

FACT SHEET 12: COVERS & BLANKETS

A COVER CAN PROTECT YOUR POOL WATER, KEEP IT CLEAN, AND REDUCE HEAT LOSS OVERNIGHT.

A pool cover performs a multitude of tasks. Keeping the pool clean is the most obvious. They can keep out the dirt, dust, airborne micro-organisms and even the sunlight that promotes algal growth. Some covers can also help warm the pool, and others, keep it warm. The newest options even provide a significant barrier to prevent small children and small animals getting into the water.

KEEPING IT CLEAN

In winter, high winds blow debris into the pool and in autumn leaves from overhanging trees can fall into an uncovered pool.

Almost all covers and blankets will help keep this material out of the pool. Mesh covers are specifically designed for it. They allow rain water to pass through while leaves and other debris are trapped. The mesh is lightweight and strong and held in place by anchor ropes.

SAVING WATER

All covers will significantly reduce evaporation and are recommended in times of drought. There are even evaporation covers now available that cover the pool when it's not in use.

BUBBLE BLANKETS

The most common pool covers are blankets of tiny, transparent bubbles that are designed to trap sunlight and warm the pool. At night a floating bubble blanket also reduces evaporation thereby reducing heat loss and chemical consumption.

Bubble blankets need to be removed and replaced regularly so a roller is often essential. And once on the roller, their solar efficiency is so great they need to be covered if they're out in the sun to stop them overheating.

THERMAL BLANKETS

Thermal blankets are designed to insulate the pool overnight by reducing evaporation and convection heat loss. They can reduce pool heating time and costs by reducing the time it takes to reheat a pool in the morning. Less evaporation also saves water and chemical consumption. It also can reduce condensation on indoor pools.

They are not as thick as a bubble blanket, but a roller is still almost mandatory.

SLAT COVERS

The latest covers are made up of slats that roll out onto the pool surface very much like a horizontal garage roller door.

When fully extended across the pool the slats lock together to form a barrier that can support the weight of a small child or a small pet.

Another variation achieves much the same result using a sturdy material supported by metal rods at regular intervals.

Being thermal insulators, both these options also operate like a thermal blanket, in that they reduce overnight heat loss and evaporation.

Slatted covers are usually installed during construction. They are built into an under-ground pit at one end of the pool and appear and disappear through a slot that is the full width of the pool.

They can also be retrofitted to existing pools.

