Pool Opening Checklist

For residential pool owners reopening a seasonally closed pool. Work through cover removal, equipment checks, cleaning and water testing before swimming. Follow the manuals for your pool and installed equipment.

Date: _____ Completed by: _____ Pool size / equipment: _____

Before you start

- Gather your pool and equipment manuals, a cover pump if needed, a hose, skimmer net, surface-compatible brush, cleaner, current water-test supplies and label-specified protective equipment.
- Keep children and pets away during opening. Isolate equipment power and automatic controls before maintenance; follow the manual to release pressure before opening any circulation-system component.
- This list covers homeowner checks, not electrical, gas or internal equipment repairs. Stop and arrange qualified service when damage is found or restart instructions are unclear.

Remove the cover and inspect the pool

☐ **Remove water and debris from the cover (If Applicable)**

If a cover is fitted and holds water or debris.

Keep dirty cover water out of the pool. Use the cover manufacturer-approved removal method; never walk on the cover.

☐ **Remove and store the pool cover (If Applicable)**

If a seasonal cover is fitted.

Clean and dry the cover as its manufacturer directs; store it away from damage.

☐ **Check pool barriers and gates (Essential)**

Check that gates close and latch and barriers prevent unsupervised access. Correct faults before allowing access.

☐ **Inspect visible pool surfaces and fittings (Essential)**

Look for cracks, loose fittings or obvious damage from the deck; arrange repairs before use.

☐ **Check visible suction-outlet covers (Essential)**

Never enter a pool with loose, broken or missing drain covers. If covers cannot be assessed safely from the deck, arrange professional inspection; do not dive in to inspect.

Inspect equipment before restarting

☐ **Isolate equipment power and automatic controls (Essential)**

Prevent an automatic restart during maintenance. Follow your equipment manual; leave electrical work to qualified personnel.

☐ **Inspect the pump and visible plumbing (Essential)**

Look for cracks, damaged connections and deteriorated accessible seals. Do not open the pump housing or attempt internal repairs.

☐ **Clean and inspect accessible baskets (If Applicable)**

If skimmer or pump baskets are fitted.

Follow shutdown and pressure-release instructions first. Remove debris; replace cracked baskets with compatible parts before startup.

☐ **Check the filter condition and service instructions (Essential)**

Identify sand, cartridge or D.E. filtration. Follow that model’s cleaning and reassembly procedure; do not open a pressurized tank. Use qualified service if unsure.

☐ **Restore winterized connections and fittings (If Applicable)**

If equipment or lines were winterized.

Use the pool and equipment restart instructions to restore plugs, fittings and valve positions. Have unfamiliar connections checked professionally.

☐ **Arrange specialist equipment checks when needed (Professional Service)**

If a heater, salt system or damaged equipment needs servicing.

Use the installed model’s restart procedure. Leave gas, electrical, pressure-system and internal repairs to qualified personnel. Do not apply generic salt-cell acid cleaning instructions.

Restore circulation and clean surfaces

☐ **Restore the operating water level (Essential)**

Use the pool and skimmer instructions for the correct level. Do not drain the pool as part of this list.

- [ ] **Prime and start the circulation system (Essential)**

  Follow the exact pump/filter startup and air-release procedure. Never run the pump dry; stand clear of the filter during startup. Stop for abnormal behavior.

- [ ] **Check circulation and visible leaks (Essential)**

  With components closed, observe flow and leaks without touching moving or electrical parts. Shut down and arrange service for faults; record the normal clean-filter pressure if available.

- [ ] **Skim, brush and vacuum pool surfaces (Essential)**

  Remove large debris first. Use tools compatible with the finish. For an automatic cleaner, check its exterior and follow its own operating instructions; cleaning does not disinfect water.

Test, treat and verify readiness

- [ ] **Test water with current, suitable supplies (Essential)**

  Check test-supply expiration and follow sampling instructions. Record sanitizer, pH and balance measurements required for your pool and treatment system.

- [ ] **Select treatment from measured results (Essential)**

  Use applicable public-health guidance, chemical labels and your pool/equipment requirements. Confirm pool volume before any dose calculation; do not add an opening kit automatically.

- [ ] **Apply only the indicated treatment safely (If Applicable)**

  If measured results call for treatment.

  Follow product labels and required protective equipment. Never mix chemicals. Store them securely away from children and pets. Keep swimmers out during treatment.

- [ ] **Retest after treatment and circulation (Essential)**

  Follow label waiting times and retest directions. Confirm sanitizer and pH meet the applicable guidance and product requirements; clear-looking water alone is not proof.

- [ ] **Verify pool readiness before swimming (Essential)**

  Confirm clear visibility to the bottom, working barriers, intact suction covers and normal circulation, and observe all label re-entry requirements. Resolve faults first; checklist completion is not a safety certification.

Notes / additional tasks