



By Rontario "Ron" Hicks,
Pool Scouts of Huntsville

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Pool Scouts of Huntsville: End-of-Summer Pool Maintenance Guide

At Pool Scouts of Huntsville, we understand how much your pool means to your home and household. As September settles into the Tennessee Valley, it's the perfect time to prepare your pool for fall and the cooler months ahead.

Here's your updated End-of-Summer Pool Maintenance Guide for 2025, now with key insights:

Deep Clean Before You Close

Begin by giving your pool a thorough clean. Skim the surface for leaves and debris, vacuum the pool floor, and scrub the walls to eliminate algae or dirt buildup.

DID YOU KNOW? Pools left uncleaned during winter are 80% more likely to develop algae blooms, requiring costly treatments in spring.

Balance Water Chemistry

Maintaining balanced water chemistry is critical. Test and adjust your pH (7.4–7.6), alkalinity (100–150 ppm), and calcium hardness (200–400 ppm). Don't forget to shock the pool to kill bacteria and ensure water clarity heading into the off-season.

According to the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA), 47% of homeowners don't test their water frequently enough — leading to premature liner damage and unsafe swimming conditions.

Lower the Water Level

To protect your pool from freezing temperatures, reduce the water level:

- Above-ground pools: 4–6 inches below the skimmer.
- In-ground pools: Below the tile line or skimmer opening.

Drain and Store Equipment

Safeguard your investment by draining pumps, filters, heaters, and chlorinators. Remove and store ladders, skimmer baskets, and other accessories to avoid freeze-related damage.

In colder regions, equipment failure due to freezing costs an average of \$1,200 per incident, per HomeAdvisor.

Apply Winterizing Chemicals

Use winterizing agents such as algaecide and pool enzymes to maintain water quality through the colder months. Be sure to follow manufacturer guidelines for proper dosages based on pool size.

Proper chemical winterization reduces the risk of spring bacteria growth by up to 70%, improving water clarity and safety.

Cover and Protect

Install a high-quality pool cover to shield your pool from debris and harsh weather. A fitted cover is essential, and adding a leaf net provides an extra layer of protection from falling foliage.

One uncovered pool can collect over 300 pounds of debris during the fall season, leading to clogs, staining, and chemical imbalance.