



We all know water is a precious commodity in Australia, particularly during periods of prolonged drought.

For pool and spa owners concerned about water usage, a few simple key facts will help you navigate common myths and allow you to maximise all the benefits a backyard pool provides through best practice.

WATER

Best practice and debunking the myths

 **SPASA**
AUSTRALIA
SWIMMING POOL & SPA ASSOCIATION

POOL COVERS

Myth

Pool covers aren't suitable for all pools

Pool covers look ugly and are expensive

Pool covers are difficult to take on and off

Pool cover rollers are expensive

Pool covers have no effect on heating

Best Practice

Pool covers can be custom ordered in all shapes and sizes to suit almost every swimming pool, including infinity edge pools and spas.

There are a variety of pool cover colours to suit most pools and a wide range of quality pool cover grades to suit every price point.

Pool cover rollers make using pool covers easy to operate. There's a solution for almost every pool and spa. Your pool professional will be able to talk to you about options for your specific circumstances and needs.

There are a complete range of pool cover rollers to suit every price point. Examples include:

- stationary free-standing rollers
- mobile free-standing rollers
- under bench and covered rollers
- wall mounted rollers
- below ground rollers

Heating efficiency and heat retention can be maximised through the application of a pool cover. The cover will also help minimise water loss through evaporation.

FAST FACTS

Uncovered, the backyard swimming pool can lose up to 7mm of water per day! Pool covers provide a host of benefits;

- They reduce evaporation by between 95 to 97%, saving many thousands of litres of water per month
- The cover helps protect your pool from external debris, meaning your pool stays cleaner for longer
- Pool covers are designed to assist with heating your pool which will in turn save you money
- Reduced cost and consumption of chemicals as the need for additional water is minimised
- Utilising a cover extends the swimming season, giving you more time to enjoy your investment

DRAINING A POOL OR SPA

Myth

I need to drain my pool to clean it properly

You should drain your pool if not using it

It's cheaper for me to drain my pool than maintain it

I have no choice but to drain my pool after a natural disaster

I can easily drain my pool and fix it myself

Best Practice

Draining the water from your swimming pool is not required (nor recommended as normal practice) in order for you to clean it, a number of other treatments are available.

For spas: Depending on your usage, you may need to replenish the water 3-4 times per year.

You should never drain a pool, even in areas where temperatures get below zero.

It is much more expensive to refill your pool, add the required chemicals and have it ready for use for when you next need it.

Except for the most severely affected, almost all swimming pools and spas can be brought back to life after floods, storms and fire without the need to drain the water.

It is highly recommended to use a professional when conducting any repairs or renovations.

A minor renovation may include replacing the equipment or coping which does not normally require the pool or spa to be drained.

A major renovation may include replacing the entire interior and associated pipework which will require the water to be drained.

FAST FACTS

Draining the water from your swimming pool:

- can cause irreversible structural damage to your swimming pool, its interior, surrounds and associated equipment if not done correctly
- may affect your swimming pools warranty
- should only be done in very specific circumstances, such as remediation or renovation work. Contact your pool builder, pool shop or service technician who can assist you

FILTRATION

Myth

My pool's filter must be cleaned every month

Best Practice

How long you should filter a pool and how often the filter should be cleaned depends on:

- the size of the pool
- the filtering equipment
- how much the pool is used, and
- varying environmental factors, such as sunlight or wind hitting the pool

Media Filters (sand, glass, zeolite or similar medium)

Backwashing sand filters can use extra water if you don't pay attention. By keeping the pool and filters clean, you can reduce the frequency of backwashing. The amount of water backwashed can be reduced by stopping the process when the water turns from cloudy to clear.

A working pressure gauge can help to monitor elevated pressure and when to backwash. As a rule of thumb, the cleaner the filter media the lower the pressure gauge (8-10 PSI). The dirtier the filter media the higher the filter gauge (Eg. 25 PSI).

Generally a filters media should be cleaned with a treatment twice every year and completely replaced every five years.

Cartridge Filters

Cartridge filters reduce or eliminate the need for backwashing by only requiring the cartridge to be removed and washed clean.

The cartridge should be replaced every one to two years.

The media in my filter doesn't need replacing

FAST FACTS

The more people who swim in the pool the more filtering it will need.

Irrespective of the type of filter media, it needs to be replaced at some point, so that the filter can safely and effectively trap contaminants.

If you leave it too long between changes, the filter can become clogged and be unable to do its job properly – this can leave the pool vulnerable to poor water circulation and cause filtration issues.

POOL MAINTENANCE

Myth

I save time, money and water by not maintaining my swimming pool or spa

Best Practice

A properly set-up pool or spa does not require substantial effort or maintenance. It's more cost effective and less time consuming to simply maintain your pool or spa consistently throughout the year as opposed to being reactive and treating an untouched or improperly balanced pool.

I can't tell if my pool has a leak

A quick way to tell if your pool is leaking as opposed to normal evaporation, is to conduct a "bucket test":

- First, make sure your pool is filled to its normal level
- Fill a bucket with pool water, leaving approx. 3cm from the top
- Place the bucket on the first step of your pool
- Mark the water level on the inside of the bucket
- Shut off your pool pump
- Mark the water level on the outside of the bucket
- Turn your pump back on so it can continue operating normally
- Compare both levels after 24 hours have passed

If the pool water level that's indicated by the mark on the outside of the bucket is lower than the water level indicated by the mark on the inside of the bucket, you likely have a leak. You will need to start over if it rains during the period that you are running the test.

FAST FACTS

Untreated or improperly treated pool or spa water can be a health risk and can permanently damage the pool. You should check your pool and maintain the water balance and chlorination levels on a weekly basis.

Being observant is the best way to identify and stop a leak. Look for increases in your water bill as well as changes to the pool area and the water itself.

If you need to top-up your pool or spa, the use of a timer is a good idea and ensure you use a hose with a trigger nozzle. Check whether there are any time limits for topping up during periods of drought.



Check with your water provider regarding any water restrictions that may be in place before committing to any work to your swimming pool or spa

Need more information? Contact us via the details below:



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