Open any unions on the inlet and outlet of your pumps and heater. Your pump housing may have drain plugs. These should also be opened as pumps can easily be damaged when water freezes.

### **7- Blow water out of the jets**

It is also important to get any remaining water out of the jets plumbing. This can be accomplished by first opening all jets, with your wet-dry vac set to the blowing mode, forcing air into each of your jet fixtures. Work your way around the spa clockwise, and when you have gone all the way around, go back around counter-clockwise and blow out each jet again. Repeat until no significant amounts of water can be purged.

### **8- Clean the spa shell**

Cleaning the spa shell is very important, and will make the job of opening your spa in the spring a lot more pleasant. Use a non-foaming cleaner. Wipe down all surfaces and rinse with clean water.

### **9- Mop up**

Any remaining water inside the spa should now be mopped up with a towel. Applying spa wax to inside surfaces is a good idea, and will make start up and cleaning of your spa in the spring easier.

### **10- Protect the spa cover**

Clean the cover both inside and out, and apply a quality protectant to both inside and outside surfaces. Never apply any product containing silicone oil to a vinyl spa cover, as it will promote deterioration. Replace cover, and secure & lock the straps. If you live in a high-wind location, you might consider the addition of additional tie-downs.

### **11- Secure the spa cabinet**

If the spa has an enclosure with doors, make sure all are closed and any thumbscrews or latches are secured.

### **12- Check Wooden surrounds**

If the wooden cabinet needs a coat of finish, this should be applied before weather dampens the wood, or the temperature gets too low.

### **13- Consider a Spa Coverall**

Many people cover their entire spa for the winter, if in a location exposed to the weather. This prevents rain water or snow melt from seeping back into the spa and causing potential freeze damage.

### **14- Set your Controls**

If on the other hand, you decide that winterizing your spa is more trouble than it's worth, you can enjoy your spa in the winter providing proper precautions are taken. If your spa is equipped with a freeze protection system, make sure it is activated and that the heat settings are set considerably higher than the bare minimum. Some spas have a timer/auto heat mode selector. If you have one of these, make sure it is set to the auto heat mode to protect from freezing. If you do not have freeze protection, you can set your timer switch to cycle on at frequent intervals. In very cold areas, it may be necessary to cycle on at least 15 minutes every hour. This additional run time is important in very cold weather. Remember, if you use your spa daily, it actually may use less energy to maintain a constant temperature, than to let it cool down and then heat up daily. So keep it warm, and constant.

### **15- Air Blower and Air Controls**

Running the Air Blower or leaving the Air Controls open in the winter will greatly increase energy consumption from the injection of the cold air into the spa water. If you do use the Air Blower or the Air Controls in the winter, make certain that they are in the off position when the spa is not in use.

### **16- Watch the water level**

Keep an eye on your spas water level, especially if you do not use your spa every day! If your spa should lose enough water so that the pump shuts down, the water will not circulate, the heater will not run, and your spa could freeze.

### **17- If you lose power**

If you ever lose electrical power where you live, have a contingency plan in place. If the loss is for a short duration, then your risk of freezing is low. Keep the cover on tight until power is restored. But in very cold locations, with the loss of power for more than a few hours, you will have a possibility of freeze damage if you do nothing. You may wish to follow the draining procedures above.