

Become a Business Watersaver today

Water efficiency for non-residential swimming pools

Australia is the driest inhabited continent on earth. Despite this, we have one of the highest per capita water consumption rates in the world.

Continued population growth in the region will increase water demand. By implementing water efficient techniques you can become a Business Watersaver and help secure our regions water supply for today and the future.



Did you know?

1. It is mandatory for hotels, motels and other non-residential premises[†] with a swimming pool or spa to comply with regional water conservation measures. As specified in category 13.2 'Non-Residential Premises – Existing Swimming Pools and Spas'^{*} you must install:
 - a rainwater tank or downpipe diverter
 - water efficient taps and showerheads in public amenities
 - a 'clear view screen' on the backwash outlet line
 - a sub-meter (by a licensed plumber) on the pool or spa make-up line

You must also:

- keep a weekly written log to track water use – any increase will help you identify leaks
 - use all available rainwater to top up the pool before using town water
 - repair leaks promptly
 - display water conservation messages in bathrooms, if your complex has visitor accommodation
2. Under category 11.2^{*} if your facility has a urinal it must be a water efficient system in accordance with QWC performance requirements.

[†]Non-residential premises include common areas of complexes which fall under the *Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997* and/or the *Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980*. ^{*}Category 11.2 and 13.2 are part of the Permanent Water Conservation Measures available from the QWC.

Save water, time and money

In addition to the regional water conservation measures, why not introduce some of the initiatives listed on this page? Doing so will help you conserve more water, which in the long run will save you time and money.

Area

Initiative

Water management

- **Appoint a member of staff** to manage water conservation and water use as part of their daily duties. This person should stay up to date with current water restrictions (found on the QWC website) and communicate any changes to the team.
- **Conduct regular walk-through audits** of your facility and identify where and how efficiently water is being used, e.g. measure flow rates of fixtures, frequency of pool backwashing and water feature cleaning.
- **Use patron numbers** to benchmark water use for your facility (litres/patron/day) and compare this to the best practice target of 40 litres/patron/day.

Awareness and training

- **Increase staff awareness** of water conservation through adequate training and induction.
- **Advise patrons** not to jump in the pool as this will reduce water lost through splashing.
- **Increase patron awareness** of water conservation through adequate signage, e.g. put up stickers or posters that provide visitors with water saving tips and a contact name and number to report leaks.

Pool maintenance

- **If your pool is outdoors**, use a pool cover after hours to reduce evaporation and heat loss.
- **If your pool is heated**, reduce the temperature if possible, particularly when the pool is not in use. This will reduce evaporation and save energy.
- **Check your pool's water level** regularly. If there is a rapid drop in the water level (3cm or more in a day), investigate for leaks and consult a professional.
- **If rain is forecast**, wait for the pool to refill naturally.
- **Minimise the length of backwash cycles** while still complying with health codes and supplier specifications.
- **Keep your pool water level** about halfway up the skimmer opening. This will save water and increase the effectiveness of your skimmer.
- **Install drainage barriers** around your pool to collect and reuse overflows or splashes for pool make-up water.
- **Choose a water efficient pool filter** when your current model needs replacing.
- **Install dual flush toilets**. This will save up to 8 litres of water every time the half flush is used.

Amenities

- **Install dual flush toilets**. This will save up to 8 litres of water every time the half flush is used.

Things to consider when purchasing a pool cover

1. Does it promise to significantly reduce evaporation loss?
2. Does it allow rainwater to freely enter the pool?
3. Does the cover have a warranty?
4. Is it strong, lightweight and easy to use?
5. Will it fit your pool?
6. Does it stop leaves and debris from entering the pool?
7. Is it a Smart Approved WaterMark pool cover?



Typical water use in a pool is around 70 litres per visitor per day, with recommended best practice goals as follows.

Visitors per day

0 – 500

> 500

Best Practice

**60 litres
/visitor/day**

**40 litres
/visitor/day**

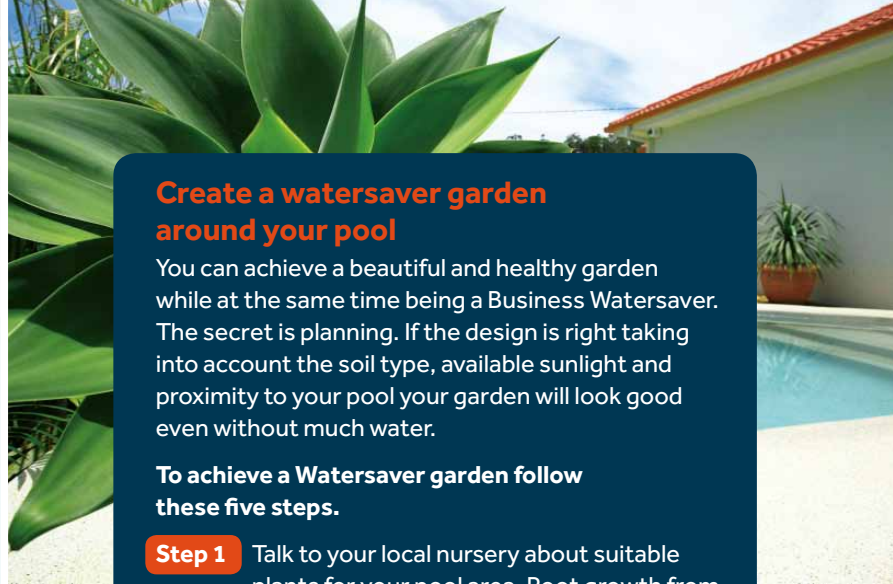
Did you know?

1. Water loss is a time consuming and expensive problem for pool owners. As well as replacing water, chemicals also need to be topped up. By implementing a water management plan, this loss of time and money can be avoided.
2. Each year evaporation can lead to a loss of water equivalent to your pool's entire volume. By using a pool cover, you can reduce losses to evaporation by as much as 90%.
3. Under pressure a tiny leak can cause losses of more than 3000 litres in one day. To minimise leaks in and around your pool, keep an eye out for the signs of a leak which may include:
 - o unusually high water meter readings
 - o unusually rapid drop in water levels
 - o unusually rapid algae formation soon after chemical treatment
 - o loose tiles or pool deck cracking
 - o gaps and cracks in the pool shell
 - o ground settling around the pool structure
 - o constantly damp soil around the pool or nearby buildings
4. Complimentary water conservation stickers and visual templates are available from Allconnex Water. Visit allconnex.com.au
5. If you are installing a new swimming pool or spa and/or renovating your current pool or spa, separate restrictions may apply. Visit the QWC website for the latest information on restrictions.

Permanent water conservation measures

Saving water is everyone's business. Ensure you are up to date on the permanent water conservation measures so you continue to use water efficiently.

Visit qwc.qld.gov.au for further information.



Further information

This fact sheet is designed to inform you about specific water efficiency measures for existing pools. Further information on becoming a Business Watersaver can be accessed from the sources listed below.

- Sign up to receive the Allconnex Water 'Water Biz' business e-newsletter and be kept up to date with:
 - permanent water conservation measures
 - water saving tips & product innovations
 - financial assistance opportunities
 - competitions & initiatives
 - complimentary prompt materials for staff and visitors
 - State Government initiatives and updates
- The Queensland Water Commission (QWC) provides information on restrictions for new and existing pools as well as sustainability programs including Water Efficiency Management Plans (WEMPs) – visit qwc.qld.gov.au.
- The Master Plumbers and Mechanical Services Association of Australia can help you locate your nearest GreenPlumber. These professionals have received training in water efficient products and their installation – visit greenplumbers.com.au or call 1300 368 519.
- Smart Approved WaterMark has a list of water efficient products and services – visit smartwatermark.org.
- The Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) Scheme makes it easy to compare water consumption and star ratings of registered appliances – visit waterrating.gov.au.

Create a watersaver garden around your pool

You can achieve a beautiful and healthy garden while at the same time being a Business Watersaver. The secret is planning. If the design is right taking into account the soil type, available sunlight and proximity to your pool your garden will look good even without much water.

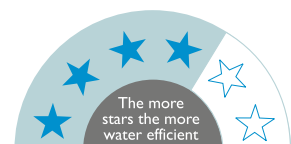
To achieve a Watersaver garden follow these five steps.

- Step 1** Talk to your local nursery about suitable plants for your pool area. Root growth from some plants can cause damage to pools and may create leaf litter in and around your pool, leading to more cleaning time.
- Step 2** Use a good mulch and minimise evaporation by up to 70%.
- Step 3** Add water crystals to the soil. This will enhance water retention by up to 35%.
- Step 4** Always use a trigger hose, bucket or watering can when watering your garden.
- Step 5** Use a broom to sweep paved areas instead of hosing them down.

If your garden has a fountain or pond restrictions may apply to the use of water visit the QWC's website for further information.

Allconnex Water have a number of brochures that can help you be a Watersaver in and around the garden. Call 1300 000 928 for a copy or view them on the website allconnex.com.au

To help you make informed decisions about products and services that will help to save water in your business, visit smartwatermark.org



Look out for the WELS 'star rating' label when you buy your new appliance and check waterrating.gov.au for a list of water efficient products that can save money and help the environment.

Visit us at allconnex.com.au

Allconnex Water would like to thank the following organisations for their contribution to the development of this fact sheet: Queensland Water Commission, Permanent Water Conservation Measures; Queensland Water Commission fact sheet, Swimming Pools and Spas in Resorts Hotels, Motels and Other Non-Residential Premises; Brisbane City Council fact sheet, Swimming Pools; Sydney Water fact sheet, Swimming Pools.