

Tips On Water Saving

Owning a pool is great fun and most owners will want to do their bit for water conservation to help the planet and also, if they are on a water meter, this will save money.

Water conservation is also important as there is legislation in place (the Flood and Water Management Act) that has included a number of new activities to a list of non-essential uses of water that during a hose pipe ban will not be permitted. These activities will include domestic swimming pool users no longer being able to top-up their swimming pool, by hose pipes, fixed plumbing or even buckets.

Please note it is understood that the filling of pools under construction will continue to be exempted under this legislation. It also understood that pools requiring emergency repairs could also be emptied and then refilled, however, this is likely to be denied if no effort is seen to be made to save some of the water to be removed. This can be done by temporarily storing the water displaced into another container, or above ground pool erected by the pool contractor for that purpose.

Some tips for water conservation include:

- Keep covers on the water surface whenever swimming has stopped to reduce evaporation (and cooling).
- Maintain lower pool water temperatures, to reduce evaporation and minimise the effect of algae etc.
- Consider buying water that can be abstracted by companies from in other areas and brought in by tanker to fill the pool. Costs for receiving a water tanker will vary depending upon the location
- Supply a cartridge filter to temporarily replace the sand filter, or in some instances it may be appropriate to use both.
- When replacing liners or doing repairs, re-cycle the water via a holding tank.
- Consider installing rainwater harvesting tanks, this may be even more relevant for a new build as the underwater tanks can be planned as part of the overall design. The water will need to be filtered and treated before being used in the pool.

- Reinforce the need to reduce the amount of water splashed out of the pool by users as this increases evaporation loss to the surround.
- Backwash in the normal manner for approximately 2 minutes fortnightly with an approximate water discharge of up to 1,000 litres
- Consider re using the backwash water (after suitable treatment) for watering the garden
- Consider the use of heat pump condensate as part of the top up water
- Consider designing a pool that is not too deep as this will reduce the volume of water required to initially fill it up. Discussing the need for a pool much deeper than 1.5m with your SPATA member before work begins, may help to understand if the extra water volume is actually necessary. Please note that if diving is to be permitted then customers should ensure that SPATA's Cage of Safety recommendations for pool depths are adhered to.
- Under the Water Act 2003, it is currently legal for a land or house owner to drill a bore hole and extract up to 20,000 litres of water per day, without needing a licence. However, you do need to apply for Section 32 consent and the actual form (called WR 32) is available from the Environment Agency by emailing PSC-WaterResources@environment-agency.gov.uk. There is no cost for the consent, but you may be asked to undertake a survey of the water features in your local area (such as other people that have boreholes) but you will be given advice by the Environment Agency.

Please note: although no abstraction licence is needed for less than 20m³/day of water, there may be other constraints, for example around planning, or common law rights of others who may be impacted, that should be investigated by anyone thinking of drilling a borehole.

SPATA advises consumers to discuss other water saving options with their SPATA Member who may have other suggestions for how they can help you reduce your water consumption.

If you suspect that your pool is losing water due to a leak, then please discuss this with your SPATA member and further advice is contained in consumer factsheet 22 on water losses.

