

Swimming Pool & Spa Association of Victoria

Pool & Spa Water Will Be Available

The Swimming Pool & Spa Association of Victoria has recently commenced drilling to access groundwater on its land in the western suburbs of Melbourne. SPASA anticipates having a safe and renewable water supply for pools and spas at the end of February 2007.

At this stage it is estimated that the cost of filling a 30,000 litre pool will be between \$1000 - \$2000. Full details regarding cost and delivery options will be announced in coming weeks.

SPASA has been working in close association with leading hydrologists, water authorities and government to secure this supply and ensure the most environmentally-sound approach possible is employed.

SPASA'S Top Ten Tips on Water Conservation

Water conservation is a major priority in the State of Victoria. There are currently very specific rules in place that govern the filling of swimming pools and spas. SPASA recommends you contact your local water retailer for current advice on filling and topping-up your pool.

SPASA recommends owners strive to achieve a "water neutral" pool :

1. When purchasing your pool or spa consider a cartridge filter which does not need backwashing and can save thousands of litres of water a year. If you have a sand filter, ensure you only backwash when necessary.
2. Install a pool cover – it will dramatically reduce evaporation and make substantial water savings.
3. Install a pool-dedicated top-up water tank, connected to your guttering to harvest rainwater. Check with your local water authority for details on government rebates.
4. Regularly check there are no leaks in your pipe system or pool. If in doubt call your local SPASA member to check it out.
5. Always keep your pool water correctly balanced to avoid having to empty polluted water.
6. Install a rainwater diverter which will divert water to the pool via a garden hose any time it rains, usually costing as little as \$20.
7. Do not over-fill your swimming pool as this will waste water and hinder filtration.
8. Ensure that the pool is kept free of any dust, leaves or debris which can cause problems with filtration. Check the pool after any storms to clear any debris.
9. Discourage rough play. Bombing and splashing water onto the pool deck increases evaporation and wastes water. Keep pets out of the pool.
10. SPASA recommends you conduct an audit on your home and replace any water inefficient showerheads with Triple A water saving showerheads which for a family of four can save an estimated 30,000 litres annually - the same amount it takes to fill an average pool.



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A Pool May Hold A Lot Of Water, But It Doesn't Need To Consume Very Much

If you already have a pool, or are thinking about investing in one, there are many ways to help conserve water. The average domestic pool holds around 30,000 litres of water - it should only need topping-up occasionally. Significant water savings will result if you - maintain the right chemical balance, ensure your filtration is adequate, install a pool cover and pool-dedicated top-up tank.

FILTRATION

Run the filter for 8 - 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. The filter is 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.

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 3 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.

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 and wastes a lot of water.

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.

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. Excessive splashing will see many litres evaporate from the surrounding deck or paving.

The professionals in the pool and spa industry spend their lives working with water. We recognise that Australians have wonderfully clean water – but it is a finite and precious resource. SPASA encourages all pool and spa owners to understand that with just a little effort they can more than offset the small amount of water their pool consumes by being efficient in their daily use of water around the home.



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