PoolBurg freeze guide

How to winterize your pool equipment

Step by step, for a hard freeze or a power outage

Water that sits still in a pump, a filter or a heater freezes, swells and cracks it. These steps let that water out. All it takes is a pair of pliers.

The power is on and the pump runs

Keep the water moving

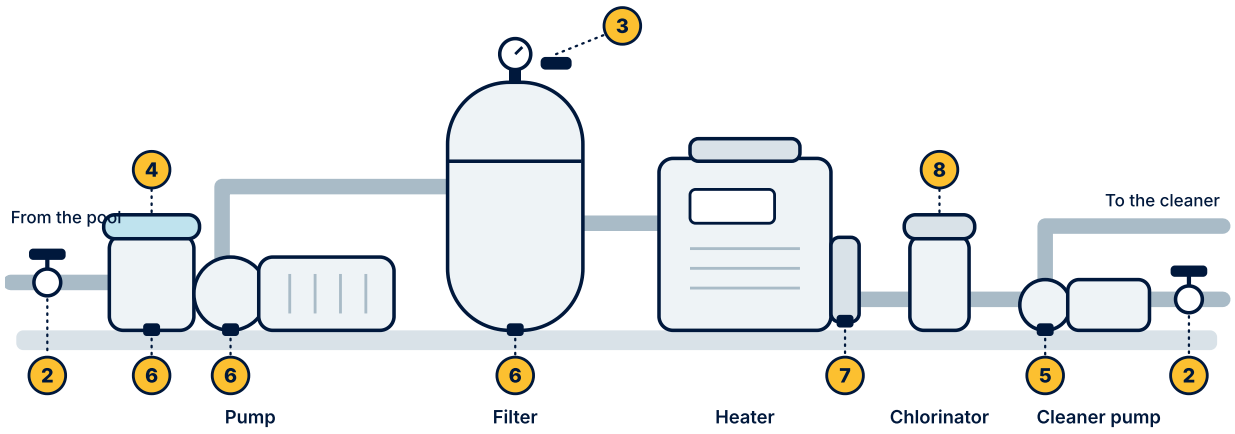
Run every pump day and night until the freeze is over, and check that freeze protection is switched on. Do not drain anything.

The power is out, or a pump will not run

Drain the equipment

Water that is not moving can freeze. Follow steps 1 to 8 now.

You need: Large channel-lock pliers · A flat screwdriver · A flashlight · Gloves



The gold numbers match the steps. The 2s mark the shut-off valves on the pipes from and to the pool. Your equipment may sit in a different order.

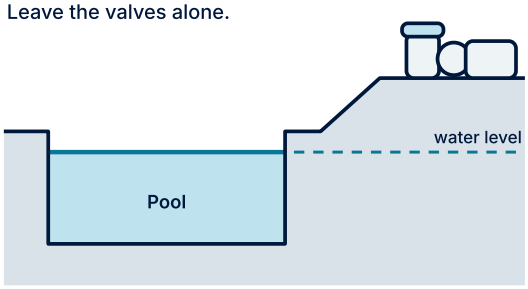
Do not

- **Never drain the pool itself.** An empty pool can crack or lift out of the ground.
- **Do not chip ice off the equipment or pour hot water on it.**
- **No space heaters, heat lamps or open flame on the equipment.**
- **Do not switch the breakers back on while the plugs are out.**

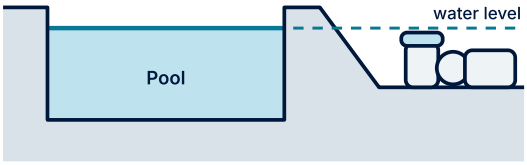
Also on your pad. Waterfalls, deck jets and bubblers: turn them off, and open their valves so the lines can drain. **Auto-fill:** shut off the water to it and wrap its supply line.

Drain the equipment

Higher than the water
Leave the valves alone.



Level with the water, or lower
Close the valves before you take out a plug.



Look from the equipment to the pool. This decides step 2.

1 Step 1 — Turn off the power

At the breaker box by the pool equipment, switch off every pool breaker. A pump that starts with no water in it burns out.

> If you cannot tell which breakers are for the pool, switch off all of them in that box.

2 Step 2 — See where the equipment sits

Stand at the equipment and look at the pool. Is the equipment higher than the water, or lower?

> If it is level with the water or lower, close the valves on the big pipes that run from and to the pool before you take out any plug. Otherwise the pool drains out through the open plugs. If it is clearly higher, leave the valves alone.

3 Step 3 — Let the pressure out

On top of the filter, open the air relief valve, the small knob or lever by the pressure gauge. Leave it open. Open any hose tap on the equipment pipes too.

4 Step 4 — Take the lids off

Unscrew the pump lid and the lid of any leaf canister. Rest each lid loosely back on top, so ice has room to grow without cracking anything.

5 Step 5 — Drain the cleaner pump

This is the second, smaller pump that runs the pool cleaner. Take out the one drain plug low on its front.

> If you have no small pump, skip this step.

6 Step 6 — Drain the pump and the filter

The main pump has two plugs low on its body: one under the basket and one under the round housing behind it. The filter has one big plug or cap at the very bottom of the tank. Take out all three, and put every plug in the pump basket so none gets lost.

7 Step 7 — Drain the heater

On a gas heater, take out the drain plug on the header, the part both pipes connect to. Some heaters have a second plug on the far side. Take out every one you find.

> If you have a heat pump, a chiller or a Glacier cooler, it has its own guide.

8 Step 8 — Open the chlorinator

On a tablet feeder, unscrew the lid, turn it upside down and rest it on top. Keep your face away when you open it. The gas inside is strong.

> If you have a salt system instead, loosen the two big rings on the salt cell so the water runs out of it.

Leave it this way until the freeze is over: plugs out, lids loose, breakers off.

After the freeze: start back up

9 **Step 9 — Wait**
Wait until it stays above freezing, day and night.

10 **Step 10 — Look for cracks**
Check the pump, the filter, the heater and the pipes for cracks, splits and bulges.

> If you find one, leave the power off and text us a photo.

11 **Step 11 — Put the plugs back**
Screw every plug back in, hand tight. Each plug has a rubber ring. If a ring is missing or split, the plug will drip. Tighten the salt cell rings and put the chlorinator lid back on.

12 **Step 12 — Open the valves**
Open any valve you closed in step 2.

13 **Step 13 — Fill the pump**
Fill the pump basket with water from a hose, then put the lid on tight.

14 **Step 14 — Start the pump**
Switch the breakers on and start the pump. When a steady stream of water comes out of the filter air relief valve, close it.

15 **Step 15 — Watch it run**
Watch for drips for a few minutes. Do not run the heater until you are sure nothing leaks.

> If the pump will not pull water, or anything drips, switch it off and call or text (469) 277-9893. If it runs steady and stays dry, you are done.

Before the next freeze, write it down

My pool breaker box is _____

My equipment sits ☐ higher than the water ☐ level with it, or lower

The valves I close in step 2 are _____

Freeze protection is switched on ☐ yes ☐ not sure: text PoolBurg

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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