Water Saving Tips for Pools

Did you know that close to 70% of water used in our area is used outdoors? In the Sacramento area, a standard (16 ft. x 32 ft.) uncovered pool can lose up to 18,000 gallons of water a year to evaporation. To conserve water and save money consider some of the water saving tips below.

Cover Your Pool

The evaporation rate for a pool is dependent on temperature, humidity and wind speed.
The Department of Energy's "Reduce Swimming Pool Energy Cost" (RSPEC) found that pool covers (bubble, vinyl and vinyl insulated) reduce the amount of make-up water by 30-50%. They also found that pool covers reduce chemical consumption by 35-60% and heating costs by 50-70%.

- The three hottest summer months can account for almost 80% of the total year-round evaporation.
- By covering pools when not in use, summer peak evaporation will be greatly reduced.
- Pool covers tend to retain heat so consider a reflective pool cover to curb the heat retention of the water and to keep it comfortable temperature for swimming.
- A retractable pool cover adds an extra measure of safety for kids or pets.

Repair Leaks

All pools, hot tubs, fountains and water features are subject to leaks. The most common locations for leaks are where the pool and pipes are joined, at separations along the pool top and the bond beam, in the piping either on the suction or return lines to the filtration system, and in the liner of the pool itself.

- Install a meter on the pool makeup line to monitor pool water use and check for leaks.
- The most obvious indicator of a pool leak is when wet spots appear around the pool, filter or piping.
- If air bubbles are noticed in either the pump strainer basket or if bubbles appear in the water in the return line where the water enters the pool (even after three or four minutes of the pump running), it may indicate that a leak exists in the suction side of the piping, resulting in sucking in air.
- Some pool websites and pool "experts" suggest that if a pool is losing more than three inches of water per week in a high evaporation area, it may have a leak.

Reduce Splash-Out

Set the pool water level several inches lower than the edge of the pool and the overflow. This allows for the retention of rainfall when it occurs and reduces the amount of water splashed out.

- A helpful design feature is to bevel the edge of the pool so that is slightly overhangs the edge. This will help redirect splashes into the pool.
- Most commercial pools and many residential pools have gutter and grate systems around the edge of the pool to catch splashes.

City of Woodland
Environmental Services