



The Official Pool Cover Buyer's Guide:

7 BIG COSTLY POOL COVER BUYING SINS & HOW YOU CAN AVOID THEM



My Perfect Pool
Australia's Best Value Covers

Happy Pool Cover Owners

"I bought the pool cover to increase the heat of the water and to reduce the chemical use of the pool. The water is much warmer than before! It has increased 5-7 degrees.

It also has extended the swimming season and allowed us to use the pool for an additional month- we wouldn't have been able to use the pool during this time before because it would have been too cold."



Pauline T. (NSW)

"The cover has kept my pool clean and I am able to save a lot of time. I now only have to clean my pool once a week, which is great!"



Chris M. (QLD)

"We want to keep the pool clean. Without the cover, I was cleaning the pool every day, but when we bought it, we are saving a lot of time and money. We are only cleaning it once in 3 weeks."

Sue M. (VIC)

"The pool cover and roller is very fine and it has been great. It made our water warmer up to 5 degrees. This means our swimming season is 6-7 weeks longer.

Now we are only cleaning it once in 3 weeks."

Sherry W. (QLD)

"Since installing it, it has made the water warmer up to 5 degrees and we were able to swim an extra 6 weeks."

Andrew Brown (SA)

"The product is marvelous! Since installing the product, I save a lot of time. I only have to clean the pool once a week instead of cleaning it every couple of days. It has also lessened the time I've had to run my filter pump. It is a great help and saves me a lot of time, effort and money."

Naomi L



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Introduction

Hi!

My name is Adrian Harrison and I'm the proud owner of "My Perfect Pool".

First of all, thanks for downloading this guide.

I feel it's important for you to know who you're dealing with and know you can trust us as the experts when it comes to helping you have your own perfect pool.

I've spent several years testing our pool covers and making sure the quality is just right. So it's fair to say I know quite a lot about them.

From my years of researching & testing pool covers, I've created this guide. It's full of expert knowledge.

As a result, you will make a much better buying decision.

You may want to know what's in it for me? It's simple, if I give you quality advice and help, you might just come back and buy something from me. If you don't, that's fine too - I would prefer you buy the right pool cover rather than for me to sell you something you're not happy with.

Happy Swimming!

Adrian Harrison

My Perfect Pool (Owner)



My two daughters & me



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The 7 Big Costly Pool Cover Buying Mistakes & How You Can Avoid Them

Choosing a pool cover that will turn your pool into your perfect pool can be a minefield. Unfortunately there are many unscrupulous dealers who will sell you an unsuitable product.

But it's not such a big deal when you have the right advice, from an expert that will keep your best interests at heart.

Costly Mistake #1 - Not Buying a Pool Cover Guaranteed to Make Your Pool Warmer

All pool cover manufacturers claim it will make your water warmer right? How do you know if it's just marketing baloney?

For most people, it will hurt to spend \$450 to \$1200 and find the product doesn't work as promised.

At My Perfect Pool, we offer a "Warmer Water" guarantee with our pool covers. If your pool isn't warmer after installing our cover, we'll take the pool cover back and refund your money.



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Costly Mistake #2 - Trying to "Save" Money by Not Getting a Cover Roller

A pool cover is a very large and unwieldy item and is hard to handle even with two people.

Without a cover roller, taking the cover off and on is extremely difficult. Take my word for it. I've installed a lot of covers and know first-hand.

It's not only a matter of handling. You simply won't use your cover after EVERY swim if it's hard to get on and off. And if you're not going to use it, you have wasted your hard earned money.

Costly Mistake #3 - Pro-Rata Warranties; Not Understanding the REAL Cost - To Claim Your Warranty

An 8 year Pro-Rata warranty sounds great. Unless you've read the fine print, it may not be all you think it is.

Pro-rata warranties normally include 1-3 years where the warranty will cover full replacement then after that, you will need to pay money for a replacement which depends on how long you've owned the cover for.

Example: You bought a cover for \$800 with an 8 year pro-rata warranty. In the fifth year it started to deteriorate so you decided to claim on your warranty.

To claim your warranty, you would need to pay the company \$600 for a replacement cover (see chart below).

Year	Action Taken	Amount To Pay (assuming \$800 original cover cost)
Year 0- 1	Replace	\$ -
Year 1-2	Replace	\$ -
Year 2-3	Replace	\$ -
Year 3-4	Customer to pay 50% of cost of new cover	\$400
Year 4-5	Customer to pay 63% of cost of new cover	\$500
Year 5-6	Customer to pay 75% of cost of new cover	\$600
Year 6-7	Customer to pay 88% of cost of new cover	\$700
Year 7-8	Customer to pay 88-100% cost of new cover	\$704 - \$800



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What Warranties May Not Cover

Most warranties don't cover:

- Over chlorination (greater than 3ppm chlorine)
- Failure to run filter pump at least 4 hours per day
- Storing pool cover in sun (when not on pool)
- Not using a protective cover when the cover is rolled up
- Tearing or ripping (this is normally considered fair wear and tear)

Costly Mistake #4 - Buying a Pool Cover Not Suitable for You

There are many different pool covers on the market; thermal, solar, slat, rigid, winter, safety. Each has its own unique pros and cons.

What you buy will depend on how you use your pool. Further in this guide, we've given an overview of the different kinds of pool covers so you can make an unbiased decision.

Don't let a pushy salesman sell you something that's not suitable.

Costly Mistake #5 - Making Your Buying Decision on Price Alone While Neglecting Long Term Value

There are many "cheap" pool covers on the market. Are they really cheap though?

Cheap pool covers disintegrate within 12 months leaving hundreds of shards of plastic bubbles to float around in your pool and clog up your filtration system.

If each year you're happy to outlay for a new pool cover and are also happy to spend a Sunday fitting it, and then spend hours picking tiny pieces of plastic out of your pool, then by all means, buy the cheapest cover.

If you want it to last more than 1 season, then shop around for a cover that is higher quality.



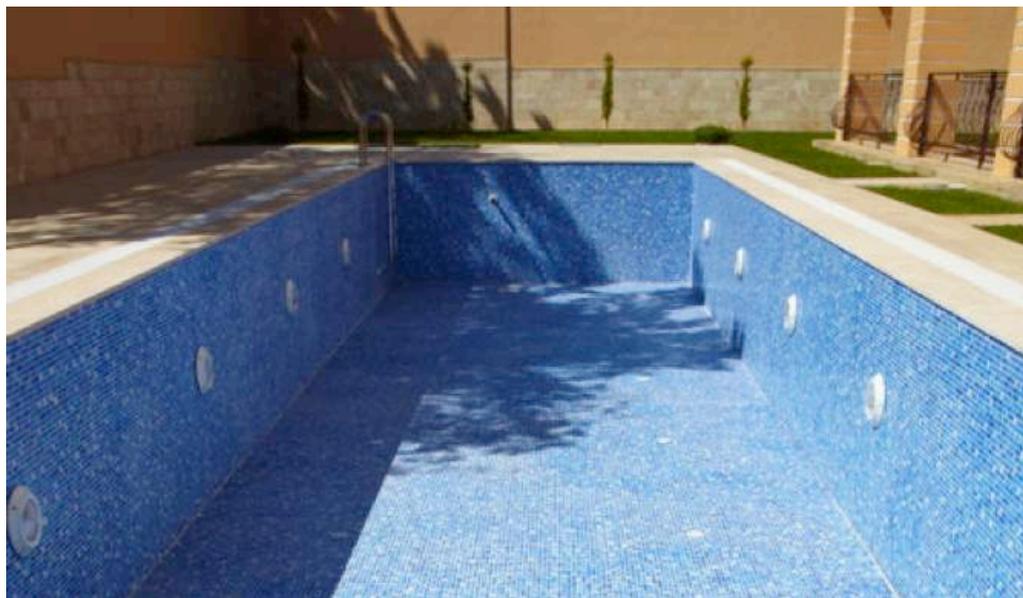
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Costly Mistake #6 - Not Buying a Pool Cover that Has Been Independently Tested & Proven to Reduce Evaporation



If you're in an area where evaporation is a problem, you already know that you are losing several centimetres of water every few days - which can equate to the entire pool's volume in water over a year.

To guarantee a fix to this problem, make sure you buy a pool cover that has been independently proven to reduce evaporation.



Pool covers that carry the Smart Watermark Approved label have been tested and proven to reduce evaporation by a minimum of 80%.

Costly Mistake #7 - Not buying a cover with added UV stabilisers

The sun's UV rays and pools chemicals are what causes pool covers to degrade over time. To make a longer lasting pool cover, the cover must have UV stabilising chemicals added to it.

Some pool covers do not have these chemicals added. Without these chemicals, the pool cover is unlikely to last more than 1 year.



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Why Are You Buying A Pool Cover?

You probably already know how a pool cover will make your pool better. It's important you do know so you can buy the right cover.

Do you use your pool a lot? Then you need a cover that is easy to take on and off? Want warmer water, then a solar, thermal or rigid cover is for you.

Choose the wrong type of pool cover and you will have an expensive piece of plastic or foam sitting around doing nothing for you.

Choose the right one and you can look forward to enjoying your pool more and working on it less.



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Who Buys From Us?



Who Buys From Us: Pool Owners Who Want Warmer Water & A Longer Swimming Season.

You may or may not have pool heating. You want to have fun in your pool in early Spring and late Autumn instead of only in the peak of Summer.

A solar pool cover is by far the cheapest, and most effective solution to make your pool warmer. And, if you have pool heating, it will greatly increase the effectiveness and give you warmer water and cut your running costs in half.

How Much Warmer Will it Make My Pool?

We've had many extremely happy customers tell us that their pool temperature has risen between 4 and 8 degrees. This can be the difference between swimming in comfort and being too scared to go it.

The extra warmth you get from installing a pool cover depends on many factors.

Basic factors include:

- the type of cover (solar, thermal, rigid/slat)
- thickness of cover
- the colour of the pool cover

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It also has extended the swimming season and allowed us to use the pool for an additional month- we wouldn't have been able to use the pool during this time before because it would have been too cold." **Pauline T. (NSW)**



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What Water Temperature Do I Need To Be Comfortable?

Everyone's comfort level varies but in general, here's a chart showing comfort levels.

Water Temperature	Comfort Level
17-20 °C	Some people are comfortable.....people from England. You'll need to be exercising to stay warm.
21-24 °C	Most people comfortable - Sydney Summer Beach Temp. Ideal for cooling off and exercising.
25-28 °C	Enjoyable even when not exerting energy. Not quite as refreshing as 24 °C. A little too warm for serious exercise.
28 + °C	Getting like a bath. Not refreshing. Too warm for serious exercise.

Can You Prove a Pool Cover Will Warm My Pool?

Yes.

Most of the heat from your pool (about 70%) is lost through evaporation. A study from the U.S. Department of Energy has scientifically proved this.

If designed right, a pool cover prevents most evaporation from occurring, which therefore makes your pool water warmer.

There's one more part of the equation, for maximum heat, a pool cover must also allow heat in. That's why solar pool covers are best at heating pool water - they let heat pass in and also trap it.

See Proof that Pool Covers Will Warm Your Pool

To prove for ourselves pool covers do work, we set up a small experiment and filmed it. The video will be available later but for now, you can see the results below.

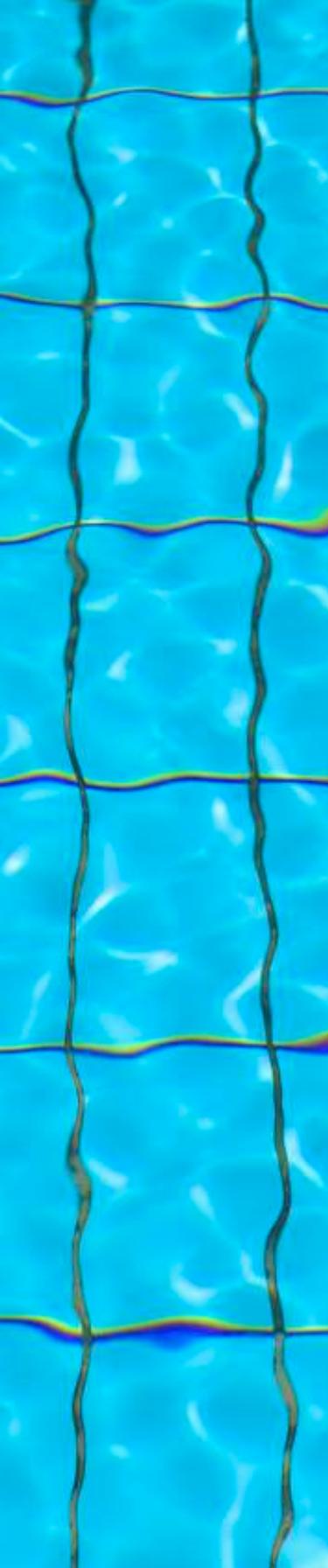


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Here's a brief summary of our experiment:

We filled two identical containers with plain water. In one of them, we placed a piece of 400 micron solar pool cover. In the other container, we left it as is (just water).

We then left them out in the sun for several days. After, we measured the temperature of both containers.

Experiment Results - Solar Pool Cover Vs Plain Water

	Temperature
Container with Solar Pool Cover	27 °C
Container with No Pool Cover	23.1 °C
<i>That's a difference of almost 4 °C.</i>	

Who Buys From Us: Pool Owners that Are Sick of Spending Hours & Hours Each Week Cleaning Leaves, Blossoms, Bark, Petals, Dirt & Other Debris from Their Pool

Your pool is in an area that is surrounded by trees and plants. They continually drop all sorts of debris in your water making a huge mess. You probably clean your pool 3-5 times per week and spend wasting hours in the process.



One customer of ours, Naomi from NSW, was previously cleaning her pool every two days. She lives in a leafy area and was getting loads of gumnuts, blossoms, petals and leaves in her pool.

After installing a pool cover, her cleaning was reduced to just once a week - saving her hours of hard work.



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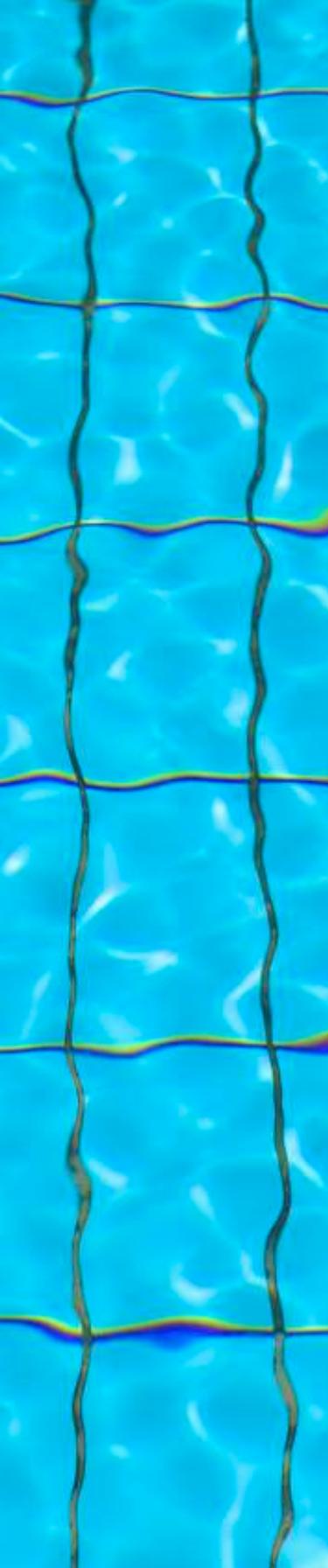
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To get these benefits, your pool cover must be easy to take off and on. If it's hard to take it off and put back on, you won't use it. Pool covers that have cover rollers are perfect for this.

"The product is marvellous! Since installing the product, I save a lot of time. I only have to clean the pool once a week instead of cleaning it every couple of days." - Naomi L. - New South Wales

Who Buys From Us: Pool Owners That Are Sick of Their Pool Water Evaporating

Particularly Queenslanders, your pool loses centimetres of water every few days. Not all types of pool covers will reduce evaporation in your pool. And further to that, the ones that do reduce evaporation aren't created equal.

Here's a list of pool blankets that do stop evaporation:

- Bubble or Solar Pool Cover
- Thermal Pool Cover
- Rigid or Solid Pool Cover

Leaf covers and safety nets do not effectively reduce evaporation

Pool covers that carry the Smart Watermark Approved label, have been tested by an independent scientific lab and have been proven to reduce evaporation by a minimum of 80%.



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Some Other Pool Cover Benefits

Increases Pool Heating Effectiveness & Reduces Running Costs

If you have pool heating, you MUST have a pool cover. In fact in some states, it's the law to have one.

Since a pool cover keeps much more heat in your pool, your pool heating system will be much more effective.

This means:

- *Your pool will heat up quicker*
- *Your heating will be more effective (warmer temperatures - less cost)*
- *You can run your heating less*
- *You will reduce your heating costs by up to 70%*

Spend \$260 Less on Pool Chemicals

It costs the average pool owner \$250 to \$600 per year for pool chemicals. It's a proven fact that most of your pool's expensive chemicals evaporate (up to 70%). A pool cover cuts evaporation which in turn keeps more of those expensive chemicals in your pool for longer.

Save at Least \$150 on Electricity

You will save at least \$150 per year on electricity costs. If you have heating, you could save over \$1000 per year on electricity costs.

The secret? Pumps are expensive to run. When you cover your pool, since your pool is cleaner, you can half the time you run your pumps for.



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There Are 4 Different Types Of Pool Covers - Which One Do You Need?

Solar, thermal, automated, winter.

Which one do you need?

Firstly, consider the main reason you are buying a cover. Then consider your budget.

The key is to review the benefits of each. Your decision will be easy then.

Feature	Solar Pool Cover	Automatic Rigid Pool Covers	Thermal Pool Covers	Winter Pool Covers
Heats Pool Water	Best	Very Good	No	No
Extends Swimming Season	Best	Very Good	Good	No
Keeps Heat in Pool	Good	Very Good	Very Good	Limited
Keeps Out Debris	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Best
Ability to Reduce Evaporation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Limited
Cuts chemical costs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Limited
Automatic On/Off	Can Be	Yes	Can Be	No
Can Walk On	No	Normally	No	Some
Cost	\$500- \$1,500	\$2,500- \$12,000	\$900- \$3,000	\$150 - \$2,000
Value for Money	1st	4th	2nd	3rd



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Solar swimming pool covers - are the least expensive and are the best value for money. You get almost all the same benefits as the other covers - but for less.



When combined with a cover roller they are quick and easy to take off and on.

These covers are suitable for DIY installation or can be installed by a pool professional.

Who Buys Them: Pool owners with or without heating looking to increase their water temperature, maintain the heat in their pool, increase their pool heating efficiency, cut cleaning time by keeping debris out of the water, reduce evaporation, cut chemical costs and cut electricity costs.

Automatic Rigid Pool Covers - along with safety covers and nets, these covers have the best safety features. When they are on, they can support the weight of an adult.

These covers are probably the best in terms of benefits. They do everything all the other covers do.

They are the easiest to take off and on because they are automated and have a motor to that does the work.

These covers must be installed by a professional.



Who Buys Them: Pool owners that have young children or pets - safety is a high priority to them. Pool owners that don't want the hassle of manually



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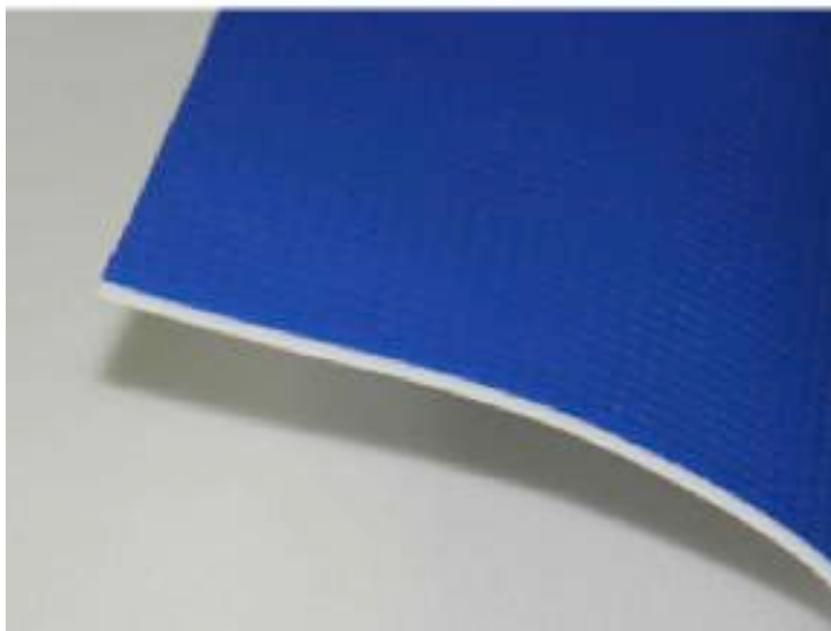
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taking a pool cover off and on. Pool owners that have a larger budget and want a more aesthetically pleasing pool cover. Pool owners that have pool heating and want to increase the effectiveness and reduce running costs. Pool owners that want to reduce cleaning time.

Thermal Pool Covers - retain heat better than solar covers. They are very similar to solid or rigid pool covers in this regard. They provide almost all of the same benefits that solar pool covers do except they don't heat the water.

These covers when combined with a cover roller are also quick and easy to take off and on.



They are often installed on indoor pools and also commercial pools. They are normally installed by a professional.

Who Buys Them: Pool owners that have pool heating and want to maximise the efficiency of their heating. They also want an aesthetically pleasing cover. Pool owners that have a larger budget. Indoor pool owners.

Winter Pool Covers - these pool covers are used to keep a pool clean and protected from the elements.

They are the most difficult to take off and on and take 5-10 minutes to do so.

Who Buys Them: Pool owners that want to close their pool for the winter. Pool owners that don't often use their pool and want to keep the debris out.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Will I Save Money on Chemicals? How?

Yes. You'll reduce costs by up to 70%.

75% of a pool's chemicals are lost through evaporation. Pool covers prevent most evaporation.

I have lots of trees around my pool, will this cut my cleaning time?

Absolutely. Most pool owners can expect to cut their cleaning time to 1-2 times per fortnight.

Which Pool Cover is Best for Me?

That depends on why you want a pool cover. Refer to the section earlier in this document titled: There Are 4 Types of Pool Covers - Which One Do You Need.

Which is the Best Pool Cover for Reducing Evaporation?

It depends on your overall needs as to which pool cover you should buy. Generally a solar, thermal or rigid pool cover will be best for reducing evaporation.

I heard there were cashback rebates for buying pool covers.

In some states there are rebates when you buy an approved pool cover. [Check our website](#) here for an up to date list.

Will a Cover Fit My Shape of Pool?

It doesn't matter if your pool is round, kidney, free-form, square or just a regular rectangular shape, there are ways to fit pool covers.

See our [video](#) on [how to measure your pool](#).

Do I need a pool cover roller?

Depends. If you plan on regularly using your averaged size pool and you want maximum benefits from your pool cover, then yes.

If you rarely use your pool or have a small sized pool, you may be able to do without.

Will a pool cover look dirty after a while?

The longer you have a pool cover the dirtier it will look. For this reason some pool owners prefer to replace their cover every 2-4 years instead of buying covers that last 6-8 years.

A pool cover that is 4 or 5 years old generally looks dirty, faded and tatty.

Some people say taking a pool cover off is a pain.

For most people, the benefits (warmer water, reduced cleaning time, saving money) of having a pool cover far outweigh the extra minute it takes to take the cover off and put back on.

I already have pool heating. Do I need a cover?

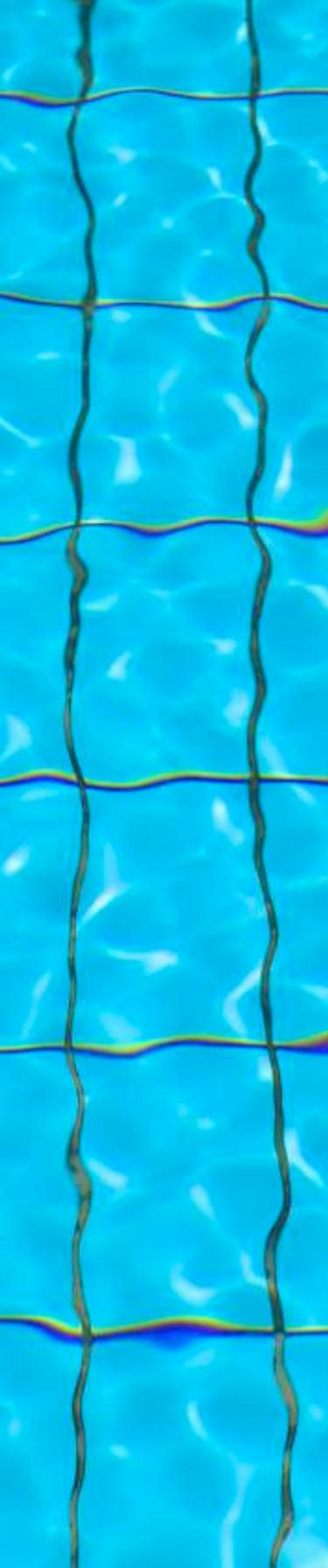


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Even if you have pool heating you'll benefit.

You will be able to achieve warmer temperatures and also run your heating system less (which saves electricity and/or gas costs).

I have an automatic pool cleaner. Do I need to remove the cover to run it?

Nope, most pool cleaners will work fine even if you leave your pool cover on.

What thickness cover do I need?

You will need a cover that is no thinner than 400 microns.

400 microns is a good compromise between durability and cost. Thicker blankets cost more.

Another very common and popular size is a 500 micron blanket. These last a little longer than 400 micron covers but cost about 25% more.

600 microns is generally too thick for domestic pools. This thickness is better suited to large commercial sized pools (25m or 50m pools)

What is a micron?

Micron is the unit of measure used to measure the thickness of a swimming pool cover. A micron is equal to 1/1000th of a millimetre. In Australia pool covers generally come in 250, 300, 400, 500 and 600 microns.

The higher the number, the thicker the cover.

What Size Cover Do I Need? How Do I Measure Pool?

Measure the longest and widest edges of your pool then add 15cm to your measurements.

See our [article](#) on [how to measure](#).

Will the cover blow off?

If the cover has been properly installed it will not blow off your pool. This means that the bubble side must face down and that the cover "rolls" slightly up your pool's wall (about 5-10cm)

How Long Does a Pool Cover Last?

This depends on the brand, thickness and type of cover (solar, thermal, winter, solid etc). A cheap pool cover will last less than 12 months. Higher quality covers will last 2-7 years.

You will pay much more for longer lasting covers.



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Happy Customer Comments

Here's what some customers who have bought pool covers from us have had to say.

"We can swim an extra couple of weeks now. The cover has made my water warmer up to 6 degrees. It seems to be good so far." - Kelly W (SA)

"The blanket is working and it's true that it makes the water warmer. Since I installed it, the water heat increased to 3-5 degrees and it has extended our swimming season by a whole month." - Judy D. (QLD)

"The pool cover has been working really great and it has made the warmer. Now we can swim a month extra. I'm happy with the product." - David B. (NSW)

"Since installing the blanket and roller, it has definitely made the water warmer up to 10 degrees and has extended our swimming time up to 4 weeks." - Geoff S. (NSW)

"The pool cover is fabulous! I'm very happy with it. It has increased water heat up to 3-4 degrees." - David S. (NSW)

"The product has been doing good. Since I started using it, the water is warmer. I can now swim an extra 3-4 weeks per swimming season. It has also helped me save time in cleaning the pool. I used to clean it 3-4 times a week but now I only have to clean it once a week. I also get to save a few hours running the filter pump." - Peter B. (NSW)



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If you have any questions about pool covers or your pool, you can contact us:

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Or you can visit our website which is loaded with articles and other helpful information: www.MyPerfectPool.com.au



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