

How to be waterwise: pools & spas



**Every water action counts.
If each person saves a little,
together we can save a lot!**

This fact sheet shares waterwise tips on pools and spas. It's a starting point, not a full guide — always follow expert and manufacturer advice.

Be waterwise to:

-  **Save money**
lower water, energy and maintenance costs
-  **Save time**
reduce pool maintenance efforts
-  **Save water**
contribute to a waterwise Queensland

Design

A well-designed pool or spa reduces evaporation, cuts maintenance time and costs, and extends equipment life.

- ◆ Use shade from trees or shade cloth to cut evaporation from sun or wind
- ◆ Pick tree types that don't drop too many leaves or have invasive roots



Easy changes for big wins

Use a cover

A cover can prevent up to 95% of water evaporation a day. It helps keep debris out, lowers chemical use, reduces energy consumption and retains heat for more year round swimming.

- ◆ Install a pool or spa cover

Get the water level right

The right water level goes further than appearance - too high or low can waste water, damage your pump, and throw off your chemical balance.

- ◆ Keep the pool water level halfway up the skimmer opening to optimise performance

Know when to backwash or clean the cartridge

For pool systems that require backwashing, this can account for 30% of your pool's water use.

- ◆ Understand your pools filtration system needs

If your pool requires backwashing:

- ◆ Only backwash when needed following manufacturer's guidelines
- ◆ If possible, backwash after heavy rainfall, which also helps lower the water level

For all pools:

- ◆ Monitor the pressure gauge to check for a jump to signal it's time to backwash or clean your cartridge
- ◆ Remove debris from pool and skimmer to reduce the frequency of backwash or cleaning of your cartridge
- ◆ Use a broom not a hose to clean the pool area

Water chemical balance

Maintaining the right chemical balance is essential for a healthy pool. It helps you save time and money by avoiding expensive corrective treatments that can waste water.

- ◆ Regularly test and adjust water chemical balance

Leaks

Leaks cost you water, chemicals, and money. Fix them promptly to avoid bigger problems.

- ◆ Watch for a rapid drop in water level - more than 3cm in 24 hours. To check for a leak, fill a bucket on a pool step. If the pool water drops more than the bucket level after 24 hours you probably have a leak
- ◆ Loose tiles or cracks can be a sign of a leak
- ◆ Check common leak spots such as skimmer, pump, filter and pool shell
- ◆ Fix leaks and call a professional if needed (some repairs may require a licensed professional)

Draining a pool or spa

Draining is usually unnecessary and risks irreversible damage to your pool, spa and surrounds. An empty pool can move or pop out due to ground water pressure.

- ◆ Avoid draining unless it is under specific circumstances with expert help



Learn more and take action



Talk to your local pool shop, council or water provider for advice.

For more tips, scan the QR code or visit qld.gov.au and search 'waterwise'.

Every drop counts - one small action can create a wave of difference.