

Automatic Pool Cover Maintenance Checklist

Follow these 10 steps to maintain your automatic pool cover and increase the longevity of your pool:

Remove Water From the Cover

Use a [cover pump](#) to quickly remove standing water from the top of your cover whenever it accumulates. Pumps are lightweight, intuitive to use, and can quickly remove puddles.

Remove Dirt and Debris From the Cover

Automatic safety covers are strong and durable, but nevertheless, you don't want to allow [leaves](#), twigs, and other debris to remain on the cover for long. Gently remove it with a soft pool brush or broom.

Leave the Cover Open After Adding Chemicals

For at least two hours after you've treated your pool, leave the cover open to allow any gases created by the treatment to escape. Be sure that no unaccompanied young children are allowed in the pool area while the cover is open. Maintaining proper water chemistry is vital to your pool maintenance routine. Learn more in this [water chemistry guide](#).

Examine/Clean the Pool Cover Tracks Regularly

Every couple of weeks during pool season, inspect the cover tracks and remove any debris by spraying the tracks out with a garden hose. This is especially important if you have a saltwater pool. The salt residue can damage both unpainted and painted components if left on there too long, but this can easily be prevented with a quick wash every so often.

Retract the Cover Once a Week

In order to prevent the buildup of gases from chemicals in your pool water, fully open the cover at least once a week.

Keep the Housing Clean

Remove dirt and debris from the pool cover housing regularly. Leaves and other debris can clog the drain which will result in the box filling with water and damaging your system.

Inspect the Fabric

Look closely at the cover fabric periodically. If there are signs of significant wear or damage, it may be time to replace the cover or patch when needed. Follow these steps to inspect your automatic pool cover fabric:

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- **Look for wear and tear.** Pool chemicals, weather and ultra violet light can break down pool cover fabric. Check the fabric for cracks, peeling and weak spots where water may seep through the surface.
- **Touch the fabric.** The fabric should be pliable and supple. If your pool cover feels stiff or brittle, it may be time to replace the fabric.
- **Inspect sewn webbing stitching.** Sewn threads can become frayed or disintegrate over time.
- **Check the webbing:** Webbing can bunch up around the rope which can cause the fabric to catch and tear on the fabric guides.

You should also look out for these [signs it's time to replace your pool cover](#).

Look for Obstructions

Check for and remove objects such as towels, pool toys, etc. that might obstruct the cover when you are opening or closing it.

Ensure no one is in the Pool When Opening/Closing the Cover

It goes without saying but should be stated anyway: be sure the pool is empty before you close it and that no one jumps in before the cover is fully retracted when opening it.

Professional Service

Have the cover and system inspected and serviced by a professional once per year. They will adjust and inspect your cover and look for any wear items that may need to be replaced. Items such as pulleys and sliders will wear over time and, if not replaced, can cause your cover to run poorly or stop working.

4 Signs It's Time to Replace Your Automatic Pool Safety Cover

You've got to hand it to your automatic pool safety cover. It stands up to everything life throws at it — harsh weather, dirt and debris, curious critters — around the clock, every day of the year. In the process, it saves you money by preventing heat loss, chemical loss, and water evaporation. And, of course, it prevents entry by unsupervised children, which can otherwise have tragic consequences. It is an ever-vigilant guardian that never takes a day off.

That said, even products made from the strongest materials and with the best craftsmanship degrade over time. Your [automatic pool cover](#) is no different. Eventually, you will need to replace it.

How to Ensure Your Automatic Safety Cover Provides Maximum Protection

At the start and end of every pool season, and ideally mid-season as well, it's important to take a closer look at your cover to ensure it is in good shape and operating as intended. Here are some signs that it may be time to replace it:

1. **It is noticeably worn or tearing.** Temperature changes, ultraviolet light, and [pool chemicals](#) take their toll on all materials over time. If your automatic safety cover is starting to show peeling, cracking, or worn spots, it may no longer be protecting your pool to the degree that it should be.
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2. **The stitching on the webbing is fraying.** A cover is only as effective as the webbing that holds it together. If threads have begun to break and disintegrate in significant numbers, there is an increased risk of cover failure.
3. **The cover material is changing.** Run your hand over the cover. A “healthy” cover should be pliable. If the material has become stiff and brittle, you may need to repair it in specific areas or replace it entirely.
4. **The sewn webbing is bunching.** Covers with sewn webbing may begin to bunch up around the rope. This can make the fabric more susceptible to catching on the fabric guides and tearing. Pay special attention to any areas where you see cover material gathering.

Get Advice from a Pool Care Professional

While replacing an automatic safety cover will definitely provide improved protection, it isn't always necessary at the first signs of wear. If you have inspected your cover and there are areas of concern, you can always [contact a pool care professional](#) to get their opinion on whether a repair or replacement is the way to go. If you're still on the fence, the peace of mind you'll get from replacing the cover this season rather than waiting until later may very well be the deciding factor.