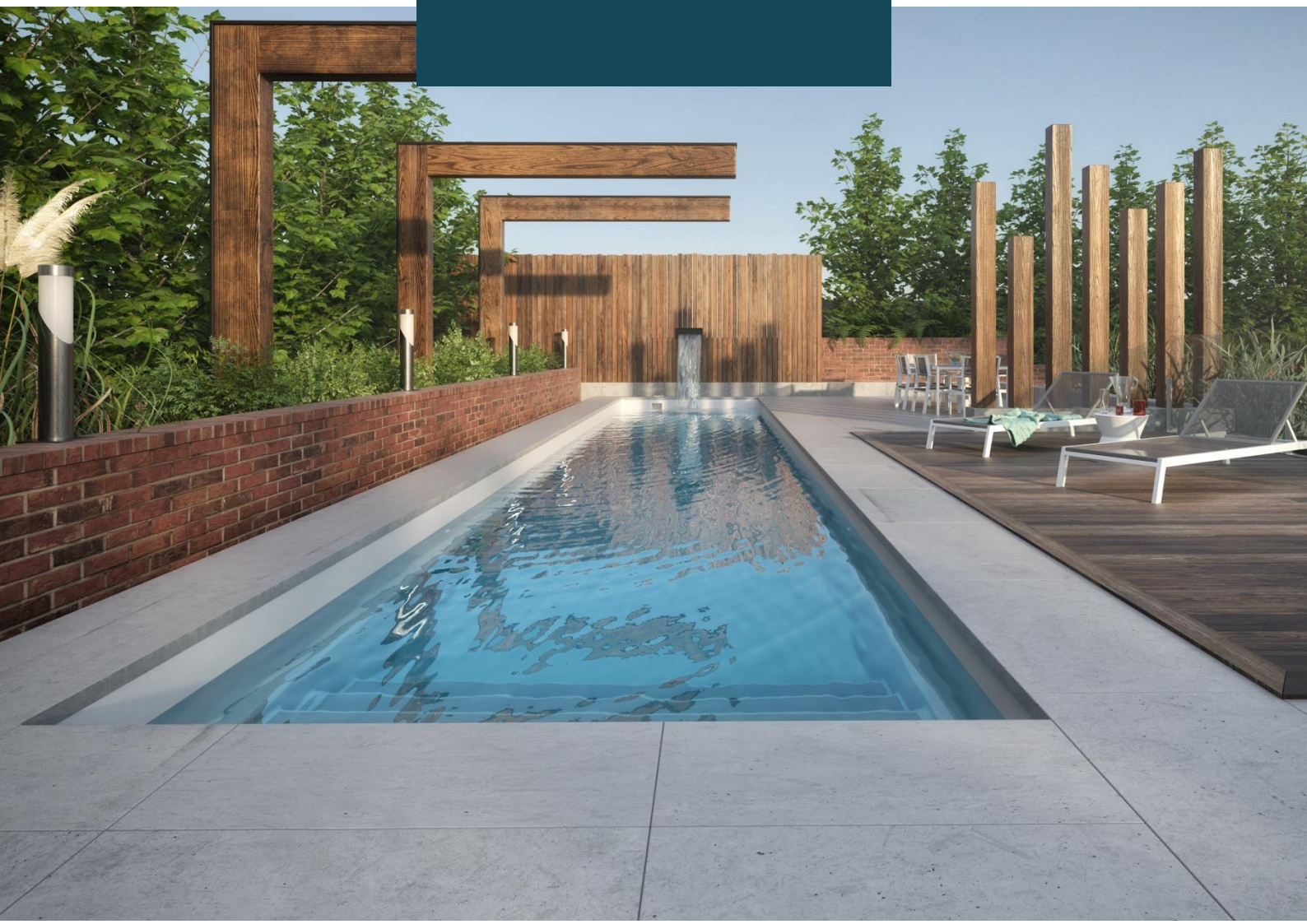
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Procedure

SWIMMING POOL OPENING

VERSION 2026-04

OPENING
IMPORTANT

IMPORTANT : It is strictly forbidden to completely drain a fiberglass pool. An empty pool is at high risk of shell lifting (floating) caused by hydrostatic pressure from the surrounding groundwater. This phenomenon can cause severe, irreversible structural damage and **voids all warranties**.

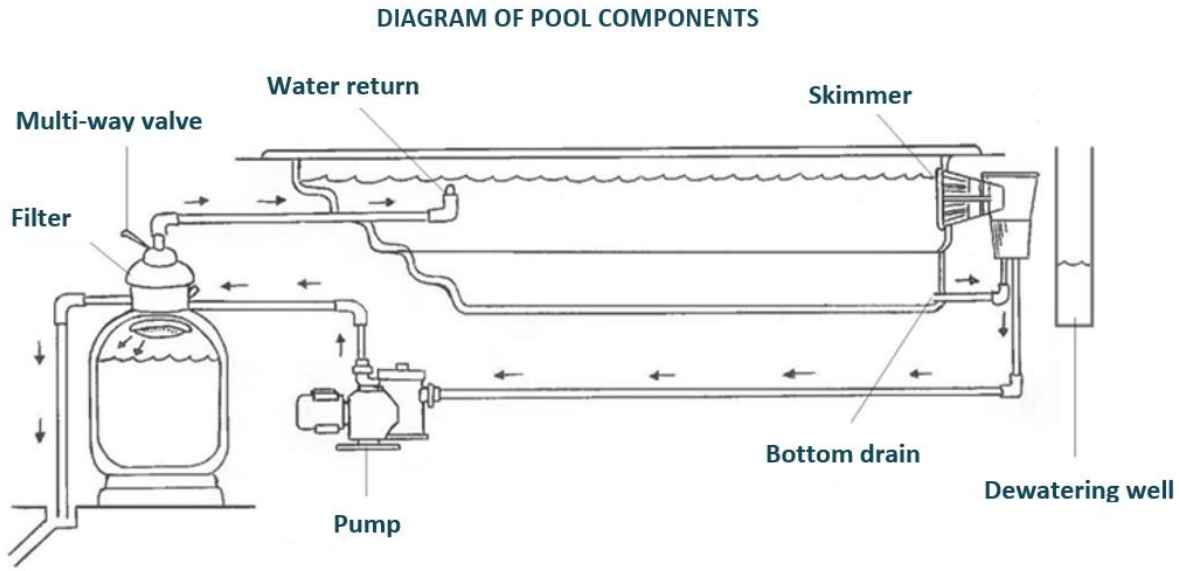
Before taking any action, you must check the water level in the drainage well (also called a decompression well).

- The water level in the well must always be at least **2 feet lower** than the water level in the pool.
- There must **always be a higher water level inside the pool than in the surrounding water** table.
- This rule applies to all pool types (fiberglass, concrete, or vinyl) but is **critically important** for fiberglass pools due to their one-piece (monocoque) structure.

Failure to comply with these conditions may result in the pool shifting or lifting.

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Diagram of the pool



STEP 1 Initial Inspection

Before starting any work, a complete inspection allows you to assess the general condition of the pool and avoid worsening an existing situation.

1 - **Visual Inspection**

It is recommended to take photos of the exterior of the basin, the surroundings, and the equipment before handling anything. This documents the initial state. Pay close attention to the shell, presence of cracks, gelcoat integrity, as well as components like steps, skimmers, and jets.

Observe the water's appearance (clear, milky, green, or brown) and any debris at the bottom.

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2 - **Water Level Check**

The water level must be high enough for the system to operate, ideally in the middle of the skimmer. If necessary, start filling the pool while preparing the equipment.

3 - **Safety and Power**

Ensure the pump and heater breakers are in the **OFF** position. Verify that the work area is safe, stable, and clear to prevent falls or accidents.

STEP 2 Cleaning and Preparing the Basin

This step clears the pool to facilitate further operations and limit water contamination.

1 - **Winter Cover Removal**

If a cover or leaf net is installed, remove it carefully.

2 - **Large Debris Removal**

Use a leaf net (skimmer net) to remove most leaves and debris from the bottom. Avoid stirring the water unnecessarily.

* Tip: Consider using a wheeled leaf vacuum to remove debris and fill the pool simultaneously.

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STEP 3 Filtration System Setup

Cartridge Filter

Reinstall the cartridge, the pressure gauge, and the drain plug. Set the valve to "Filtration" mode.

Sand or Glass Filter

Dans le cas d'un filtre à sable ou au verre :

a) Set the valve to **WASTE**.

b) Start the pump to flush the antifreeze to the drain.
(Preventing it from entering the pool.)

c) Stop the pump, install the pressure gauge, and replace the drain plug.

d) Set the valve back to **FILTER** mode.
(**Crucial:** Never move the valve handle while the pump is running. Always turn off the pump first.)

* Always turn off the pump before moving the multiport valve handle.

STEP 4 Pump Priming

1 **Preparation :** Set valves to the normal filtration position (open the skimmer and main drain). Ensure pump drain plugs are tightly screwed in.

2 **Priming :** Fill the pump basket with water to protect the seal. Check and lubricate the lid O-ring with **silicone or Teflon-based lubricant only**. Secure the lid.

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STEP 5 Circulation Components

1 – **Jets and Returns**

Remove winter plugs and reinstall jets/returns. Aim them slightly downward and in the same direction to optimize circulation.

2 – **Skimmer**

Remove the "Gizzmo" (winterizing bottle) and replace the skimmer basket.

STEP 6 System Startup

1 – **Power Up**

Turn the pump breaker back to the **ON** position.

2 – **First Start**

Start the pump. If it doesn't prime within **30–60 seconds**, stop it and restart the priming process.

3 – **Monitoring**

Check immediately for leaks at fittings/plugs. Listen for abnormal noises and ensure the pressure gauge shows normal values.

*If a leak is suspected, contact your installer.

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STEP 7 Heater Protection

1 – **Maintain Bypass**

Keep the heater bypass closed until the water chemistry is balanced.

2 – **Activation**

Only turn the heater on when the water is clear, circulation is stable, and chemical levels meet recommendations.

STEP 8 Initial Chemical Treatment

1 **pH Adjustment :** Before a shock treatment, lower the pH to between **6.8 and 7.0** using "pH Minus" or muriatic acid. Let the water circulate for 6 hours before retesting.

2 **Shock Treatment :** Perform a shock treatment (superchlorination) following the product instructions. Retest pH afterward, as chlorine tends to raise it.

3 **Temporary Chlorine Maintenance :** During the opening phase, maintain chlorine between **3 and 5 ppm**.

4 **Target Parameters (Reminder) :** Under normal operating conditions, the recommended parameters are as follows: free chlorine between **1.0 and 1.5 ppm**, pH around **7.0**, total alkalinity between **80 and 120 ppm** (ideally 80), calcium hardness between **250 and 300 ppm**, no metals present, and stabilizer between **30 and 50 ppm** for outdoor pools.

Standard Target Parameters	Target result
Free Chlorine	1.0 to 1.5 ppm
pH	Around 7.0
Total Alkalinity	80 to 120 ppm
Calcium Hardness	250 to 300 ppm
Stabilizer (Outdoor pools)	Between 30 to 50 ppm

*Always based on the type of sanitation system used

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STEP 9 Deep Cleaning

1 – **After 24 Hours**

Once the water clears, remove remaining debris with a net.

2 – **Vacuuming in WASTE Mode**

Perform the first vacuuming in **WASTE** mode to remove dirt without clogging the filter. Monitor the water level.

3 – **Following Days**

Continue cleaning. Use **FILTER** mode once the water is clearer. Clean the cartridge or backwash the sand filter as needed.

STEP 10 Final Stabilization

La dernière étape consiste à stabiliser définitivement l'eau pour une utilisation optimale.

1. **Full Analysis :** Once the water is clear, perform a complete test to fine-tune parameters.

2. **Adjustment Order :** Adjustments must be made in a logical order: 1. Total Alkalinity -> 2. pH -> 3. Free Chlorine -> 4. Calcium Hardness & Stabilizer.

3. **Heater Startup :** Once the water parameters are balanced, open the bypass and start the heater.

Standard Target Parameters	Target result
Free Chlorine	1.0 to 1.5 ppm
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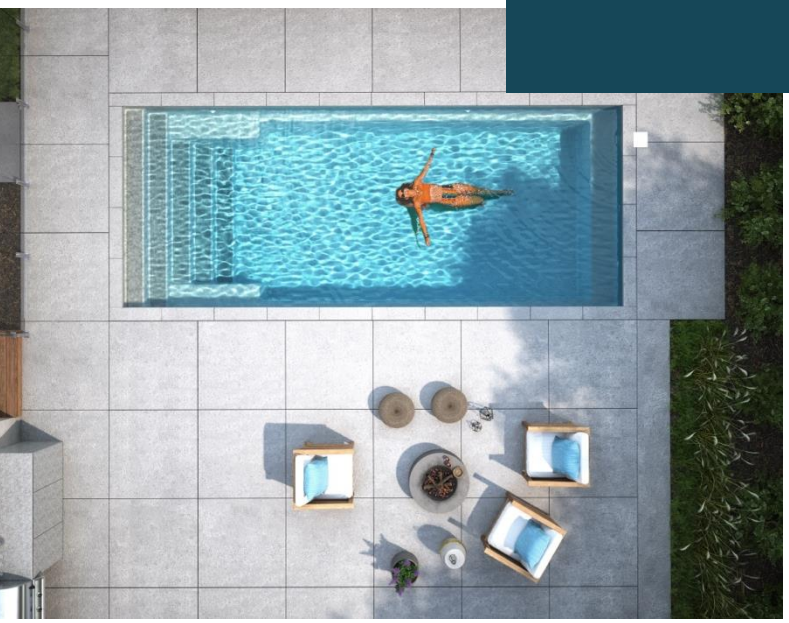
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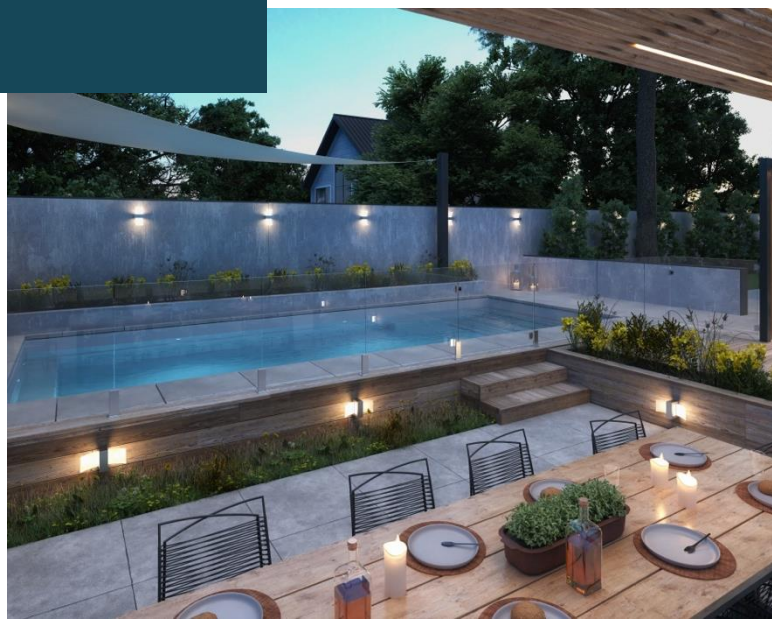
Field Checklist

- ☐ **Drainage well checked** (Water level ≥ 2ft lower than pool).
- ☐ Cover or leaf net removed, large debris netted out.
- ☐ **Visual inspection** and photos taken.
- ☐ **Filter & Pump prepped** (Cartridge/plugs in, basket filled).
- ☐ **Sand filter** flushed of antifreeze (WASTE mode).
- ☐ **Jets/Returns** installed and oriented.
- ☐ **Breaker ON**, pump running, no leaks.
- ☐ **pH lowered** to 6.8 before shock.
- ☐ **Shock treatment** completed and chlorine maintained at 3–5 ppm.
- ☐ **Vacuumed** in WASTE mode.
- ☐ **Full water analysis** completed and parameters adjusted.
- ☐ **Heater bypass** adjusted and heater turned ON.

** To be checked on-site.*

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