



## ***The Idiots' Guide to using a Pool Safety Cover***

French law requires at least one safety measure to prevent younger children from entering swimming pools when unsupervised by a responsible adult. It is sometimes known as Raffarin Law. The more correct term is *Loi n° 2003-9 du 3 janvier 2003 relative à la sécurité des piscines (1)* and can be viewed online at – <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr>

The following is a step by step guide to using the cover. It is quite straightforward, though some physical strength is needed. The majority of adults will experience little if any difficulty.

***In conditions of strong winds, do not attempt to either open or close the cover on your own. The wind can easily get underneath it and a person working alone would have little chance of controlling the situation.***

The process is strictly sequential.

### Opening the cover

1. Ensure the long strap runs the entire length of the pool and in the middle. Secure the loose end with a weight or similar to prevent it from blowing to one side.

2. Insert the winder into one of the apertures in the aluminium pole. Only one pole has the ability to accept the winder. It does not matter which side is used.

3. Undo the ratchets securing the cover at the same end as the winder. Remove the ratchets from the straps and place to one side. Do not leave the ratchets on the straps – they may fall into the water or damage the cover.

4. Slowly turn the winder so that the cover rolls towards the far end of the pool. The roll must be on top.



5. Keep winding. It will become slightly more difficult as you approach the far end of the pool. When you have the cover clear of the pool, remove the winder.

Enjoy the water! Where inflatables are available, remember they are only toys and not life preservers. Do not allow anything that may damage the liner into the pool (drinking glasses, toy cars etc).



### Closing the cover

A. Ensure the cover is secured to the terrace by all of the straps and pins at the end of the pool.

B. Take the exposed length of the long strap to the far end of the pool. Pull gently but firmly. The cover will start to unroll.

C. Ensure the cover runs reasonably straight, so that the sides do not fall into the water. If the cover does enter the pool, it may damage the liner and it will be difficult to retrieve. As the cover gets closer to the end of the pool it becomes easier to pull.

D. Using the long strap, pull the cover reasonably straight when it is fully unrolled.

E. Fit the ratchets over the pins in the terrace. Now insert the short straps into the ratchets and begin to tighten.

F. Tighten all ratchets as much as you are able. You cannot break the ratchets or straps by hand, so don't be afraid to exert your strength!

G. Take the long strap to the far end of the pool and tie it to anything suitable. This ensures that the strap is more or less ready for the next time the cover is opened, and tying it to something ensures the wind will not cause it to whip around.



***The pool is now safe to be left unattended, and you are safe from prosecution!***