

# *Ameri-Dome Cleaning, Removal, & Storage*

## *Overview*

Proper dome storage is essential, both in terms of the life of the dome, and its appearance when re-installed. Please take the time to review these instructions prior to removing and storing your dome. Individual situations may vary, but adhering to the following as closely as possible will enable you to store your dome properly.

## *Notes & Tips*

**Old Towels** --The domes should not be put away wet. A little moisture is not a problem as getting rid of all of it is nearly impossible. Have a supply of old towels around to help wipe down and dry off the dome as you go.

**Leaf Blowers** --You may want to have a couple of leaf blowers on hand to help blow off and/or evaporate the water off of the dome where drying with a towel is not possible.

**WD 40** -- If there are any scuff marks on the dome that will not "scrub" out, try cleaning them off with a shot of WD 40 and a dry cloth.

**Ropes** -- Some dome owners have employed the use of a series of ropes stretched across the pool lengthwise to support the dome as they remove it. The anchors are already there to attach to. With very large domes, this may not be workable.

**Tarps** -- If you're using a series of ropes to support the dome, lay a series of medium to heavy duty tarps over the ropes to prevent your dome from getting wet. **Also, place tarp(s) on the deck wherever the dome will be in contact with the pool deck while the removal process is taking place.**

**Labor/Help** -- To ensure you have enough help on hand to complete the cleaning and removal of the dome you can use this formula. One able bodied person per 800 square foot of dome (Square footage divided by 800 = persons). **Have enough help available to move the dome without dragging and scuffing it on the pool deck**

**It's a good idea to have a set of work gloves on hand for every person who will be helping with the removal and folding of the dome. Vinyl can**

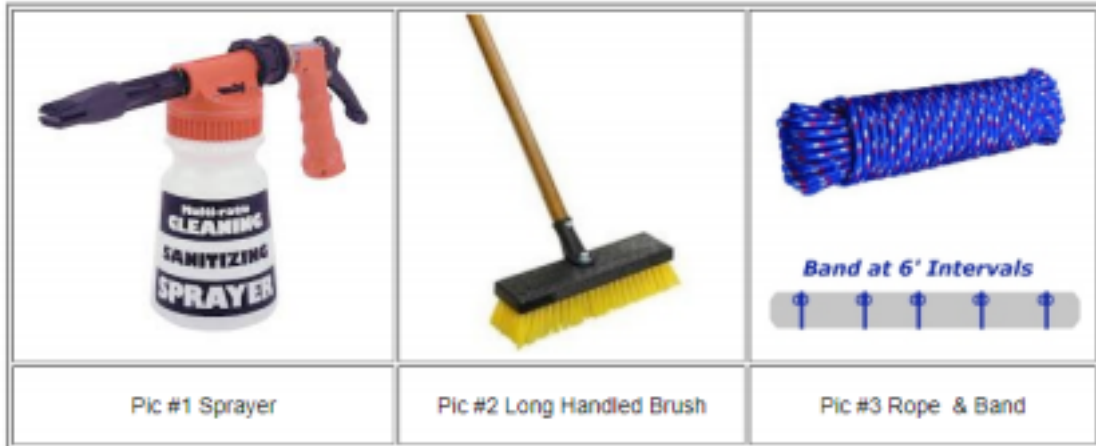
**remove the skin from your knuckles when you're trying to move such a large mass of it.**

**Repairs**--If the dome needs any repairs, this is a good time to complete them.

**Storage**--Prepare a dry, clean environment for storage. The temperature should be somewhere between 20 degrees (F) and 100 degrees (F).

**Do not drain the pool prior to removing a dome**--The dome will need to float on the water as it is being pulled off the pool.

## *Cleaning*



- **Solution of chlorine water (no more than 20% chlorine)**
- **Mild dishwashing liquid**
- **Sprayer (pic #1 above)**

- **Long Handled Brush, stiff bristled (pic #2 above)**
- **Rope (pic #3 above)**
- **Garden Hose with running water**
- **Pressure Washer if desired**

### *Cleaning Instructions:*

Pick a warm, dry day. You need the sun and the heat to help you get the dome dry.

Hose the dome down, inside and out. With the exception of the air-flap, the inside should already be fairly clean. Also, rinse the pool deck down both inside and outside of the dome so that your work area is as clean as possible.

**For this step, be sure to use the proper SAFETY measures to protect the workers. Goggles, Gloves, Masks, etc.)** Spray the dome on the **OUTSIDE** with a solution of chlorine and water (no more than 20% chlorine). We Recommend using a sprayer which attaches directly to your garden hose for this part of the job. (See pic #1 on the previous page) The chlorine solution will dissolve oxidation on the outer skin of the material thereby keeping the material soft and supple.

Commercial dome vinyl is very tough. You may use a pressure washer to help clean and rinse the top and sides of the exterior of your dome providing the spray intensity and angle of attack does not damage the membrane. You can "Test" the procedure on the inside of the dome directly on the air-flap. This will not damage the dome structure and you can get a feel for using this method.

On the inside of the dome, use a stiff bristled long handled scrubbing brush (See pic #2 on the previous page) to scrub the interior air flap on both its top and bottom and also clean the base of the interior wall (up a foot or so off the pool deck) with a solution of warm water and dishwashing liquid. The dishwashing liquid will not harm the dome and it cuts grease & grime pretty well.

Thoroughly rinse the soap solution off the walls and the air-flap.

To rinse off the pool deck within the dome, you can pull a hose into the dome underneath the cable or through the door. All pool decks are slanted away from the pool so water and debris will not run into the pool. This creates a situation where the excess runoff in the dome accumulates at the base of the dome wall on top of the air-flap. To help drain off this excess water and allow for a more thorough rinse job, do the following:

Elevate the base anchor-hem of the dome at a corner area by sliding a piece of 2x4 wood under the cable to create an opening where the rinse water can escape the dome. Position the 2x4 so the wider side of it is aligned vertically. The air pressure in the dome combined with the slant of the pool deck will help to force the water out of the structure and away from the pool. Move the 2x4 to successive corners as needed to complete the rinsing of the interior of the dome.

If your dome has zippers, spray them thoroughly with fresh water to help dilute any excess chlorine. This keeps the chlorine from deteriorating the cloth material which surrounds the teeth of the zipper.

**Allow the dome to air dry completely on the outside then cut the power to the air supply. Open zippers and airlocks/crash doors to deflate the dome.**

**At this time, remove all eye bolts from the pool deck.**

### *Folding the Dome off of the Pool*

Fold the 2 long **SIDE** walls (dry material against dry material) in towards the water. Keep the entire folded sections of the wall on the pool deck. By doing this, we're trying to minimize the width of the dome for an easier folding process.

Our next fold begins at the end of the pool opposite of the side from where you want to eventually fold the dome to. We will call this end "**A**".

Fold the "**A**" end wall of the dome over itself (dry material against dry material) to create an air pocket so that this end of the dome will float as it's being pulled across the water. As you fold the wall inward, try to flip it in a way that would force a decent amount of air into the fold to provide better floatation. A few people are required to do this properly.

Move to the other end of the dome (end "**B**"). Place tarps on the deck at the location where you will be folding the dome. We do not want the dome to be scraping or scuffing against the concrete deck.

Begin “accordion” folding the dome off of the pool onto the tarps, dry material against dry, wet against wet. As each fold is made, completely flatten out the entire folded section by walking on it in bare feet or with socks on. **(NO SHOES)** Start walking from the center and work out to each end. This helps to eliminate residual water, removes excess air, and provides a better overall folded unit.

**These folds should be approximately 3’ wide.** As the dome is folded, there will be a small amount of water trapped in between the folds that were previously in direct contact with the water. This is not a problem. Wipe any visible excess water off of the folds as you go with the towels. A leaf blower (or 2) can be used to help move and or evaporate any remaining visible moisture. Check after each fold to make sure the side edges of the dome are up on the concrete and that the folded end (“**A**”) is floating freely. Continue to accordion fold (**approximately 3’ wide folds**) until the dome is positioned in a long strip across the end of the pool at end “**B**”.

Once the dome is folded across the “**B**” end of the pool, roll one end tightly toward the center of the mass. Then roll the other half towards the center. This is called the “double cinnamon roll”.

Place the dome on a pallet-carrier built large enough to handle the size of your dome. (You will need to roll it onto the pallet-carrier) In most cases a 4x8 sheet of HEAVY plywood (3/4” thick) screwed onto 2 pallets will work fine. It’s a good idea to “round” or “45 degree” the corners of the plywood so the dome does not get snagged on them and to prevent injury to anyone’s ankles due to sharp corners.

If the dome requires additional drying, move it to a paved area with concrete (tennis court, parking lot etc.). This process will most likely require a pallet jack or forklift. Be sure the area where the dome is to be placed is totally clean and free of any small rocks or pebbles that may puncture the dome if anyone was to walk on it.

Once at the paved area, unroll and unfold the dome, wet side up, and allow to air dry completely. COMPLETELY. You may want to dry off any excess water with the towels at this point to speed things up.

Once the inside of the dome is dry, Flip the dome over once more so that the outside is facing upward as in a normal “installed” position.

With the outside of the dome facing up, fold the walls in neatly over the top of the dome. Make sure that the walls are flat and that the corners are folded neatly.

Once again, accordion fold the dome into a strip as described before. Take your time and fold as neatly as possible. Make the folds so that they correspond with the width of the pallet-carrier.

Allow air to escape out the ends after each fold prior to making the next fold.

After accordion folding the dome, and before completing the “double cinnamon roll” it’s a GREAT idea to band the dome with a soft rope at approx 6’ intervals. (Home Depot Rope See Pic #3 above) This helps to keep the dome from sliding off of itself and makes it much more manageable to reroll. Roll each end toward the middle as described before. Roll the dome onto the pallet-carrier and use a set of heavy duty ratchet straps to secure the dome down.

Securely place a note with a drawing on the top of the dome showing how it’s folded up (in relation to the pool) so next season you will know which end of the pool to position the dome at and what direction to pull the dome when re-installing.

End

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