



## Ideas for how you can actively conserve water while still enjoying your swimming pool or spa.

SPASA has developed The Water Neutral Pool program as an industry “best practice” guide for consumers. A Water Neutral Pool utilises both water saving and water harvesting devices to ensure that it is water-wise.



Purchasing a new pool that is Water Neutral, or retro-fitting an existing pool, will generate real cost savings through reduced chemical, water and energy use.

The Water Neutral Pool program is explained on Page 43 or check out the fully story at: [spasavic.com.au/water-neutral-pool](http://spasavic.com.au/water-neutral-pool) It's not as challenging as you may think, all you need is a tank, pool cover and a backwash minimising system.

### HOW CAN I PREVENT EVAPORATION?

Evaporation is a major cause of water loss from your swimming pool. It is important to remember that most evaporation occurs in the early evening and can be prevented by covering the pool's surface.

### COVER YOUR POOL

This lowers the pool's temperature, decreasing evaporation while also preventing debris from falling on the pool surface. By preventing sunlight from penetrating the water, you will also reduce the amount of chemicals needed to keep the pool clean.

Pool covers are generally more expensive than blankets. They cover the whole pool, preventing up to 95% of evaporation, compared with a blanket where there may

be gaps between a blanket and the edge of a pool.

Pool blankets are an affordable option, available in bubble plastic or foam, which float on the surface of the water.

Liquid pool covers are another alternative available for those who don't want to hide their pool water with a cover or blanket. The chemical forms a barrier on the surface of the water which inhibits evaporation by up to 40%.

### INCREASE SHADE

By covering the pool area with shade you can further reduce evaporation as well as protecting swimmers from sunburn.

### PREVENT WIND EXPOSURE

Wind contributes to evaporation. To reduce water loss, adjust the landscape around your pool with walls and hedges that create shelter from the wind.

### TANK TO POOL SYSTEMS

Installing a rainwater tank is a great way to reduce the use of mains water in your swimming pool. For more information on rainwater tanks visit [savewater.com.au](http://savewater.com.au)

Rainwater diverters are an inexpensive alternative to installing a tank. They attach to a downpipe and can be used to divert rainwater into your swimming pool. You should consult a plumber about storm water diversion.

### WHAT TYPE OF FILTER SHOULD I USE?

Sand filters require backwashing which, if you backwash every week in summer, can

use up to 5000L of water every year. It is recommended that you purchase a cartridge filter if you are installing a new pool or replacing the filter. Cartridge filters do not require backwashing to be cleaned so they use less water. If you are not at a stage where you can change to a cartridge filter, there are secondary filter systems which will allow you to return water used in back flushing to the swimming pool.

### HOW CAN I PREVENT LOSS OF WATER FROM SPLASHING?

Avoid overfilling your pool. The water level should be about half way up the skimmer box opening for the filter to function properly.

### MAINTENANCE

- Backwash only when necessary
- Check regularly for cracks and leaks
- Keep the pool and filters clean to reduce frequency of filter backwashing
- If acid has been used to clean the pool, the water should be neutralised

### HOW CAN POOL CHEMICALS SAVE WATER?

By maintaining the correct balance of chemicals in your pool year round, you will prevent your pool water from going green over winter. This means you won't need to empty and refill the pool in spring. And will also prevent you from having to discard polluted water.

For more information  
[www.savewater.com.au](http://www.savewater.com.au)