PoolBurg freeze guide

How to winterize your heat pump or chiller

For heat pumps, chillers and units that heat and cool

A heat pump or chiller holds pool water in a coil inside the cabinet. If that water freezes, it splits the coil, and the makers do not cover freeze damage under warranty.

A light freeze, and the power is on

Keep water moving through it

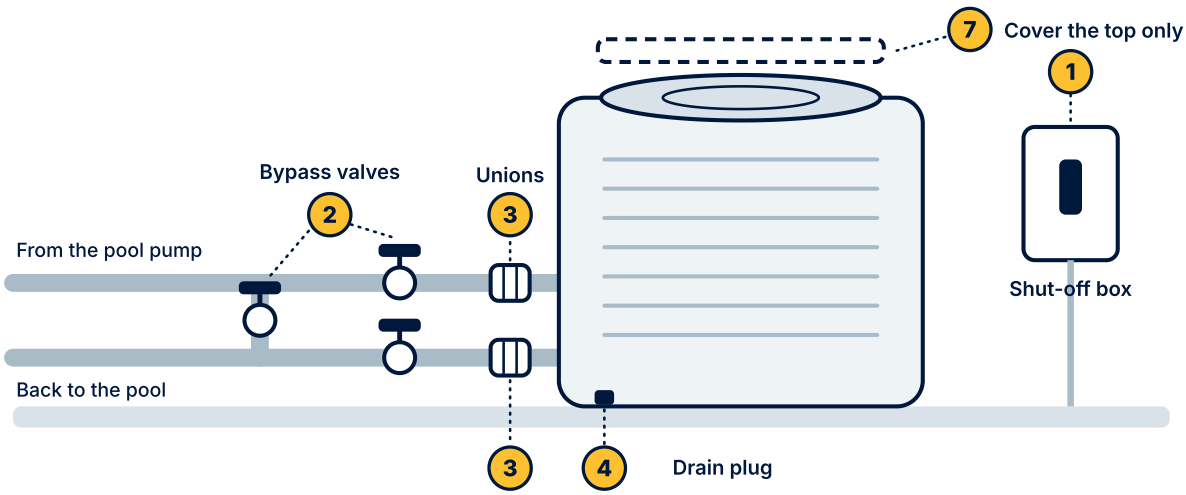
Run the pool pump day and night until the freeze is over. In a light freeze, moving water does not freeze. Do not drain the unit.

A hard freeze, no power, or done for the season

Drain the unit

A hard freeze stays below 32°F for more than four hours. Follow steps 1 to 7.

You need: Large channel-lock pliers · A shop vacuum, if you have one · A board or a breathable cover · Gloves



The gold numbers match the steps. Your unit may have its pipes and its drain plug on a different side.

Drain the unit

1 **Step 1 — Turn off the power**

Switch off the breaker for the heat pump or chiller. If there is a shut-off box on the wall beside the unit, switch that off too.

2 Step 2 — Stop the water to the unit

Bypass valves send the water past the unit instead of through it.

> If your pipes have bypass valves, turn them so water goes past the unit, and the pool pump can keep running. If there is no bypass, switch the pool pump off and drain the rest of the equipment with the pool equipment guide. If the unit sits level with the pool water or lower, also close the valves on its two pipes.

3 Step 3 — Loosen the two unions

The unions are the two big threaded rings where the pipes meet the unit. Turn each one to the left with the pliers until water runs out, and let it run until it stops.

4 Step 4 — Take out the drain plug

Many units have a drain plug low on the cabinet, near the pipes. Take it out, let the water run out, and put it back finger tight.

> If you cannot find a plug, the unit drains through the unions.

5 Step 5 — Push out the last water

Hold a shop vacuum set to blow against the upper pipe opening for a minute. If you use an air compressor, keep it under 20 PSI.

6 Step 6 — Thread the unions back on, loosely

One turn is enough. That keeps leaves and bugs out and lets the coil dry. Do not run water through the unit while the unions are loose.

7 Step 7 — Cover the top only

Lay a board or a breathable cover over the fan to keep out leaves and ice. Do not wrap the unit in plastic. Trapped damp rusts it.

Leave it this way until you want it again: power off, unions loose, top covered.

When you want it again

8 Step 8 — Uncover it

Take the cover off and clear any leaves from the top and the sides.

9 Step 9 — Tighten the unions

Tighten both unions by hand, and check that the drain plug is in.

10 Step 10 — Let the water back in

Turn the bypass valves so water flows through the unit, and open any valve you closed.

11 Step 11 — Check for drips

Run the pool pump for a few minutes and look at both unions and the drain plug.

12 Step 12 — Turn it on

Switch the breaker on and set your temperature.

> If a union drips, tighten it a little more by hand. If the unit shows an error, or water comes out of the cabinet, switch it off and call or text (469) 277-9893.

Do not

- **Do not wrap the unit in plastic or an airtight cover.**
- **Do not switch the unit on while it is drained.**
- **Do not run the pool pump through the unit while the unions are loose.**
- **No space heaters, heat lamps or open flame on the unit.**

Found a crack, or want us to do it?

Call or text **(469) 277-9893** and send a photo of what you see. We repair and replace pumps, filters, heaters, heat pumps, chillers and Glacier coolers.

These steps fit most setups in Texas. Yours may differ. If something here does not match what you see, stop and text us a photo.

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