

WINTER SWIMMING POOL COVERS

THERE ARE BASICALLY THREE TYPES OF WINTER COVERS. THE FIRST IS THE REINFORCED POLY. THESE ARE THE MOST COMMON COVERS IN USE AT THIS TIME. THERE ARE MANY GRADES OF THESE COVERS. THE DIFFERENCE BEING THE NUMBER OF REINFORCING FIBERS PER SQUARE INCH, OR WEAVES. THE BEST HAS A WEAVE OF 12x12, OR 12 FIBERS GOING EACH DIRECTION PER SQUARE INCH.

ON ABOVE GROUND POOLS, THESE COVERS HAVE TRADITIONALLY HAD AN AIR PILLOW IN THE CENTER OF THE POOL TO SUPPORT THE COVER. A CABLE AND WINCH ASSEMBLY IS EMPLOYED TO SECURE THE COVER TO THE OUTSIDE CIRCUMFERENCE OF THE POOL. IN SOME PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, THIS ARRANGEMENT WORKS WELL, HOWEVER, HERE IN THE MIDWEST, WE EXPERIENCE A FAIR AMOUNT OF HIGH WINDS, WHICH OFTEN DAMAGES THE COVER.

(SUGGESTED)

AN ALTERNATE METHOD IS TO USE A COVER THAT IS ONE SIZE LARGER THAN NORMALLY REQUIRED. LET THE COVER HANG DOWN THE SIDES OF THE POOL AND LAY FLAT ON THE WATER, THEN PUT A 1.5ft OR SO OF WATER ON TOP OF THE COVER, AND TIGHTEN DOWN WITH THE WINCH AND CABLE. THIS ARRANGEMENT HAS PROVEN TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE AND MAXIMIZE POOL SEALING.

IN GROUND POOLS MAY USE A SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT, EXCEPT THEY USE WATER BAGS SECURED BY LOOPS BUILT INTO THE COVER TO HOLD IT IN PLACE ON THE DECK.

SOLID VINYL COVERS ARE STILL AVAILABLE BUT NOT CONSIDERED VERY PRACTICAL FOR USE IN THE MIDWESTERN CLIMATES.

BY FAR THE BEST COVER FOR IN GROUND POOLS AND ABOVE GROUND POOLS WITH FULL DECKS IS THE **SAFETY COVER**. THIS COVER IS MADE OF AN EXTREMELY TOUGH MATERIAL THAT WITHSTANDS A LARGE AMOUNT OF STRESS, AND THEREFORE MAY BE STRETCHED TAUGHT ACROSS THE POOL, ELIMINATING THE NORMAL UNSIGHTLY ACCUMULATION OF LEAVES AND DEBRIS THAT IS COMMON TO MOST OTHER TYPES OF COVER INSTALLATIONS.

IT IS SECURED BY HIGH STRENGTH STRAPS ATTACHED TO FASTENERS THAT ARE SECURED TO THE DECK. THESE COVERS EASILY SUPPORT THE WEIGHT OF A SMALL CHILD OR FAMILY PET IN THE EVENT THAT THEY WANDER INTO THE POOL AREA.

TAKING CARE OF YOUR COVER IN ITS OFF SEASON IS CRITICAL TO ITS LONGEVITY. THE EASIEST WAY TO DO THIS IS TO TAKE A LARGE TRASH CAN AND FILL IT WITH A SOLUTION OF WATER AND QUAT ALGAECIDE. IN THE WARM WEATHER, LEAVE THE WINTER COVER IN THE COVERED CAN. THEN IN THE WINTER, USE THE SAME SOLUTION TO STORE YOUR SOLAR COVER. THIS SYSTEM WILL KEEP THE COVERS SUPPLE, SANITARY AND FREE OF RODENTS. BEFORE STORING ANY COVER, CLEAN IT COMPLETELY!!