

FACT SHEET 2: WATER CONSERVATION

A POOL MAY HOLD A LOT OF WATER, BUT IT DOESN'T NEED TO CONSUME VERY MUCH.

Water conservation is a major priority in the state of Victoria and there are rules in place that govern the filling of swimming pools and some spas.

However, if you already have a pool or are thinking about buying one, there are many ways to help conserve water.

The average domestic swimming pool holds between 22,000 and 66,000 litres of water.

Once it's filled, it should only need topping up occasionally.

Just reducing the amount you top up, and the number of times you do it, can result in significant water savings. Water that is not filtered and balanced can become so contaminated it has to be drained away and replaced. That's a waste. Poorly maintained pools may also require more frequent backwashing. So the best way to conserve water is to maintain the right chemical balance and ensure your filtration is adequate.

ADEQUATE FILTRATION

Run the filter for 8 to 10 hours a day in summer or whenever anyone is using the pool. This will skim surface leaves and dust away and keep the water clear and clean. Sand or DE filters are cleaned by reversing its flow to flush away any trapped material. This process is called 'backwashing', and is only wasteful if done too often or for too long. Only continue backwashing until the sight glass provided is clear. See the Filters Fact Sheet No. 8 for more detail.

CHEMICAL BALANCE

Maintaining the correct water balance will avoid the need to empty and refill your pool, but you don't have to be a scientist to correctly balance your pool. Just follow these three basic rules. First, adjust the Total Alkalinity level. Second, adjust the pH and third, ensure the required amount of sanitiser is added either manually or by an automatic chlorinator.

See Fact Sheet No. 4 & 5 on Water Balance and Sanitation for more information and always consult your SPASA approved pool shop or service agent before handling chemicals.

CORRECT WATER LEVEL

The water level should always remain about half way up the skimmer box opening. Overfilling the pool reduces the effectiveness of the skimmer.

POOL COVERS

Pool owners often invest in a pool cover to keep heating costs down. These covers also dramatically reduce evaporation and water loss. Water restrictions have also seen the introduction of light weight evaporation covers.

LEAKS

One drip per second can waste 7000 litres of water in a year and a steady dribble would drain the entire volume of water in the pool. All pools and especially older pools need to be checked regularly for damp spots. Consult your SPASA approved pool shop or service agent for a thorough audit of your entire water management system.

SAFETY SAVES WATER TOO

Around a pool, children can become over excited and over confident. They should be supervised at all times when in the pool and their behaviour monitored. "Bombing" and general horseplay can cause accidents and waste a lot of water. Healthy exercise is what the pool is for, excessive splashing will see many litres evaporate from the surrounding deck or paving.

To put all this in perspective, a pool contains a lot of water but it doesn't consume very much – or at least it shouldn't. Showering, watering the garden, washing the dishes all consume much more water. They send it into the ground or down the drain, whereas a pool or spa stores water for use over and over again.

Every pool and spa owner can use our precious water resources responsibly. Just follow the simple steps outlined in this Fact Sheet or contact SPASA for more information.

