OPENING BAQUACIL POOLS

OPENING YOUR POOL

The temperature is rising, the trees are budding and the kids are screaming to go swimming. Spring is here and it's time to open the pool. Many problems can be avoided later in the season by opening your pool the right way. Get the season off to a trouble-free start by following these procedures.

STEP 1: Remove the pool cover. You may have covered your pool with a solid or mesh cover to keep out leaves and debris over the winter. If you have an auto cover – clean it with BioGuard® Stow-Away® before opening. It makes it easier to remove solid pool covers if the water level in the pool is raised up to or above operating level before the cover is removed. Solid covers catch water which should be drained off and partially cleaned while on the pool. The less debris and water, the easier it is to take off and less chance of having the dirty water and leaves fall in the pool when taking the cover off. Take every precaution to keep what is on top of the cover out of the water. Pump water off of the cover with a Little Giant submersible pump. Brush water towards the pump while it is running, then brush debris off the cover. Do not dump the pool cover and debris into the pool. Next, clean the cover. Keep in mind it is easier to clean the cover while it is still on the pool. Sweep the cover and spray it with BioGuard® Stow-Away® to prevent sticking, mildew stains and unpleasant odors. Drying the cover first is not necessary. Fold and store cover away from the sun, weather and chemicals. Solid covers are made to stay wet or moist during the off season.

STEP 2: Fill your pool. The water level in your pool should be about the middle of the skimmer opening. If it is low, add new water. Remove any large debris from pool — leaves, sticks, and such, with a leaf net.

STEP 3: Remove winter plugs from return lines, skimmer, automatic cleaner line and other fittings.

STEP 4: Reinstall pumps/motors, gauges, drain plugs in lint pots, filters, heaters, etc. Make sure all ground wires are connected. If you have a timer, put timer switches back on time clock. Do not set timer until filter has ran a sufficient amount of time to circulate water and water clarity is maintained. (Water should be as clear as you desire before shutting off filtration system.)

STEP 5: Reinstall ladders, diving boards, and other accessory and deck equipment.

STEP 6: Check pump, skimmer and filter. Make sure all the mechanical equipment is clean and functional. Start up filtration system on rinse position. This allows any dirt or objects hidden in the drain or skimmer lines to be trapped in the pump strainer and or on top of the filter media. After running 2-3 minutes on rinse, backwash the filter to rid it of dirt which might have developed in the filter during the off season.

STEP 7: Vacuum the pool if necessary. We suggest you vacuum to waste prior to starting chemical treatments. If you used a mesh cover you will most likely vacuum to waste. Remember, if your pool filter is not working properly, your chemicals will be less effective. If you did not clean your filter before closing with Baquacil® Universal Filter Cleaner or utilize Baquacil® Backwash Filter Cleaner when you backwash. (Do not use Strip Kwik® or Kleen It®), you should clean it now or change the sand. When was the last time the sand was changed and what kind of sand is in the filter now? You may want to change old sand or inexpensive sand. Ultra Modern recommends changing the sand each season and chemically cleaning the sand with Baquacil® Backwash Filter Cleaner every four to six weeks during the swimming season. In DE filters, change the filter media prior to start-up and check for build-up. If there is buildup, utilize Baquacil® Universal Filter Cleaner to clean the DE elements. Check for any leaks in the system and repair them.

STEP 8: Start and test-fire the heater. Clean the heater if needed. Install the pressure switch back on 1/4" copper line and close the drain cock on the heat exchanger. Then open the gas cock and follow lighting instructions recommended by manufacturer, found on the inside when door is removed. (gas heaters only).

STEP 9: Clean the water line. Use Baquacil® Surface Cleaner® to clean the area from the water line all the way to the top of the pool liner or other finish.

STEP 10: Visually check water. If the pool is hazy, utilize Baquacil® Liquid Flocculent or Granular Flocculent. If the pool water is green, bring a sample to Ultra Modern Pool & Patio.

STEP 11: Check your test strips. Baquacil® 4-Way Test Strips check the levels of sanitizer and algistat, pH, Oxidizer, and total alkalinity in the water. Accurate readings are very important to the life of your pool. Bad testing strips can mean false readings and a costly wasteful misuse of chemicals. Never leave the test strips outside during the winter and never in the sun during the summer. Always keep the lid tightly closed and never get moisture in the bottle.

STEP 12: Take a sample of pool water. If the water is clear, run the filter for 24 hours and use our free water sample bag. Take the sample to Ultra Modern and we will test the sample. The water sample should be taken at elbow length and away from the returns.

STEP 13: Get your personalized prescription. Ultra Modern Pool & Patio and Baquacil® will provide a personalized prescription for your pool, specifying the chemicals and amounts needed to keep the water balanced. The idea is to get your pool water balanced, in condition so that your chemical system can do its best job possible.

STEP 14: You may wish to test the water yourself. However, you should know that most home test kits will not test for all the factors that affect water balance, such as clarifier, biguanide, total alkalinity, TDS, calcium hardness, iron, copper, and optimizer. Not knowing the status of these factors can cause problems. For example, metals in the water can cause discoloration and/or ugly stains when you add Baquacil® or pH adjuster. If there are metals in the pool, it is hard to hold an oxidizer reading. Ultra Modern Pool & Patio has a simple test that can detect metal content so that you can take corrective actions before stains occur.

If you brought your water in for a Baquacil® personalized prescription, you may skip steps 15 through 22, as these will be covered in your Baquacil® personalized prescription.

STEP 15: Ultra Modern checks for metals. Baquacil® Metal Control is for use in Baquacil® systems only. All

white plaster pools using Baquacil® must use Baquacil® Metal Control. Since metals destroy other necessary products, adding metal control can help extend the longevity of these products when the fill water contains metals. Ultra Modern recommends adding metal control because there are more and more trace metals in waters. Follow label directions.

STEP 16: Ultra Modern checks total alkalinity. Total alkalinity affects and controls pH. If total alkalinity is too high, pH will be hard to adjust. If it is too low, pH will be unstable and difficult to maintain. The desired range for total alkalinity should be 125-150 ppm, depending on pool finish. Ultra Modern has the proper chemicals to raise or lower the total alkalinity. Our accurate tests will determine the ppm of total alkalinity in your pool water. Add Baquacil® Total Alkalinity Increaser if total alkalinity levels are low and Baquacil® pH Decreaser or Muratic Acid if the total alkalinity levels are high.

STEP 17: Ultra Modern tests pH. pH is a measurement of acidity and alkalinity. Ideal range is 7.4 — 7.8. Below 7.0, pool water is acidic and will corrode pool equipment and damage the pool surface. Above 7.8, the water is too alkaline and can cause cloudiness and scale formation. Improper pH causes swimmer discomfort. After you have corrected for low alkalinity, if the pH is still low add Baquacil® pH Increaser. If the pH is high add Baquacil® pH Decreaser®.

STEP 18: Ultra Modern checks calcium hardness. The amount of dissolved calcium in pool water affects pool balance. This should be approximately 200 ppm to 275 ppm, depending on pool finish. Higher hardness levels can cause cloudy water and scale. Lower levels can harm the pool surface and pool equipment. Low calcium hardness can cause wrinkling of vinyl liners. Add Baquacil® Calcium Hardness Increaser if the calcium level is low. Add Baquacil® Metal Control if calcium is high. Check with Ultra Modern if calcium is extremely high.

STEP 19: Add initial dose of Baquacil® Metal Control — 1 bottle per 10,000 gallons. Circulate for 8-10 hours.

STEP 20: Add 5oz per 10,000 gallons of Baquacil® Algaecide. Wait 2 hours before proceeding.

STEP 21: Add 1 gallon per 10,000 gallons of Baquacil® Oxidizer.

STEP 22: If using Baquacil® CDX add in front of skimmer. If not, distribute around the pool. Add 1 pint of Baquacil® CDX per 10,000 gallons.

STEP 23: Ultra modern checks BioGuard® Optimizer Plus® or Proteam Supreme® levels. Ideal ranges are 50 to 80 ppm for a Baquacil® pool.

Optimizer Plus® or Proteam Supreme® reduces the need for sanitizers and balancing chemicals and lowers total operating cost month after month. The unique formula significantly increases the efficiency of the sanitizer by relieving it of much of its algaecidal work. It is easy on your eyes since Optimizer Plus® or Proteam Supreme® dramatically reduces eye and skin irritation.

STEP 23: Run the pool filter 8-12 continuous hours to make sure the chemicals have circulated thoroughly.

STEP 24: If water is cloudy, stop treatments and bring in a water sample before proceeding.

If water is clear top up Baquacil® Sanitizer and Algistat to 50ppm

Step 25: Follow up with a water test in a few days.

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For Fun & Wellness, Call

ULTRA MODERN POOL & PATIO

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