

POWERPLASTICS poolcovers



Covered! News from PowerPlastics Pool Covers, February 2015

This month: shed some load and cover up!

The holiday tinsel has barely been packed away and we've had our first reality check of the year—loadshedding is back in full swing. More than ever, as pool owners, we can make a difference to the situation if we act collectively. The savings detailed in this month's newsletter provide an undeniably strong argument for the use of pool covers to save electricity! In fact, we can save we can save an immediate 6% of your electricity bill.

The logic is simple: We filter and treat a pool with chemicals to maintain water hygiene and prevent unsightly algae growth. Cover the pool with a dark-coloured pool cover and light entry is stopped (light being what algae needs to grow). And leaves and debris then collect on the cover rather than in the water. With these factors combined, you're left with a pool that needs far less filtering because the cover has essentially taken care of the whole water hygiene issue.

There are two cover options to achieve this: the EnergyGuard GeoBubble and the Energy-saving Solid Safety Cover with a blue- or stone-coloured surface and a black underside. Neither cover allows light entry however it is important to understand each cover's benefits. In a nutshell, if child safety is a requirement over and above power saving, go for the Energy-saving Solid Safety Cover. Read on for the details!

ENERGYGUARD GEOBUBBLE: HIGH PERFORMANCE POWER SAVING COVER



EnergyGuard GeoBubble from PowerPlastics Pool Covers



The average domestic pool pump's capacity to consume considerably large amounts of electricity was the fundamental reason for development of the innovative power-saving thermal pool cover.

- Inhibits light entry therefore curbs algae growth. This reduces filtration times by 50%
- Evaporation reduced by 98%+, therefore saving water
- Chemical consumption reduced by up to 60%
- Increases water temperature by up to 4 degrees C
- Excellent way to hibernate a pool in winter or when you're going away. The pool is clear and swim ready upon removing the cover.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the EnergyGuard GeoBubble cover.

ENERGY-SAVING SOLID SAFETY COVER : DROWNING PREVENTION & POWER SAVING IN ONE!



Energy-saving Solid Safety Cover from PowerPlastics Pool Covers - Blue



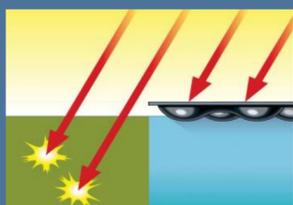
Energy-saving Solid Safety Cover from PowerPlastics Pool Covers - StoneGrey

Our Energy-saving Solid Safety Cover also prevents light entry and starves algae but, because it is a solid cover that is tensioned with a simple ratchet and supported by aluminium battens that rest on the paving, it has the added benefit of keeping children safe and preventing drownings. So you get child safety *and* sustainability from one pool cover! Available in two colours - Blue and StoneGrey.

- Inhibits light entry therefore curbs algae growth. This allows you to reduce your filtration times by 50%
- Evaporation reduced by 98%+, therefore saving water (remember, your municipality uses power to pump water so a pool's water consumption has an impact on the power scenario too.)
- Pool safety - withstands weights of up to 225kg (two adults and a child)
- Can be used to hibernate the pool and reduce maintenance
- Great for pet safety too

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Energy-saving Solid Safety Cover. When placing your order, remember to stipulate either Blue or StoneGrey as your colour choice for this cover.

The "How Low Can You Go?" Challenge



Dark cover prevents light entry and stops algae growth, reducing filtration times by at least 50%, (if not more)

Typically, the pool industry recommends filtering a pool for 4 to 8 hours a day. This is generally 12% of the home's total power consumption.

By using one of our energy-saving pool covers you will save 6% off your total electricity bill. But how low can you go? This is where the full extent of the energy crisis in SA needs to drive new behaviours around your swimming pool.

Perhaps, the pool pump can be run on weekends only and you'll still have water hygiene that is perfect for swimming. So, over the next month we are running a **How Low Can You Go** awareness campaign whereby we want you to cover your pool and start playing around with your filtration times and see just how little filtration you can get away with. Visit our **Facebook page** where you can log your reducing filtration times as a means to encourage other pool owners to join the challenge! Instead of moaning, let's be a proactive community of power-smart pool owners and all benefit from the collaboration!

How to start the challenge

Start by fitting a power saving cover such as our **EnergyGuard GeoBubble** cover or our **Energy-saving Solid Safety Cover** (see product details above.) Then, at your own risk and without allowing the water to discolour, turn your filter off entirely during the week. On Saturday mornings, clean off any leaves that have collected on the cover, remove the cover from the pool and clean the pool/run the Kreepy if required (there won't be much to do if the pool has been covered all week). Keep the filter on for up to 4 hours on Saturday and up to 4 hours on Sunday. Re-cover your pool immediately after cleaning and swimming, and turn off the pump for the next week. (Think of your pool like cleaning your house – a thorough clean once a week is generally plenty!)

Work your way down to just one hour of filtration in total on the weekend. You will be pleasantly surprised and your household budgets won't be complaining either. As cooler weather sets in and you're swimming less, keep the pool covered for three weeks and then go into maintenance mode as per the above directions for just one weekend a month.

Water usage impacts power consumption too

It is also worth pointing out that covers **reduce water evaporation by 98%+**, so your pool uses less water under a cover. Remember, your municipality needs power to pump water to your home. Use less water on top ups and you're saving power in this aspect too.



Pool covers curb evaporation by 98%+, helping your local municipality to save power too!

The figures - saving 6% of your electricity bill

The average pool pump is a .750 Kwh. Run for the pool industry's traditional 6 hours a day, your pool pump will consume 4.5kwh per day. Multiply by 600 000 pools in SA and that is 2 700 megawatts of power being used on pool water filtration per day. Our national grid has an installed capacity of 43 319 megawatts per hour with a current available capacity/peak demand of 30 000 megawatts per hour or 720 000 megawatts per day. Pool pumps alone are using .37% of the national grid every day! If we add higher specked pumps, heat pumps, chlorinators etc pools easily get into consuming 1% of the national grid daily.

See how much power is being pumped, literally, into pools? Even if half of SA's pools were covered and filtered 50% less, there'd be massive impact in terms of reducing the load on the national grid! So next time you face Loadshedding and you start shaking your fist at Eskom, if your pool is not covered and if you're still filtering it for 6 hours a day, then you're as much of a culprit in terms of the inconvenience we all have to bear!

General tips for power-saving in pools

- If you have features such as fountains or jets in your pool, turn them off. Not only do they increase power consumption, the aeration will increase water evaporation and significantly lower the water temperature.
- Don't be lazy about removing leaves — it reduces the load on your pool pump and shortens filtration times. Otherwise, save time by using one of our covers.
- Pool covers also reduce the amount of water required, given that evaporation losses are curbed.
- Help your pool pump and its water circulation by regularly removing the "gunk" and debris from the strainer baskets and skimmer.
- If you have an old or dated pool pump, looking into the newer more eco-friendly and power-efficient pool pumps now available locally. Older pump bearings are so tight, that the pump uses more amperage when running.
- Pool lights—turn them off! They may look pretty but they are a serious power waster!
- Don't let your pool go green as this will require extra chemicals and even more filtration in the long run. Keep your pool around a pH of 7.2 and your chlorine within the 1 -3 ppm.
- Ensure your sand filter is clean and optimal so that you are making the most of your filtration time.
- If you let dogs swim in your pool, this is equivalent to 30 people swimming and requires the filtration system to work after swimming. In other words the filtration system needs to oxidize any containment in a pool after swimming.
- Manage your water temperature with natural sunlight through a thermal cover. Heat pumps start at 5kwh and increase to up to 15 depending on the specification and size.
- Check your pool filter timer. Sometimes when there are many power outages, older mechanical timers lose their time and continue to do so until manually adjusted. Also move your filtration time into off peak times. Our electricity grid is at critical levels between 7am to 9pm.



Pool safety for children — an important reminder

In recent weeks, every day we seem to read about another tragic child drowning somewhere in South Africa. Drowning is amongst the most common causes of child mortality but it is also entirely preventable. Every pool should be secured with the PowerPlastics Solid Safety Cover and adult supervision is key.

Carte Blanche recently ran a segment on the topic and shared some of the latest drowning statistics which we then shared on our Facebook page. [Click here](#) to read them!

And if you've not visited TopStep, the home of pool safety, please do so. It is a public platform for all things relating to child drowning prevention and pool safety, including tips and some myths around child drownings. [www.topstep.co.za](#).

In the next newsletter, we'll be updating you on the status of the new SABS regulations coming into play that will make pool safety mandatory in SA, so watch this space!

PowerPlastics Pool Covers director wins prestigious international entrepreneurship award

Late last year, our director Caryn Formby received accolade at the prestigious International Women's Entrepreneurial Challenge (IWEC) event held in Sweden. IWEC seeks to develop a global business network for successful female entrepreneurs, helping them expand access to international markets by presenting a platform for the exchange of knowledge, experience, and connectivity. Caryn was an Awardee due to her track record of successful business turnarounds and her contribution to skills development, economic empowerment and entrepreneurship in the South African manufacturing sector – a sector typically dominated by men. We're immensely proud of Caryn's achievement and the positive impact on us as a team as well as the overall lifestyle brand. It was a great end to a very busy 2014! Click [here](#) to read the press release online.

Learn more about IWEC [here](#) and please urge fellow female entrepreneurs to chat to their local Chamber of Commerce about taking a shot at this year's Award!



On accepting her award, Caryn shares a joke with the SA Ambassador to Sweden, Ambassador Mandisa Marasha.

About PowerPlastics Pool Covers

PowerPlastics Pool Covers manufacture an innovative range of pool cover solutions, taking an insightful approach to product development and promoting a lifestyle choice, not just a pool cover. Our solutions are always innovative, directly addressing issues affecting South African pool owners. We have tailored a range of thermal pool covers in response to local crises including the ongoing electricity and water crises and the need to shrink carbon footprints in the domestic setting. With remarkable high performance thermal pool covers, PowerPlastics Pool Covers is widely regarded as the leading supplier of covers for the eco-conscious pool owner and runs a broad educational campaign regarding the environmental impact of swimming pools.

Child safety around pools is of paramount importance at PowerPlastics Pool Covers, giving parents peace of mind with the PowerPlastics Solid Safety Cover, one of the most effective and easy to use methods of securing your pool on the market. We are educators in this field too and consistently seek to educate pool owners on the drowning risk of open pools. PowerPlastics Pool Covers is also the founder of educational blog TopStep, the home of pool safety, an online platform for both the industry and public to better understand the nature of child drownings and local legislative requirements.

At the top end of the market is the fully automated imported system, Starline Roldeck. This top of the range cover offers true modern convenience and adds the perfect finish to the 'no expense spared' home.

Also available is the PowerPlastics JetStreams, a state of the art range of counter current jets with a system for every requirement, from professional swimmers wanting a flat current just below the surface to train in, to floor mounted jets for soothing massage. The vast range of JetStreams' applications extends from meditative relaxation to focused massage and athletic exercise, all in the privacy of your own home.

PowerPlastics Pool Covers has teams serving Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth, George, Vereeniging, Nelspruit, Bloemfontein, Hoedspruit, Pietermaritzburg and Polokwane. Our superior manufacturing and locally unparalleled designs combined with an unfailing customer centric approach are what sets us apart in the industry. Visit [www.powerplastics.co.za](#) for more info.

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