

The question is often asked, "Do you recommend using the motorized cover (ECLIPSE or CS3000) as a winter cover?" The answer is that it is a matter of personal choice. We neither recommend nor discourage use of the motorized cover as a winter cover. We are neutral on this issue. In order to help you make a decision, we have listed below some of the items you should consider when making your choice.

1. When proper precautions are taken, motorized covers are successfully used as a winter cover.
2. During the winter the proper water level must be maintained as the water supports the ice and snowmelt build-up. The best method is to blow out the lines and use filter plugs, skimmer cover plates and pool safe antifreeze so that the water level does not have to be lowered (See Image A). (If the pool has tile, which might be damaged by freezing, lower the water level to 1 inch below the tile).
3. The cover pump must be left on the cover and plugged in, so that as water accumulates from the ice and snow melting, it will be pumped off of the cover. Excessive amounts should not be allowed to build up on top of the cover. Attempting to break and remove snow, or ice from the cover can cause damage to both the cover itself and the tracks. The cover should never be operated if it has water, snow or ice on it.
4. There are some risks associated with using the motorized cover as a winter cover, such as the water level dropping below the recommended level. If the pool loses water because of a leak or for any other reason, there may not be enough support for the cover. This could cause the tracks to pull down, possibly damaging the material to which it is attached as well as the cover itself. However, if there is adequate slack in the cover and the water level is properly maintained, there is little likelihood of problems occurring.
5. The cover is not warranted against damage to the cover or pool due to winter use, just as the warranty does not cover damage due to such things as mudslides, earthquakes, falling trees, etc.
6. Leaves and debris should be removed from the cover as they accumulate to avoid damage and staining the cover.
7. A cover should only be used as a winter cover if it has the proper slack. Proper slack is determined by where the cover touches the water. When the water level is lowered, the cover should normally touch the water no more than 12 inches from the edge of the pool. Actual slack requirements may vary depending on local conditions.
8. Another consideration has to do with the longevity of the cover. The cover will not last as long when used as a winter cover because of added exposure to the elements. If it is not used as the winter cover, it should be cleaned and rolled up during the wintertime.

Image A:
Use of Skimmer Cover Plate, Skimmer Plug and Antifreeze to ensure safe winter of your pool and Coverstar automatic safety cover.

