



**COVER UP  
THIS SUMMER**

**EVERY DROP  
COUNTS**



TOWN of  
**EAST FREMANTLE**



# What is the Pool and Spa Cover Policy and how does it affect me?

## Action as a Waterwise Council

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Prior to the 1970s, Perth received roughly 20% more rain than we do today. This change may not seem like a big difference, but the decrease in rainfall has translated to 80% decrease in the amount of streamflow (rainfall runoff) into our dams. To convey the Town's position as a Waterwise Council, in October 2020 the Town endorsed the new Waterwise Pool and spa cover policy.

The [Waterwise Pool & Spa Cover Policy](#) aims to reduce future water consumption and evaporation, by mandating the use of pool and spa covers/blankets on new pools and spas. In accordance with the National Construction Code, the Town now requires that all future outdoor swimming pools associated with Class 1 and Class 2 buildings be fitted with an appropriate pool/spa cover. This policy will infer a new condition to the Town's building permit application process, noting the requirement of a cover/blanket on all Class 1 and Class 2 swimming pools and spas. The Town encourages preexisting pools and spa owners to use covers in the summer months to limit water evaporation.

## Pool and Spa Covers

### Why use a pool cover ?

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An average pool can lose a whopping 10,000L of water per month in summer. A pool or spa cover acts as a simple method to trap water when you're not soaking up the sun, saving both money and time. When fitted correctly a pool cover can prevent up to 97% of evaporation and can cut chemical use by up to 50%. The use of a pool cover can also see the temperature of your pool increasing up to 8 degrees making it more useable through the year.

### Smart Approved WaterMark Suppliers

The Smart Approved WaterMark is provided to water-efficient products and services across Australia. The WaterMark helps make informed decisions when purchasing new products. Keep an eye out for the WaterMark when purchasing a pool cover or spa cover.

[Information on the Smart Approved WaterMark](#)



# Evaporation

## How much water does my pool waste during the summer months?

Evaporation is a large contributor to water loss, when not managed correctly it can lead to damage to your skimmers and pump system. Installing a pool cover will not only limit water loss when the pool isn't in use, but will also restrict the amount of UV light coming into contact with the pool water. This is an important advantage as pool chlorine degrades when exposed to UV light. This will reduce the quantity and frequency you are required to add chlorine to your pool, saving you both time and money. To determine the total litres of water your pool can lose over the summer months complete the table below by providing the length, width, and average depth of your pool (in metres). Please note this is only an estimate and does not take into account wind speeds, changing climatic temperatures, and other environmental parameters.

### Evaporation loss calculator

Length (m)	Surface Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Evaporation per day (L)
Width (m)	Volume of pool (L)	Evaporation over summer (L)

Height/Depth (m)	<input type="text" value="X"/>	volume (L) of your pool could be lost via evaporation in summer
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During the summer months (October - March) a pool in Perth will lose on average 8.3mm water per day.

For an average pool with a volume of 45,000L, that's 373L of water loss per day or a total of 67,886L over summer.

As the pool only holds 45,000L, that's over 1.5 times its total capacity that will be lost via evaporation in the 6 months. When fitted correctly a pool cover can prevent up to 97% of this evaporation.

### Mean daily evaporation rates (mm)

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	6 month
Perth	5.3	7.4	9.1	10.2	8.8	7.9	8.3mm

# Heating

## How a pool cover can cut your heating and energy bills

By using a Pool Cover you will reduce the amount of time you need to run your pump system and pool heating, saving you money off your annual energy bills. If your pool is heated, a pool cover can cut your heating energy costs by 50 to 70%. It does this primarily by insulating your pool against heat loss, effectively eliminating evaporation, and therefore saving water.

### Predicted Average Water Temperature (°C)

		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Perth	no cover	18.6	21.1	22.9	23.5	23.1	21.6
	with cover	24.2	27.8	30.1	30.3	29.4	26.8

To illustrate the importance of a pool cover in keeping the heat within your pool the table above displays pool temperatures for unheated pools that didn't use a pool cover vs those that did. The use of a pool cover can increase your pool temperature by up to 8 degrees.