

Ratchet-Lock pool cover installation instructions

What you will need for installation

- You + one helper
- Drill with a hammer feature
- 1/2" Masonry drill bit
- Rubber mallet
- Chalk line
- Tape measure
- Marker (china markers work well)
- Extension cord
- Shop vac or blower
- 5 Gallon Buckets
- 3/8" socket wrench
- Framing square

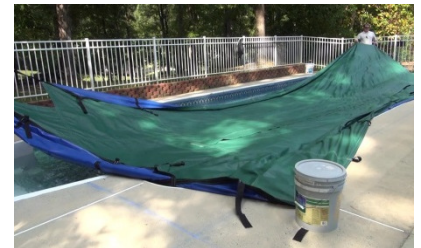


Before getting started the pool deck needs to be cleaned so that it is free of sticks, rocks, or anything else that could damage the cover. Also any pool features like ladders, hand rails, slides, or diving boards that are mounted inside of the covered area will need to be removed.

1. Taking the time to mark an outline of the cover's location is the best way to start. Most buyers did this step before ordering. If those lines are still visible and we built a cover to match your specifications, skip step 1.



- 1.1. Ideally you selected a cover that is 2' larger than your pool creating a 12" overlap all the way around. If so measure back 12" from the pools edge and put marks around the pool including around features like a step. For pools with straight sides a chalk line can be used to connect these marks.



- 1.2. These marks now represent the outside edge of the cover and will be your base line for marking the anchor locations.

2. Now it is time to stretch the cover out over the pool.

- 2.1. Before you start, fill buckets with water and position one at each corner.

- 2.2. Unroll the cover alongside the pool so that the black webbing straps are facing down and the step (if equipped) is position at the proper end of the pool.

- 2.3. Unfold the cover to expose both outer edges and use two buckets to secure one side of the cover. **Put the bucket on a webbing strap not the cover.**



- 2.4. Have someone help pull it across to keep water off the cover.

- 2.5. The cover will float for a few minutes but make sure to secure it with the buckets before moving on. **Again put the bucket on a webbing strap not the cover.**

- 2.6. Position the cover so that it lines up with the marks made in step 1 and walk around the pool confirming that none of black webbing straps line up with an obstruction like a skimmer, expansion joints, hand rail, ladder or anything that would interfere with anchor installation.

- 2.7. A little water can be on top of the cover during installation but an excessive amount will cause anchors to be mounted in the wrong position. If necessary allow one side of the cover to completely sink and then pull straight up from the opposite side. Repeat step 2 making sure to keep water off the top.



3. Now it is time to determine which sides of the pool will have ratchets and which sides will have anchor plates. The anchor plates mount flat with virtually no obstruction so we recommend they be used on the two sides of the pool which have the most traffic. Install the anchor plates to these two sides as shown in the images to the right.



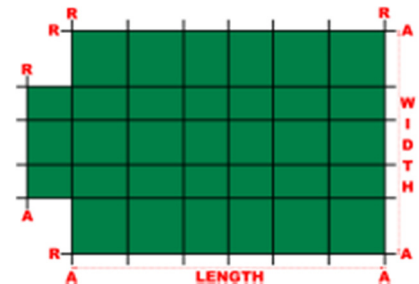
- 3.1. For most applications the concrete anchors will be installed 8" back from the covers edge and the anchor plate is about 2-1/2" long so the webbing will be looped through about 5-1/2" from the edge of the cover. Put a mark at this location.

- 3.2. Next slide the webbing up through the first hole in the slip lock and back down through the 2nd hole (see images on the right side of this page).

- 3.3. Then Slide the webbing through the ring of the anchor plate.

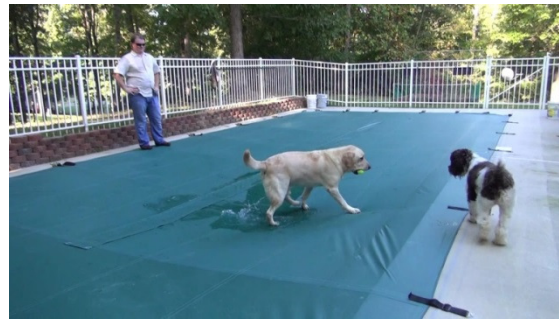
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- 3.4. Then slide the webbing back through the slip lock securing the anchor plate.
- 3.5. Adjust the slip lock so that the hole in the ring of the anchor plate lines up with the mark from step 3.1 which should position the hole 8" back from the edge of the cover.
- 3.6. We set the strap length at 24" in case extra reach is needed. Any excess webbing can be trimmed off just make sure to burn the ends to prevent unraveling.
4. Now it is time to install anchors in the concrete.
 - 4.1. Start at the corner of the pool which has two anchor plates.
 - 4.2. Remove the water bucket and pull the cover to the cover outline from Step 1.
 - 4.3. Use the hole in the anchor plate to mark the anchor location (should be 8" back).
 - 4.4. Use a hammer drill and a 1/2" masonry bit to drill a 1-1/4" deep hole.
 - 4.5. Use a shop vac or a blower to clean the concrete dust and debris out of the hole. **Any dust left in the hole could clog the threads of the anchor preventing it from expanding.**
 - 4.6. Insert the anchor into the hole so that it is flush with the concrete. Tap with the rubber mallet if necessary.
 - 4.7. Insert the bolt through the anchor plate and use a 3/8" socket wrench to tighten.
5. Next, follow this webbing strap to its opposite end where a ratchet will be installed.
 - 5.1. Remove the water bucket and stretch to the outline made in step 1.
 - 5.2. Measure 8" back from the cover and drill a hole for the anchor.
 - 5.3. Bolt the ratchet into position and use it to stretch the cover tight.
 - 5.4. Now that the cover is stretched tight use the hole in the anchor plate to mark the anchor location for that same corner (may be beyond the marks made in step 1).
 - 5.5. Repeat this process for the other webbing strap from Step 4.
 - 5.6. Grecian or L shaped pools will have additional corners that will require steps 4 and 5 to be repeated.
6. Three corners of the pool cover should now be attached and stretched tight. The remaining corner will have two ratchets.
 - 6.1. Ratcheting the cover tight in the last two locations quite possibly repositioned the cover so that this corner no longer lines up with the marks made in step 1. If so you can adjust for this by measuring the distance between the anchor bolts for both the length and width (see drawing to right).
 - 6.2. Use these measurements to put marks at the remaining corner that match the spacing from its opposing corners.
 - 6.3. Placing a framing square between these marks will show the corner location and the ratchets will be mounted 8" back from this corner.
 - 6.4. Drill holes, attach both ratchets, and tighten each one a few click until the cover is fully stretched into position.
7. At this point all four corners of the pool are attached. If your cover is equipped with a step cover, now is the time to install the anchors for it. If not, move on to step 8.
 - 7.1. Release the tension of all the ratchets found directly across the pool from the step allowing the step cover to be pulled back to the outline made in step 1.
 - 7.2. Begin by installing the anchor plate side of the step cover. Next install the ratchet direct across the step cover stretching it tight.
 - 7.3. With the step cover stretched into position install its remaining anchor points.



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- 7.4. **Retighten all ratchets** before moving on to step 8.
8. The remaining anchors can be installed as an entire row. Pull the middle of the cover as close to the outline from step 1 as possible and use water buckets to hold it in place.
 - 8.1. Start in the corner that has two anchor plates working your way out from that corner in both directions
 - 8.2. Now that all the anchor plates are secured install all the ratchets starting in the corner that has two ratchets and working out in both directions.
9. You have now completed installation but will still need to adjust the tension so that the cover drains properly. The cover should be tightened so that the center is suspended above the pool's water level but still has some droop allowing rain water to flow inward towards the center drain panel. If not tightened enough, pool water could come up through the drain panel making the cover unsafe. If over tightened, water will not drain properly and could stretch the cover to a point where threads begin to split. In some cases water may need to be drained from the pool.
 - 9.1. Use the buckets of water to test how well the cover drains.
 - 9.2. Use the ratchets to tighten or loosen the cover so that water flows to the center drain panel.
 - 9.3. Any standing water left on the cover will eventually stretch the fabric into puddle shaped indentions that you will not be able to be adjusted out later.



Cover removal

1. To remove the cover, release the tension on all the ratchets.
2. Starting at the corner which has two ratchets unbolt and remove the ratchets.
3. Place a bucket filled with water on top of these straps to secure this corner.
4. Remove the ratchets from the remaining two corners and place buckets on these straps.
5. Unbolt the anchor plates from these corners.
6. With water buckets securing all four corners remove the bolts from the remaining anchor plates and ratchets.
7. Clear path from the pool to an open area where the cover can be left to dry.
8. Make sure this path and area are free of rock, sticks, or anything else that could damage the cover.
9. Remove the water buckets and pull the cover to this area.

Cover Storage

1. The anchor plates can easily be removed but most leave them attached to the webbing to save an installation step.
2. We've found it's best to place the bolts and ratchets in a bucket as they are being removed and stored in this bucket.
3. The cover needs to be completely dry before it is folded up. This could take several hours and will need to be flipped at least once during that time. A blower can be used to speed this up. Storing while wet will encourage rot and mildew both of which will shorten the cover's life expectancy.
4. While drying inspect the cover for holes. This fabric can easily be patched to prevent any holes from spreading.
5. If your cover is equipped with a step fold it in on top of the cover.
6. Next fold the long sides in half way to the center and flip each side 1 to 2 more times.
7. Starting at the deep end roll the cover towards the shallow end (unroll from shallow to deep next fall)
8. We included a storage bag which will hopefully prevent pests and objects from puncturing the cover while being stored. If storing on the ground a pair of sticky traps would also be beneficial.