

Save water – Save money - Swim longer

2005/6 was Southern Spain's driest winter for decades. Reservoirs languish at record lows and there is little prospect of rain. Wells have dried up in many areas, the rivers ceased to flow months earlier than normal and a scorching summer is already upon us.

All this adds up to a water shortage and the situation can only get worse: water unavailable or more expensive if and when you *can* get it. Pool-owners should conserve the water they have, cut down on avoidable losses (and incidentally extend their swimming season into late autumn).

The greatest loss of water from a pool is by evaporation. The higher the air temperature the more water vapour it can carry and therefore the greater the rate of evaporation. Hot, windy weather can rob a couple of centimetres of water from your pool in 24 hours. Warm water evaporates more easily than cold water. Evaporation costs you money when you have to top-up from the mains or buy a tanker of water - and robs the pool of vast quantities of heat.

What you can do about it.

If your pool is exposed, consider putting a low fence or wall around it to reduce airflow across the surface. This will not only reduce evaporation but also reduce the leaves and dirt that blow into the pool and so reduce your chemicals costs.

Adjust the return jets so that they *just* ripple the surface, pushing floating debris towards the skimmers. Don't backwash the sandfilter until the manometer, that little dial on the filter, tells you that you need to (about 1.5 Bar, normally).

Fit a pool cover, either a made-to-measure, floating solar poolcover and associated roller, or a Tropical Fish Liquid Poolcover. These will cut evaporation to a minimum and reduce heat-losses, thereby extending the swimming season late into the autumn and early winter. Covers also help the pool to accumulate heat in the spring, so you'll be swimming earlier than your envious, shivering neighbours. (Always assuming they have any water left in their pools.....)

A pool cover, whilst essential for a heated pool, makes good economic sense in every pool. A Solar cover will last for several years and an Astral roller is practically indestructible if used correctly. Of course, a solar cover will make no difference unless you make the effort to replace it when the pool is not in use.

Tropical Fish Liquid Poolcover costs pennies and lasts about a month - then you put another one on. You don't need a roller and you don't need to take the cover on and off – it remains on the surface of the water, undetectable and unaffected by pool chemicals and equipment.

Winter Covers and Debris Covers are custom-made to fit the pool and are secured around the pool by rubber bungees. It often takes 2 people half an hour to remove or replace these types of cover so they're not ideal if you want to use the pool half-a-dozen times a day.

We supply all types of pool covers and all other pool equipment, tools and chemicals.