



POOL WATER CONSERVATION GUIDELINES

Though the day-to-day use of a swimming pool consumes a certain amount of water, there are some steps that can be taken to minimize the overall consumption of water throughout the operating season:

- Except for times of extremely high contamination levels (i.e. fecal accidents), do not bypass the filter and waste water to sanitary sewer or other sub-surface disposal systems.
- Backwash filters only when necessary (according to pressure, not time...typically, 7-10 p.s.i. above the starting pressure). Do not leave the filter unattended while backwashing and stop backwashing once the water is clear in the sight glass.
- Check for leaks and repair any that exist. Perform a "bucket test" on the pool to help determine if water loss is from a leak or from environmental factors (i.e., evaporation or splash out).
- Plug the overflow line when the pool is in use to prevent surge water from flowing down the drain or onto the ground.
- If possible, cover the pool when it is not in use to help prevent evaporation.
- Limit the use of decorative water features (bubblers, fountains, waterfalls, etc.). Limit operation of water slides and mushrooms.
- Decrease pool/spa heater temperatures to help lower evaporation.
- Do not overfill the pool. Keep the water level no higher than 3 inches above the bottom of the skimmer opening. Remember to turn off the fill line after the correct water level has been reached.
- Install low flow toilets, urinals, aerators and shower heads in bathhouse facilities.
- Only wash off decks and walkways when they cannot be cleaned effectively by other means.
- To avoid water quality issues with receiving water bodies from the highly chlorinated water, when draining a pool the water must be flowed over at least 50 linear feet of permeable ground before being discharged into a receiving water body (stream, river, etc.).

By keeping water conservation in mind, we can maintain a balance between the protection of our natural resources and healthy outdoor recreation.