



The average domestic swimming pool holds somewhere between 22,000-60,0000 litres of water.

This amount is usually a once-only fill quantity and from then on the pool needs only to be topped up from time to time. Savings can be made both in costs and water usage by limiting the frequency and water quantity used in topping up.

Keeping the pool properly filtered and chemically balanced are just two of the ways of ensuring against unnecessary emptying of the pool and frequent backwashing. This will help save water.

Looking after the pool is really very simple. It is a combination of adequate filtration time and correct chemical treatment.

## **Adequate Filtration**

During the summer it is recommended that the filter should run for 8 to 10 hours a day and certainly whenever people are using the pool. While ever the filter is operating, the surface of the water will be skimmed off, removing things like leaves and dust before they sink. To remove the dust and dirt collected by the filter, the filter must be backwashed. This procedure reverses the water flow through the filter and flushes the dirt down the drain. Only continue backwashing until the water in the sight glass provided, or at the drain point is clean and clear. This should take no more than one or two minutes.

Excessive backwashing can waste as much as 2,000 litres of water.

#### **Chemical Balance**

You don 't have to be a scientist to correctly balance your pool. There are three basic rules to follow. Firstly, adjust the Total Alkalinity level. Secondly, adjust the pH and lastly, ensure the required amount of sanitiser is added either manually or automatically.

By continually maintaining correct water balance the need for emptying your pool and the subsequent topping up can save thousands of litres of water annually.

#### **Correct Water Level**

Making sure the water level is only half way up the skimmer opening ensures the correct skimming action and also saves water. Do not overfill your pool. It reduces the effectiveness of the skimmer and wastes water.

## **Covering the Pool**

More and more pool owners are discovering the advantages of heating their pools. With water heated to a pleasant 25oC, the pool can be enjoyed throughout the year. To reduce evaporation and the subsequent need to top-up, a pool cover is a wise investment. Covers not only save water but help keep the pool clean and reduce energy costs by reducing heat loss. The availability of rollers for covers makes it a quick and easy way of lowering costs and saving water.





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#### Leaks

Many pools in the Sydney area are now twenty or thirty years old and may be in need of attention. Make a point of thoroughly checking around the pool for any damp spots. Check the plumbing for leaks around valves or pipe joiners. One drip per second can waste up to 7,000 litres of water per year. A steady dribble could waste hundreds of thousands of litres per year – and add to your water bill.

### **Recycled Water**

Properties in recycled water areas should have been equipped with at least one tap for each type

of supply ( potable and recycled water ) , as per Sydney Water Plumbing Guidelines. Pool owners in these areas are advised that they must fill their

pool with drinking water, not recycled water. When working with recycled water, exercise safe work practices and normal hygiene principles. As a precaution, ensure that cuts and skin grazes are appropriately dressed and covered in clean, waterproof dressings. Use potable water when cleaning wounds.

# Recycled water can be used for the following:

Toilet flushing.
Residential garden irrigation.
Washing cars, paths and walls.
Filling ornamental ponds.
Fire Fighting.
Construction purposes.

Recycled water may not be used for the following: ( check with your local council )

Drinking.

Cooking or other kitchen purposes.

Personal washing, such as baths, showers, hand basins and bidets.

Evaporative coolers.

Clothes washing.

Household cleaning.

Swimming pools.

Recreation involving water contact.

Irrigation of fruit trees and crops that are eaten raw or unprocessed.