

Pool Maintenance

Maintaining a pool is about more than just turning on a filter and a vacuum. It's a time consuming process involving the checking and adjustment of chemicals on a daily basis.

Pool owners are responsible for the cleanliness of their pool water. If the pool's chlorine, pH levels or other disinfection system are not maintained properly, the chemicals cannot do their job properly. It is therefore crucial for pool owners to regularly adjust chemicals when needed. Pool filters should also be carefully maintained to ensure they are working properly.

There are three types of filters: sand filters, Diatomaceous earth and cartridge. Each collects and removes debris automatically or manually. The easiest being the sand filter which clean by 'backwashing', reversing the flow of water through the filter to loosen the collected debris and sweep into the drainage pipe.

For pools it is important that the water is tested regularly to determine pH, alkalinity and calcium levels. Your local pool shop will be able to assist you in determining the correct levels of chemicals that are needed and testing kits so you can check them.

Pools are breeding ground for bacteria, the main cause being the actual swimmers. Other causes are untreated water from rain, or topping up as well as any debris such as leaves.

Bacteria can cause illnesses ranging from ear, nose and throat infections to serious diseases like meningitis.

The most common way of protecting pools from bacteria is chlorine. There are four ways of administering it: granular, tablet, liquid and via a salt chlorinator. Each method gives the same result, all you need to do is pick a method in line with your budget and lifestyle.

Chlorine kills bacteria by oxidising them. A by-product of the oxidising reaction is chloramines, a half-oxidised pollutant. It is the chloramines that give your pool a chlorine smell, or the stinging sensation in swimmer's eyes indicating a low level of

chlorine, not a high one. The way to get rid of and prevent chloramines is to regularly 'superchlorinate' adding three or four times the daily amount of chlorine. It's best done in the evening and staying out of the pool overnight.



Bundaberg Regional Council
PO Box 3130
BUNDABERG QLD 4670
1300 883 699
www.bundabergrc.qld.gov.au

Council hours
8.15am to 4.45pm
Monday to Friday

Fact Sheets available:

1. Water Cycle
2. Water Treatment
3. What I need to know about Wastewater
4. Wastewater Treatment
5. Water Pollution
6. Water Recycling
7. Water Efficiency
8. How to read your Water Meter
9. Water Meter Home Accuracy Check
10. Drip Water your Garden and save
11. Important things to know about drip watering
12. Water Audit for the Household
13. Rainwater Tanks
14. Pool Maintenance

Booklets available:

1. You Can Take Control
2. Create Your Own Water Wise Garden

Additional fact sheets from WaterWise Queensland can also be obtained through you Local Council.

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Chlorine reacts with the sun's UV rays, but using 'stabilised' chlorine (available in granular and tablet form) will extend its life. Stabilised chlorine is acidic, so will also slowly reduce pH and TA (total alkalinity).



Pool cleaners such as leaf scoops, brushes, automatic vacuum to in-floor cleaners, etc, assist in cleaning the bottom and sides of the pool. They should be used in conjunction with chemicals used to maintain a clean pool.

The water level should never be less than half-way up the skimmer opening. If the level is too low, the pump will begin to suck air, and may burn out. To ensure that water loss isn't too great a pool cover or blanket should be used.

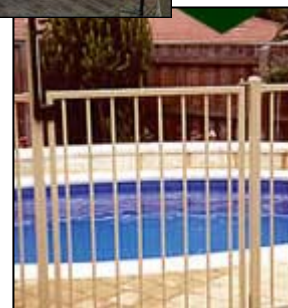
Pool covers and blankets of various types minimise the cooling of the pool by stopping evaporation and heat loss. By creating a barrier between the water surface and the outside air, the losses are minor. Also you save on the cost of chemicals and reduce the amount of chlorine lost in the sun's UV rays. They also keep the debris out of the pool, which reduces the workload of cleaning the pool via the pool cleaner. Most types of automatic pool cleaners will work quite happily under a cover or blanket.



Most pool covers or blankets do not provide protection against children getting into the pool, which may present a hazard. Pool covers should never be considered a substitute for a fence or proper supervision.

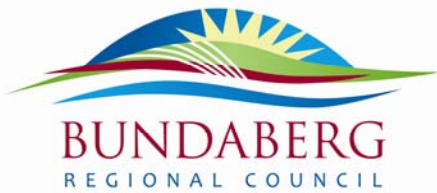


Pool fencing must be installed around pools prior to completion. Regularly check gates and fencing to ensure they continue to satisfy the regulations and don't leave any furniture or other items that children can climb on near your pool fence.



During the off season pool owners need to maintain a simple procedure in keeping pools clean and healthy. Don't simply turn the filter off and forget the pool for several months. This is a false economy because the time, effort and money needed to get the pool water correctly adjusted for the next season will be far more than the little needed during the off season.

By thoroughly cleaning all your filters/skimmer baskets during the off season, and with the assistance of your local pool shop in stabilising the water consistency, pool owners should only need to check the chlorine level every 2 weeks.



In the Bundaberg Regional Council water area, the backwash from swimming pool filters must be connected to the sewerage system through the sanitary drainage. The overflow is to be connected to the stormwater outlet to allow excess water to flow to the gutter. If the pool is to be emptied for any reason this water is to be pumped slowly into an overflow relief gully on the property.

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If you have any queries about any of the information presented in this fact sheet, please telephone Bundaberg Regional Council Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Planning Technical Support on 1300 883 699