

Winterizing Your Caldera Spa

If the spa is located where freezing temperatures occur, and you do not intend to use your spa for an extended period, follow steps 1 through 16 outlined below.

IMPORTANT: The following steps should protect your spa from freezing damage provided these instructions are followed exactly. For maximum protection against freeze damage to your spa, Watkins Manufacturing Corporation recommends contacting Job-Rite Pools & Spas, your local Caldera® dealer to schedule an in-home Propylene glycol (anti-freeze) Winterizing Service plan.

1. TURN OFF OR DISCONNECT POWER FROM THE SPA.
2. Remove the equipment compartment access door.
3. Locate the drain cap. Lift drain hose above the water level. (Requires cutting plastic tie the first time.)
4. Unscrew and remove the drain cap.
5. Attach drain hose to garden hose and direct to an appropriate draining area. Maintain hose below water line.
6. After your spa is empty, clean the shell and filter cartridge.
7. After cleaning, remove garden hose and put drain cap back in place.

NOTE: MAKE CERTAIN ALL POWER TO THE SPA IS OFF and all water has been drained from the spa before you continue.

8. It will be necessary to remove all water from the interior plumbing.
9. Remove the floating weir, basket, and filter cartridge. Clean the filter cartridge and store in a dry place. Attach the vacuum hose to the vacuum side of the shop vac and thoroughly dry the filter compartment.
10. Using the shop vac, remove the water starting with the jets at the top and moving to the ones at the bottom of the spa.

NOTE: When removing the water from jet openings, you may notice suction coming from another jet. With the help of a second person, block off any suction from the other jet using a large rag or cloth. This will help pull out the water that is trapped deep inside the main line.

11. Thoroughly dry the spa shell with a clean towel.
12. Using a funnel, pour Propylene glycol anti-freeze into the filter suction fittings and jet outlets. Add enough anti-freeze until the liquid starts to come out of the bottom drain.

CAUTION: Use only Propylene glycol as your anti-freeze. This is non-toxic. NEVER use automobile anti-freeze since it is toxic.

13. Close the spa cover and fasten the cover tie downs. If your area receives a lot of snow or ice, it is recommended to cover the spa cover with two pieces of plywood forming a pitched roof top to prevent snow and ice build-up. Secure a plastic sheet or tarp over the spa cover and one over the plywood.

WARNING: When not in use, the spa must be covered with an insulating spa cover. Damage caused by either sun exposure or freezing is not covered under warranty.

14. In the pump side of the equipment control bay, remove the pump drain plug located on the front of the pump housings. Allow all water to drain out. Place the drain plug in a reclosable plastic storage bag and store near the pump. Replace the drain plugs on start-up.
15. Unscrew the suction/discharge pump and heater unions and allow the water to drain. Leave union loose. **NOTE:** Tighten unions before filling spa.
16. Replace the equipment and pump doors and secure with screws.

Opening Instructions

1. Remove plywood and plastic sheet. Open the spa cover by unfastening the cover tie downs. Replace all plugs and tighten any unions.
2. Follow the Start-up and Refill Procedures in the Operating Instructions section of the Owner's Manual. Do not install filters to prevent them from exposure to the anti-freeze.
3. As part of this process, superchlorinate the spa water by adding three teaspoons of chlorine (sodium dichlor) per 250 gallons of spa water into the filter compartment. This is twice the normal amount of chlorine needed for superchlorination. This extra amount of chlorine is needed to destroy the anti-freeze.
NOTE: A defoamer may be needed to decrease the amount of foam caused by the anti-freeze.
4. Drain your spa to ensure removal of anti-freeze. Do not drain water on grass or plants due to excessive chlorine level.
5. After the spa has completely drained, re-install your filter and follow the Start-up and Refill Procedures in the Operating Instructions section of the Owner's Manual.
IMPORTANT: Always keep spa covered when not in use, whether it is empty or full.