



Pool Cover Replacement Procedures Page 1.

Aquamatic Cover Systems 200 Mayock Rd, Gilroy CA 95020 1.800.262.4044 Fax. 848.846.1060 www.aquamatic.com

Your Aquamatic pool cover is designed to be a protective barrier as it floats on the waters surface and can easily support the weight of several adults in an emergency situation. However over time your fabric will need to be replaced do to age, sun, chemicals, etc. The following will help you in the replacement process when that time occurs.

Please Read Thoroughly Before Beginning.

Step 1: Removal of Old Fabric

The first thing that needs to be done, is to remove the lid panels, or stones, which ever cover vault enclosure you may have. This will enable you to have access to the drum, rope reel, and guides. If you have the composite panel lid, you will also need to remove the front aluminum extrusion that is attached to the front of the brackets and vault wall.

Front extrusion of Composite lid



Next, turn the key to the open position, bringing the cover all the way back to the vault. Now go to the rope reel and remove all of the rope by pulling up on it. If the rope reel stops while pulling, quickly turn the key (bump) to the open position again, this will release hydraulic pressure on the rope reel allowing you to pull more rope off. Undo the knots or cut. Lay the ropes out on the deck so that they don't get entangled.

The next step is to remove the guides. These are attached to the beginning of the tracks which "guide" the fabric and rope in and out of the track. With these removed, pull on the edge of the fabric, this will cause the sliders to come out of the track. Pull the sliders and Leading Edge bar (still attached to the sliders) back about a foot and cut the rope and tie a knot so that it doesn't accidentally get pulled back into the track.

You can now begin the process of pulling the fabric off. This is made easier with the help of another person and a pair of vice grip pliers. A third person would be better instead of the pliers.

Clamp the pliers to the key and turn it towards the **CLOSE** position. The weight of the pliers should hold the key into position, causing the rope reel to rotate, and allowing the drum to rotate freely.

With a person on either side of the pool, grab the leading edge bar and pull the fabric to the other end of the pool. It should extend about 2ft beyond. Lay the leading edge bar onto the deck and while one person holds onto it, the other can now remove the pliers from the key, stopping the rope reel, and remove the drum screws that attach the fabric to the drum. Once the screws have been removed, the fabric can now be pulled across the pool and folded accordion style. Remove the leading edge bar and roll the fabric up and properly discard.

The cover vault is now completely exposed, making it a great time to do some cleaning and maintenance. One should concentrate on spraying out the vault, checking the drainage, and removing any debris and pool toys that may have accumulated. Washing or spraying of the cover mechanism is recommended as well. Change out the pulley's and lubricate as needed. After this has been done and a thorough inspection of the system has been completed, you may now install the new fabric.

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Step 2: New Fabric Installation

To install the new fabric, remove it from the shipping bag and inspect. The bag color does not represent the fabric color, so you should check it for the correct color before you begin the replacement process.

Unroll the fabric behind the cover vault, making sure that the matte finish of the fabric is on top and that the warning label is visible. Uncoil the ropes and lay out behind the fabric in a manner so that they do not get tangled up. Bring the ends of the new rope up to the corresponding tracks. Using electrical tape, connect the old rope left in the tracks from the previous fabric to the new rope. You may need to clean up the end of the old rope by singeing it with a lighter and cutting it square. Butt the two ends together, and starting about 3 inches up the rope, begin wrapping with the electrical tape. Make sure that you do not wrap the tape too thick, as it must be thin and flexible enough to go through the pulley's. Continue wrapping until you are at least 3 inches beyond the other ropes end. This process is purely to help feed the new rope into the system. If at any point the tape / rope gets caught up on a pulley, you may have to assist it by hand. Once the two ropes have been connected, go over to the rope reel and gently pull on the old ropes, this will then feed the new rope through the entire system of pulley's. Once you have reached the tape / rope splice, simply separate the two and continue to pull the remaining new rope through. Continue the procedure for the other side as well.

If you were not able to use the rope from your old fabric, you can simply give yourself a 1 foot tail of rope, and by placing it diagonal to the opening of the track, briskly tug and apply pressure to "pop" it into the track. Use this tail to pull the rope to the end of the track, feed around the end pulley, and "pop" it into the back side of the track. Continue pulling towards the cover vault, and feed through the remaining pulley's and over to the rope reel. Repeat for the other side.

Now with both ropes ran, feed one slider into the track and attach a new guide. With one side in, you can now slide the leading edge bar onto the new fabric. Now insert the other slider into the track and install a new guide. Attach the leading edge bar to the sliders with the 1/2" in bolt. Insert up through the slider with the nut on top. Tighten until snug, then back it off 1/4 turn. The leading edge bar needs to be able to slide from side to side, but not so loose that it rattles.

Pull back on the fabric so that both sliders hit against the guide assembly. Go over to the rope reel. Step over the cover vault so that you are on the pool side, but facing away from it, looking towards the fabric on the deck. Take a large step backwards while holding the ropes. You should be between 3-5 feet past the leading edge bar. Gently pull on both ropes so that the fabric starts to slide forward in the track. Pull on either rope to make sure that your compensator pulley is centered, and cut the rope. Use a lighter or small torch and singe the ends to prevent fraying, and insert them into the rope reel and tie a knot. "Bump" the key to the open position, this will allow you to rotate the rope reel to take up the excess rope. You can now turn the key to close and your cover will extend over the pool. Be sure to keep an eye on the fabric to make sure it feeds into the tracks properly. Once the cover is completely closed, attach the fabric to the drum.

To attach the cover to the drum, insert a screw into the material stitching (where the tape and fabric are sewn together) 2 inches from the end. Insert the screw into the first screw hole on the drum closest to the tapered cone. Repeat for the other side. Now go to the center of the drum and lift the fabric up creating a tent shape and put a crease at the apex. Insert a screw through the crease and into the drum. The center hole of the drum is usually marked with a circle. From this point, pull the fabric tight towards the ends and insert a screw with each corresponding drum hole. When you reach the last available hole you will have some extra material. Fold this material over on itself creating a pleat and insert the last screw, repeat this for the other side. Rotate the drum by hand to roll the extra material onto the drum. You can now turn the key to open, exposing the pool.

You have now successfully installed your replacement fabric. It is advisable to run the cover several times and make any necessary skew adjustments. With the completion of any adjustments, reinstall your cover vault lid.

Some skew adjustments may be needed in the future as the rope and fabric settle.

See Skew Adjustment diagram on the following page.

Pool Cover Replacement Procedure Top Track with a Bench Page 3.

Replacing your pool cover on a Top-Track w/ Bench is very similar to the other systems, with the exception of the re-installation process.

Removing the old fabric is done the same way, opening the cover fully, removing the guides, cutting the ropes, pulling the fabric across the water, etc. You will have to remove the top of the bench to gain access to all the components.

The re-installation is similar also with the exception that instead of putting the cover into the track first, you would attach it to the drum first.

Begin first by removing the fabric from the bag in front of the bench or if there isn't sufficient room, at the other end of the pool. Be sure to check the fabric color, as the bag does not indicate what was ordered. Unroll the fabric so that the matte finish and warning label are on top and that the ropes are on the opposite side of the bench. With the help of another person grab the tail end of the fabric, the end without the bundle of rope, and pull towards the drum. If you are at the far end of the pool, pull the fabric across the pool towards the drum. Guide the fabric under the drum towards the back and up to the top. Attach the drum as described earlier. At this point you can turn the key to the open position, and begin wrapping the fabric upon the drum. Be sure to take your time and have the other person guide the fabric onto the drum, making sure that it wraps up flat and tight as possible. Do not allow the fabric to drift to one side or the other, this will make it very difficult when inserting the sliders later on. After the fabric is on the drum, uncoil the ropes, making sure that they are not tangled. Using the process described earlier, attach the new rope to the old rope. Carefully pull the old rope until you have reached the new rope splice. Once you have done this for both sides, you can insert both sliders into the track and install the new guides.

If you were not able to use the old rope, you will need to grab the rope and give yourself a 1 foot tail. Hold the rope diagonal to the opening of the track, while applying pressure, give a sharp tug. This should "pop" the rope to into the track groove leaving the 1 foot tail to pull the rope to the end of the track. Once you are at the end of the track, remove the cap and feed the rope around the pulley. You will need to loosen all of the track screws so that you can feed the rope into the back channel. Again "pop" the rope into the back channel and pull back towards the bench. With the ropes fed into the tracks, re-secure the track screws, and insert the sliders into the tracks and install new guides.

Now that the ropes, sliders, and guides are installed, you can slide the leading edge bar onto the fabric, and attach it to the sliders. Run your ropes through the pulley's to the rope reel. Pull back on the fabric so that the leading edge bar is against the bench. While pulling on the ropes, alternate them until your compensator pulley is centered, and the cover begins to move forward. Give yourself 3 to 5 feet of extra rope, then cut and singe the ends. Attach them to the rope reel, inside to outside, and tie a knot. Rotate the rope reel by hand to take up the excess rope, then turn the key to closed. While closing, take it slow. Keep an eye out on the fabric as it comes off the drum and into the guides / track for this first time. After you have the cover across the pool, open and close it several more times. You may need to make a skew adjustment if the cover opens crooked. Please refer to the Skew Adjustment diagram on a following page.

If you have any concerns or questions during this process, please contact us at:

Aquamatic Cover Systems

1-800-262-4044

Technical Support