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How to Open an Above-Ground Pool: Step-by-Step Guide	Check Off
Step 1: Clear the Winter Pool Cover	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean the cover using a skimmer net or soft broom to remove debris.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pump off standing water using a pool cover pump or sump pump.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work carefully to avoid damaging the cover while removing debris.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Step 2: Remove the Pool Cover	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remove the pool cover carefully to avoid spilling debris into the pool.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ask a friend to help lift and fold the cover evenly.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work slowly and methodically from one side of the pool.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Step 3: Clean and Store the Pool Cover	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lay the cover flat on a clean surface like a deck, driveway, or lawn.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wash the cover with a soft brush and pool cover cleaner.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rinse thoroughly and let it dry completely in the sun.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fold and store the cover in a sealed bag or container.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Step 4: Remove Winter Plugs and Ice Compensators	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remove all winter plugs from return jets, skimmer baskets, and equipment openings.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remove ice compensators carefully to avoid damage.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Step 5: Top Up the Pool Water	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use a garden hose with a pre-filter to fill the pool.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Add water until it reaches the middle of the skimmer opening.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Step 6: Reconnect Equipment and Prime the Pump	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reconnect the plumbing lines securely to prevent leaks.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Reassemble additional equipment like heaters or chlorinators.

Flush antifreeze by setting the pump to "waste" and running briefly.

Prime the pump by pouring water into it, ensuring the O-ring is clean and lubricated.

Turn on the pump and check that water is flowing properly.

Step 7: Clean the Pool

Skim the water surface to remove leaves and debris.

Brush the walls, floor, and steps to remove algae or dirt.

Vacuum the pool slowly to remove settled debris.

Step 8: Test and Balance the Water Chemistry

Test the pool water using a reliable test kit or test strips.

Adjust alkalinity to 100–120 ppm first.

Adjust pH to 7.4–7.6 and balance calcium hardness (175–225 ppm).

Top up cyanuric acid to 30–50 ppm to protect chlorine from sunlight.

Add chlorine to maintain a free chlorine level of 1–3 ppm.

Allow the chemicals to circulate for a few hours before retesting.

Step 9: (Double) Shock the Pool

Select either granular pool shock or liquid shock.

Shock the pool in the evening or after sunset.

Distribute the shock evenly around the pool's perimeter.

Run the pool filter for 24 hours to circulate the shock.

Step 10: Run the Filter

Operate the filter continuously for at least 24 hours.

Monitor and clean or backwash the filter when pressure drops.

Check water clarity after 24 hours of filtration.



