

Swimming pools

Swimming pools are a lot of fun, but they can waste a considerable amount of water if you don't take proactive steps to reduce water loss. Read this fact sheet for helpful tips on how to save water in your pool.

Saving water

The simplest way to save water in your pool is to cut down on evaporation. Lower rates of evaporation will mean you won't have to refill your pool as often and can also have other benefits, like reducing the amount you spend on water and chemicals.

Check out the following tips for cutting down on evaporation and finding other ways to save water in your pool.

Use a pool cover

A pool cover can help reduce evaporation by up to 90%. It can also reduce your heating costs, keep debris and leaf litter out of your pool and help slow the growth of algae, which will reduce the amount you need to spend on chemicals.

There are a range of pool covers to choose from, including solar covers, leaf covers and liquid pool covers. Contact your nearest pool supply company for more information.

Add wind breaks

Exposure to wind can cause unnecessary evaporation, resulting in excess water loss. You can offset this by planting shrubs around your pool to act as wind breaks.

Create shade

Creating shade over your pool will reduce evaporation and protect swimmers from the sun. Use a shade cloth or shade sails.

Lower the temperature

Warm water evaporates faster than cold water. This is especially true in the evening when the air temperature drops while the water in your pool remains relatively warm.

Switch your pool heating system off or lower the temperature if you're not using your pool regularly. This will reduce evaporation and cut down on electricity.

Turn off water features

Water features such as fountains, slides and sprayers can lose a lot of water through evaporation. To save water and electricity, only switch these on when your pool is being used.



Did you know a swimming pool can lose up to 55,000 litres of water per year through evaporation?

Add chemicals in the evening

Chemicals like chlorine and other sanitisers dissipate quickly through evaporation. Add these chemicals in the evening to increase their effectiveness and value for money.

Don't overflow your pool

Avoid overflowing your pool as it can lower the efficiency of your skimmer and waste a considerable amount of water. The level of your pool should be about one-third to halfway up the pool skimmer box opening.

If you want to allow the water level of your pool to drop below this, you will need to buy a T-piece suction line which connects to the skimmer box. This will ensure the filter continues to function normally. Contact your nearest pool supply company for more information.

Choose a cartridge filter

If you're installing a new pool or replacing the filter in your existing pool, choose a cartridge filter. Cartridge filters do not require backwashing to be cleaned. By contrast, sand filters require backwashing and can use up to 8,000 litres of water per year.

Reduce backwashing

If you have a sand filter, backwashing should be carried out once every four-to-six weeks. Only backwash until the glass goes clear – backwashing for longer will waste water. Keeping your pool and filters clean will also reduce how often you need to backwash.

Refill with rainwater

Using rainwater to top up or refill your pool is a great way to cut down on the amount of town water you use. You can install a rainwater tank, or for a cheaper alternative, install a rainwater diverter that attaches to a downpipe and diverts water directly into your swimming pool.

If you do install a rainwater diverter, be mindful that during large downpours you will need to monitor the water level in your pool so it doesn't overflow.



Installing a rainwater tank to refill your pool can save you water and money.

Checking for leaks

A leaking pool can waste thousands of litres of water and add significant cost to your water bill.

If you suspect a leak, you'll first need to identify if the leak is structural or coming from your pool's plumbing. Follow these simple tips to help identify the location of the leak:

1. Fill your pool to its normal level and mark the level with a crayon or piece of duct tape.
2. Leave your filter system running and wait 12 to 24 hours before checking if the water level has dropped significantly.
3. Refill your pool back to the level you marked. Turn the filter system off and wait the same amount of time (at the same time of day) before checking the water level again.
4. If your pool is losing more water with the filter system running, you most likely have a plumbing leak.
5. If your pool is losing the same amount of water whether your filter system is on or not, you most likely have a structural leak.



A leaking pool can waste thousands of litres of water.

If you suspect your pool has a plumbing leak, contact a licensed plumber. If you suspect your leak is structural, contact a local pool professional.

Filling your pool during water restrictions

For rules regarding filling, refilling or topping up your pool during water restrictions, visit: <https://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/Services/Water-and-sewer/Water-restrictions>