

Utilities and Pool Info

Utilities

- Gas – Averages \$83/month for an entire year, including the winter. Note: We keep the pool at 90 degrees when swimming. Most people don't keep it that warm. It doesn't cost much to heat it.
- Electric - \$273/month average for entire year, which includes keeping the house at 72 degrees and running the pool pump year-round (not closing the pool in the winter).

If you choose to close the pool in the winter (and there is a custom cover for it), the monthly average goes down to \$206/month for the whole year.

- Water – Averages \$40-50/month when not watering the lawn. Goes up to \$200/month when watering the lawn. We have automated sprinklers (programmable) and water every day.
- Sewer - \$62.75/month

Pool

- We have kept the pool open year-round for the last 2 winters. If you do that, the only thing you have to do to 'winterize' it is have the pool company come out and winterize it. To open it in the spring, you just turn it on. The only chemicals you need in winter are a chlorine puck in the skimmer every couple of weeks and test the water once a month. The pool has freeze protection, meaning that the pump will run automatically if the temp is below freezing to keep water flowing.
- There is a custom cover for the pool if you choose to close it for the winter. It costs about \$475 to close it and \$475 to open it. I like the idea of keeping it open. The chemicals sort of 'go to sleep' in the winter so there isn't much upkeep in the winter at all.
- I am guessing what we pay for chemicals because I haven't kept all receipts. About 7-10 bags of salt per year. 6-7 gallons of muriatic acid (I add that weekly), and maybe \$20/month while pool is open for various chemicals. I test the water weekly and take it to the pool place once a month for more comprehensive testing.
- I brush down the pool sides and lounge area weekly. Other than that, clean out the skimmer baskets, Polaris bag, and filter basket. Really easy to do. We run the Polaris (cleaner) 5 hours/day. I heard a couple of hours would suffice, but I am a bit fussy about the pool. We run the pump 12 hours/day. I believe you can cut down on that too. The pool company can advise you on that.
- Pump cartridges – We clean those (hose them out) when they get dirty (pressure gauge over 20) – a couple of times/year. You can have the pool company do that or you can do it yourselves. You can order new ones every couple of years. Can be ordered on Amazon. You can replace those yourselves or have the pool company do it.

- We never empty the pool. In the summer when it is really hot you can get a little bit of evaporation and may need to add an inch or two of water to the pool once a week or two weeks. If it rains a ton, you may need to drain a little bit from the pool. All quite easy to do.
- All the pool stuff is on timers, so you can adjust it as you like – pump, Polaris (cleaner), lights.