

# POOL+SPA

NOV/DEC 2013  
Vol.2 No.5

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Mornington Peninsula pool wins title

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Pools are as individual as their owners. While some pools are highly automated and architecturally designed with state-of-the-art fittings and inclusions, others are simple above-ground pools or natural pools without any bells or whistles. Despite their differences, one thing they all have in common is that they provide the family with hours of entertainment and many years of happy memories.

However, as families have changed over the years, so have their needs and demands when it comes to their pools. Where once pool owners would spend Saturday morning vacuuming their pool, busy family schedules have fuelled the demand for devices to save them the time and hassle. There are now many types of pool cleaners available on the market to suit all pools and budgets. See inside for a run-down on the latest in pool cleaning technology.

Similarly, in the pool chemical arena, consumer demand has driven the emergence of effective, easy-to-use and chlorine-free pool chemical alternatives. Julian Quinn from Biolab believes the days of bombarding the consumer with technical information are over and in their place we'll see the emergence of simple 2- to 3-step pool care systems. All with the aim of giving the consumer less work to do and more time to swim. See the full story inside.

Also inside you'll find inspiring case studies from your award-winning peers, a refresher on algae - how and why it develops and its best treatments, pool renovation tips from pool builder and landscape architect John Storch, the latest trends in above-ground pools, a look at natural pools - also known as swimming ponds, plus the latest industry news, events and products.

From all of the team at *Pool+Spa* we thank you for your support throughout 2013 and wish you and your families a merry Christmas. See you in 2014.



# VICTORIAN 'POOL OF THE YEAR'



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Located in the hinterland of the Mornington Peninsula, this award-winning swimming pool and spa were part of a residential project that included the renovation of an existing home. Designed by Paul Bangay and Ilario Cortese Architects, with the construction works managed by Riley Hazen Projects and built by Aloha Pools the project was completed in time for the summer of 2011.

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The swimming pool and spa were constructed on a private 8-acre property, with the existing house surrounded by a mature native garden setting. The proposed house renovations and pool construction were designed to further augment the traditional stylings of the existing home and gardens, as well as enhance the view out over sprawling vineyards and the southern hinterlands of the Mornington Peninsula.

The client wanted a large pool that could be used for both exercise and social swimming, but with a strong visual impact. It was important that the pool enhance the already stunning outlook, in no way distracting or blocking the view from the home out over the vineyards. The client also requested that the swimming pool water have an 'eddying river' effect, similar to something they'd seen at a luxury wilderness cottage in New Zealand. The strategically placed in-floor jets, when in action, contribute towards this swirling water effect, but not to the extent required. Aloha Pools' solution was to install three independent outlets in the eastern wall of the pool, angled upwards towards the surface, which created the desired look.

The property had a sprawling homestead, with high-pitched ceilings, large stone chimneys and wide verandahs. The proposed construction works involved the addition of a new wing to the house, as well as the construction of the swimming pool and spa. The completed project was intended to look like one harmonious design, a natural continuance of the home's stately heritage.

Building the pool at the same height as the existing terrace helped to create this illusion. The sloping nature of the property created an opportunity to build an 'infinity' edge along the far side of the pool.

Constructed within a centred offset, the spa is framed by the bi-fold doors of the home, creating a feeling of symmetry between the house and the pool. The arc of

the ornamental handrails provides another bridge between the two settings, doubling as a useful gripping rail as the swimmer descends the wide steps into the pool.

The dark water colour produced by the bluestone brilliantly reflects the changing mood of the seasons - in summer the water is a deep inviting blue while in the cooler months the dark waters reflect the stormy patterns of the sky.

The swimming pool excavation cut into the slope of the property so that one side of the pool would be level with the existing terrace, with the opposite side of the pool built above ground level. The first issue with the construction was that the property was classified as Class H soil type. This means that it was a highly reactive site, which can experience high ground movement from moisture changes. To ensure the pool shell would remain in a stable geological profile, the construction had to comply with eight special requirements for Class H sites, as set out by the structural engineers, dealing with additional reinforcement requirements and proper drainage.

Another challenge was separating the spa from the pool internally to keep the warmed spa water from flowing directly into the pool. The spa is separated from the pool by a glass weir, so the spa's concrete shell had to be specially engineered to allow for an extra layer of steel reinforcing. A 40 x 90 mm rebate was constructed in the concrete shell so that a 15 mm toughened and heat-soaked panel could be installed to act as this dividing levee. This seemingly simple piece of glass was anchored with a non-shrink grout and effectively keeps the hot water in the spa from spilling out into the main body of pool water.

The swimming pool and spa shells were constructed with a square floor-to-wall join instead of the curved radius used in standard pool construction. The purpose of this detail was to accommodate the proposed large-



IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE POOL ENHANCE THE ALREADY STUNNING OUTLOOK.

format bluestone tiles, which cannot curve up the walls of the pool, but instead must abut straight up to the joins. Large-format tiles also require a high degree of accuracy and precision in the building and finishing of the pool, as the tiles must sit perfectly flat, with no discernible rises or dips across the surface of the pool walls or floor.

The pool is surrounded by gently sloping hills and lush vineyards - a view the clients didn't want interrupted by the necessary pool equipment. As such, the proposed equipment location was over 50 m from the pool structure, concealed within the distant tree line. This meant that the pipe size had to be increased to 80 mm to offset friction losses and careful planning was required to ensure that the pipework would cause no conflict with the proposed footings.

The pool and spa have a Paramount PCC 2000 In-floor Cleaning System. The PCC 2000 is a programmable cleaning and circulation system that cleans the swimming pool automatically. Each system is engineered using state-of-the-art CAD technology and can be custom designed for concrete pools and spas of any shape or size.

Pop-up nozzles built into the floor of the swimming pool use high-pressure streams of water to push dirt, sand, leaves and debris from every corner of the pool towards the MDX drain, where it is removed into a collection basket or canister for ease of disposal. The PCC 2000 also saves on ongoing maintenance costs, as it returns heated, chemically treated water to the floor of the swimming pool. When the heat and chemicals are introduced at the bottom of the pool, they are thoroughly mixed long before they reach the surface. This results in lower heat and chemical losses and lower costs over the lifetime of the pool.

A solar heating system was installed to allow the pool to be heated using the sun's natural energy during the warmer months, with a back-up gas heater for heating the



spa. The pool is also heated with geothermal heating, so when solar heating is not available, heat is harvested from the ground.

Fourteen Spa Electrics LED Niche lights were used in the construction of this pool. Beyond making it easier to navigate in the dark, lighting also creates an opportunity to add interesting accents to the pool, turning the pool into a 24-hour feature.

The light fittings in this pool have been placed facing away from direct sight lines (to avoid glare) and spaced evenly along both the bench seat and the lower pool wall to produce the best distribution of light. While LED lights tend to cost more initially, the globes do not need to be changed as frequently and they produce a brighter light, making them better suited to a pool with a darker interior.

The entire pool, spa and exposed wet-edge face of the pool were fully tiled using large-format bluestone tiles. Made from volcanic stones that have formed and hardened over millions of years, bluestone is extremely dense and hard wearing, enabling it to be used in the most vigorous of applications. While bluestone pavers are 'on trend' at the moment for pool coping, they are not often used to fully tile a pool interior; however, the extensive use of this timeless material aided in the integration of the pool with the existing setting.

The swimming pool was built with an infinity edge along the length of the pool. Also referred to as a wet-edge pool, infinity pools are designed with a spillover edge to produce a visual effect of water extending to or vanishing over the horizon. This spillover edge allows water to flow over the side of

the pool and down the exposed bluestone face into a catchment gutter and concealed balance tank. As the exposed face of the pool is over 1.2 m above ground level, this design feature has the added benefit of acting as the required safety barrier on the far side of the pool.

This swimming pool is a study in contrasts. Its overall size and colouring makes a bold impact, yet the design is simple and understated. The traditional styling of the pool exudes old-world charm, but the sleek wet edge and low-maintenance equipment use the latest state-of-the-art technology.

This pool was recently awarded 'Pool of the Year' at the 2013 Swimming Pool & Spa Association Awards of Victoria, the only major award presented for a specific project by a pool builder. In addition, this project also received Gold: Best Residential Concrete Pool Over \$100K and Highly Commended: Best Pool & Spa Combination.

**Specifications:**

- Pool size: 5.0 x 16.0 m with the spa at 2.75 x 3.0 m
- Pool shell: Reinforced concrete
- Filtration: Zodiac
- Pump: Zodiac
- Lighting: Spa Electrics LED Niche Lights
- Sanitisation: Zodiac
- Pool cleaning: Paramount PCC 2000 In-floor Cleaning System
- Heating: Hurlcon Viron 550 Gas Heater and Sunbather 80 m2 Solar Heating System
- Other: Auto Refill Valve and AquaLink PDA4 Control System

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# GETTING TO KNOW ...

After I finished my HSC at Lisarow High School on the Central Coast in 2008, I jumped straight into a carpentry apprenticeship in Sydney, while working weekends with my father, Hardy, at Mr Pool Man. After six months I took up a full-time position with Mr Pool Man.

Within two years the business had grown and we expanded with two new service vans. I have since completed Certificate 3 and 4 and a Diploma in Business Management and Certificate 3 in Pool and Spa Servicing. Mr Pool Man now has two service vans and a retail shop in Wyoming with a growing client base and a strong team of employees.

To date, my career highlight has been recently winning the 2013 Pool and Spa Technician of the year at the SPASA Awards of Excellence.

Over the years, the biggest project for not only me, but the Mr Pool Man business, was opening our first store. It is a huge step for any business, with a lot more overheads, but a firm business plan and positive attitude has helped us grow and develop tenfold. It is very rewarding watching a store you started from scratch develop and go further than you had ever imagined. As one of my colleagues has said, every pool guy's dream is to have their own shop!

I would say that the biggest challenge for us at Mr Pool Man and our colleagues in the pool industry at this point in time is ever-changing technology. The way the retail industry is evolving and changing rapidly with online purchasing and the use of smartphones, plus social media being a huge influence now in the daily operation of businesses and the pool industry presents a challenge for us all. From purchasing, servicing, invoicing and marketing, everything is different than what it was only five years ago.

To respond to this challenge we feel you need to embrace these changes within your company and we have done just that, with social media sites, an interactive website and strategic marketing schemes to maximise exposure to a wide range of audiences, all linked by different forms of technology. It is the way the whole world is going with business - nearly everything is just a 'click' away. If you don't go with the flow, you will be left behind.

Today, our customers are demanding service from us more than ever before. Consumers now have the power of technology to source whatever they require from nearly anywhere in the world, whether it be products, parts or prices. At the end of the day, if you cannot deliver a service or product within the consumer's time frame, they will simply go elsewhere with a simple search and click online and find a supplier who can. Mr Pool Man is focusing on quick turnaround times, not only in sales of products but also in pool servicing. Ensuring that the majority of customers can be satisfied within a 24- to 48-hour turnaround period is critical.

Mr Pool Man believes energy efficiency is a huge growth area in the year ahead, with some fantastic products already on the market. 'Fully automatic' pool management systems are also available to domestic consumers, and with technology evolving in the pool industry at such a rate, there are a lot more exciting products and innovations to come within the next five years.

I'd like to say a huge thanks to my father, Hardy Hintze, for giving me the opportunities I've already had in the pool industry and setting me up in such a great line of work. I love what I do and enjoy coming to work every day. Fingers crossed for a great summer for all pool companies!

## TOMAS HINTZE

*Manager/Senior Service Technician,  
Mr Pool Man*



Recently awarded Pool and Spa Technician of the year at the SPASA Awards of Excellence, Tomas Hintze has helped his family business, Mr Pool Man, expand and succeed.



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# PROJECT COMPLETE

## TAKING THE PLUNGE IN SHENTON PARK



Designed by Debra Brown of Hofman and Brown Architects, Wenham Constructions was the builder employed to coordinate construction of the property and Exclusive Pools constructed the pool.

The client's family included two teenage children. While the pool was designed to accommodate the children and their friends, it was critical to the overall design that it integrate with the living areas of the house. With only a small space in which to work, it was an important element of the planning strategy to design the lot from boundary to boundary, with the outdoor space a continuation of the indoor living spaces. The glass-sided swimming pool, underneath the cantilevering upper floor, not only provides a focal point for the living area, it feels like it is 'within' the house.

A Hurlcon Cartridge Filter was selected for the pool's filtration system and a Hurlcon 1.5 hp pump was used. A Chemigem automatic sanitiser was also fitted. The pool is lit with LED lighting; the LED lights were positioned on the house side of the pool so those inside the house are able to see the effects of the lights rather than the source.

The pool is relatively small and covered by a cantilevering overhang for about 70% of its area, which helps to reduce evaporation. The pool is solar heated and is fitted with an Elite Thermal Shield thermal blanket. This blanket features a 45% higher 'R' value compared to other blankets which, according to Elite Pool Covers, means the swimming pool will heat up quicker, stay warmer longer and be less expensive to operate.

Classic white tiles measuring 100 x 300 mm have been laid on the internal and external walls to give the swimming pool a solid feel. The interior of the pool has been finished with Rainbow Quartz in Pool Blue colour. These complement the overall simple and contemporary design of the swimming pool.

The pool was designed to be 560 mm above ground with a 560 x 4500 mm glass window set in a stainless steel channel. To reduce the amount of water loss from splashing, the glass window in the pool was raised.

The pool has been designed to complement the contemporary design of the addition to the home. The glass side of the pool and the glass wall to the dining area enhance the impression that the water is almost a part of the room itself. As the windows from the living area do not open, the pool area is not encumbered by fencing, offering an uninterrupted view.

The curvilinear pattern of the Hoojba concrete tiles to the pool wall provide a subtle contrast to the very rectilinear shapes of the pool itself. Integrating the pool as a feature of the house allows the owners to enjoy it not just to swim in during the warmer months, but to gaze at all year round.

The architect, Debra Brown, believes the success of the project was due to the pool area being designed as an integral 'room' in the house. "The small timber deck and step area at the east end is a continuation of the timber floor and steps internally. The polished concrete floor in the dining area extends through the glass wall to the pool surround. The small section of glass pool fence at the west end is minimal and unobtrusive. In short, the house and the pool were designed as one. The pool design didn't come after the house, it came with the house, and that is its success."

Exclusive Pools aspires to build pools to a very high standard, preferring only to build around 30 pools each year. This enables a degree of flexibility and ensures quality control.

This pool won Gold at the 2013 SPASA WA Awards in the Plunge/Courtyard Pools category.



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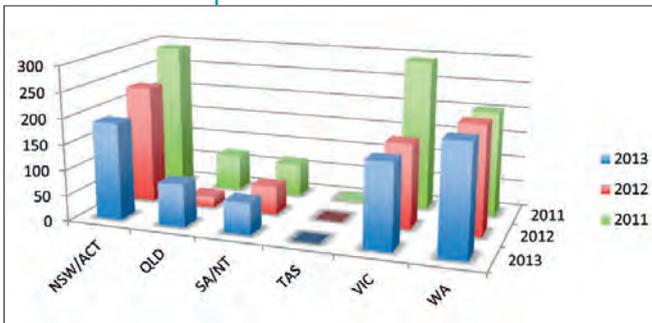
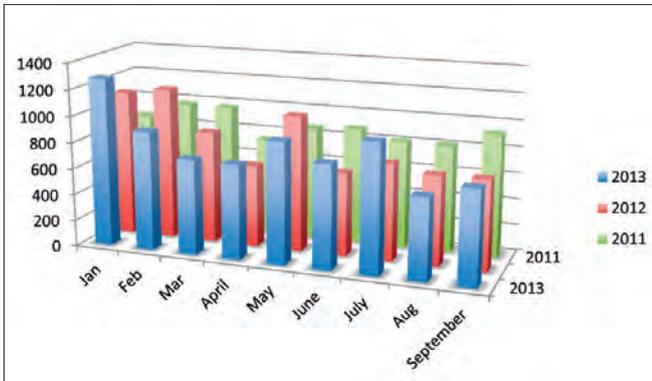
Kinetic Technology



Patented Vortex Vacuum Technology



# MAKING WAVES



## National pool DA numbers remained steady in September

September 2013 saw 710 DAs lodged nationally, a significant increase from the same period in 2012 where 682 DAs were lodged.

Western Australia saw the highest level of DAs across the country with 212 applications processed. This figure is slightly up on the number of DAs received in September 2012 when 211 applications were lodged, and also an increase on the figures seen in September 2011, when 204 applications were received.

Queensland and South Australia/Northern Territory both saw an increase on the DA applications received in September 2012. Queensland received 83 DAs, up from 21, while SA/NT received 62, up from 55.

Victoria received 164 DAs, exactly the same number of DAs received in the same period in 2012.

Across the country, 82 DAs were received for commercial swimming pools, which was slightly up on the 78 DAs received in September 2012.

## NZ student heats pool through driveway

A winning science fair project in New Zealand may revolutionise traditional pool heating. Richard Young, a New Zealand student at Huanui College, submitted a novel idea to the Central Northland Science Fair - a model showing how copper pipes laid in aggregate could be heated from the asphalt laid on top, with the warmed water pumped into a swimming pool nearby.

The model, named Hot Aqua Driveway, combined with his research, showed that the pool water temperature was raised by 2°C.

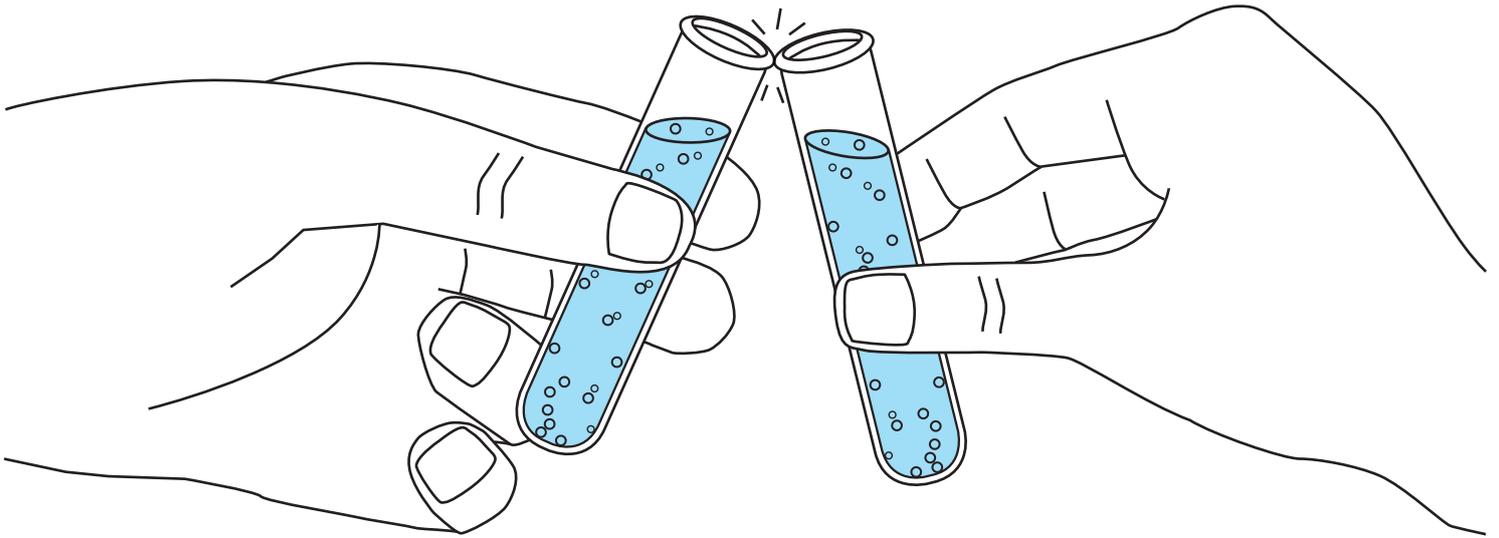
Young has secured financial backing to create a full-sized prototype for next year's science fair.



## National SPASA Australia website launched

SPASA Australia has launched a separate website for the national body. This is a work in progress and marks the spot from which the national body will move forward in future. As a sign of unity, SPASA Qld has relinquished its domain name, [www.spasa.com.au](http://www.spasa.com.au), for the benefit of the national association.

As a result of these moves it is intended to redevelop the Queensland site to align with the look and feel of the new Australian site and at that time the domain name [www.spasaqld.com.au](http://www.spasaqld.com.au) will be used to fall in line with the other state name structures. In the interim, however, the SPASA Qld website can be accessed by a link from within the national site or directly by entering [www.spasa.com.au/queensland](http://www.spasa.com.au/queensland).



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# MAKING WAVES

## Victorian pool icon refurbished

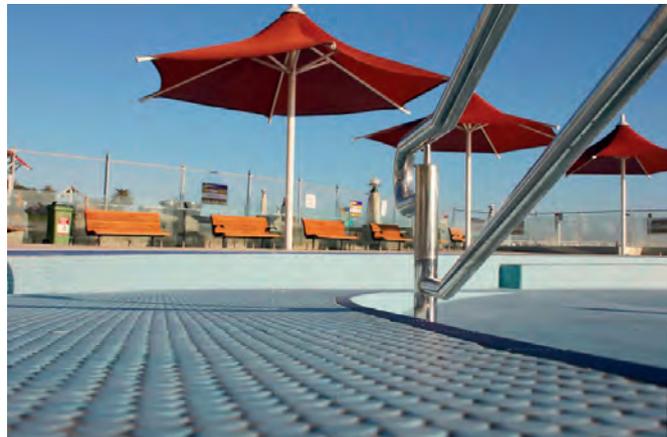
Constructed between 1928 and 1939, the Geelong Eastern Beach Bathing complex is the last major enclosed sea bathing facility to be constructed on Port Phillip Bay and is a focal point for Geelong's outdoor activities.

Eastern Beach represents an innovative example of the work of structural engineers and architects. The baths, including timber promenade and concrete children's swimming pool, is unique within Victoria. The design incorporates curved sea walls, circular promenade (baths) and a concrete children's pool.

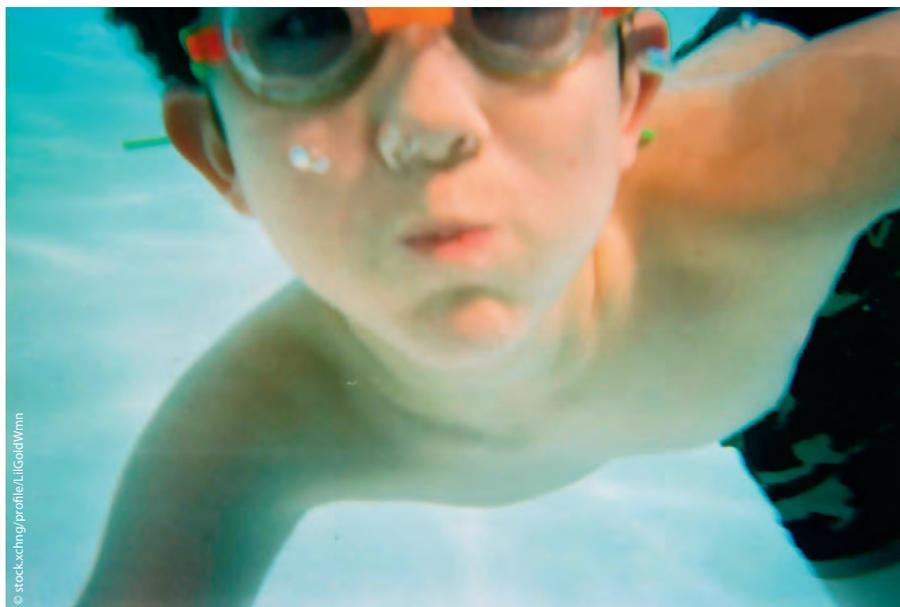
The \$6 million restoration project involves the reconstruction of the pool area, this includes the seawalls and dive tower replacement, the stabilisation of the embankment and irrigation system upgrade.

The 110 m<sup>2</sup> children's pool redevelopment included laying the entire swimming pool in Jasba HT circular mosaics. Previously the pool was painted concrete, but the City of Greater Geelong wanted to take advantage of the non-slip, antibacterial features to improve hygiene and reduce surface cleaning efforts. A pale blue colour scheme that closely matched the previously painted pool surface was approved by the Heritage of Victoria along with contrasting steps, seating and ramp edge safety tiles.

Coordinator of Capital Projects at the City of Greater Geelong Peter Jeffreys says, "We are extremely impressed with the tile supply and



installation service provided by Jasba's Australian agents - Ceramic Solutions. They have worked tirelessly during the cooler months to complete the tiling works within the required timeline and with a high-quality outcome." The prestigious appearance of Jasba HT mosaics linked with the durable nature of tiles provides the city of Geelong with a long-lasting asset.



## Entrapment back on radar following near-drowning of celebrity's child

The issue of drain entrapment is in the spotlight again following the entrapment of the 5-year-old son of hip-hop artist Usher. The boy's arm became lodged in a pool drain and he nearly drowned.

On 5 August, Usher Raymond V tried to retrieve a toy that had fallen in the drain of a family pool in Atlanta when his arm became stuck. After rescue attempts by his aunt and maid failed, two men working on the property were

able to pull him free. In a televised interview, the child's mother, Tameka Foster Raymond, said the boy was underwater for nearly three minutes.

Usher Raymond was released from the hospital a week later, and his father posted a picture of the youngster back at home with a cast on his arm, playing a board game with his family.

The Atlanta Police Department is continuing its investigation and could not offer information about the drain. Many have concluded from the

nature of the accident and aerial footage of the pool that the drain cover must have been off and that the pool must have only one drain.

Some saw the attention given to the incident as an opportunity to promote pool safety. The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (USA) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission each sent out press releases outlining drain safety. APSP's Georgia Chapter has reached out to Usher to discuss the possibility of collaborating on a safety promotion but has not heard back. The organisation hopes to talk with the performer once things settle down.

Story first published in <http://www.poolspanews.com>.

## 200 child drownings in USA

At least 202 children between the ages of 1 and 14 drowned in a swimming pool or spa in the United States in the past year, according to media reports compiled by the USA Swimming Foundation. Of those, 143 were children younger than age 5.

The latest media-reported figures are consistent with the US Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) annual Submersion Report and show that young children and toddlers are especially vulnerable to drowning. Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death among children 1 to 4 years of age and it is the second leading cause of death for children from 5 to 14 years old.

For more information, visit [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

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The Dolphin Liberty is claimed to be the only robot on the market with no cord. The Liberty uses lithium-ion battery technology to ensure the robot has maximum suction power and working life and minimal charge times.

The Liberty is designed to work individually in pools up to 15 m. Because it is cordless, multiple cleaners can be used in tandem to provide coverage in larger pools.

Some of the key features include cycle time - 1 to 1.5 h, recharge time - 2 to 4 hours, pool size per cleaner - 15 m, suction power - 17000 L/h, cleans floor, wall and benches.

**Maytronics Australia**

Contact info and more items like this at [wf.net.au/V286](http://wf.net.au/V286)



**TILE AND STONE INSTALLATION MATERIALS APP**



Laticrete has updated its Tile and Stone Installation Materials App to include new powerful and useful features based on user feedback. The updated app includes full information regarding the Laticrete Australia product line as well as adhesive coverage calculations.

The product lines range from underlayments and StainProof grouts to waterproofing membranes that can be flood tested

in as little as 2 h as well as sound and crack isolation adhesive.

The Laticrete Australia Product Information App is a full-service reference tool. It is available for iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, and Android and Windows phones.

**Laticrete**

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 DRIVE  
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3  
 YEAR  
 WARRANTY  
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DUAL  
 DRIVE  
 MOTOR

3  
 YEAR  
 WARRANTY  
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 PARTS

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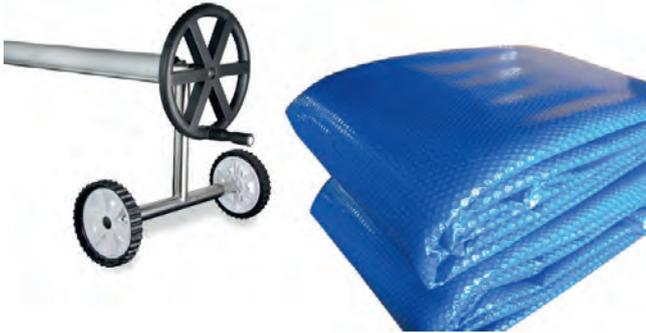
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## PRODUCT PAVILION



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A telescopic pool cover roller is also offered to complement the AquaBlanket 400. It is easy to use and smooth to roll. The stainless steel and aluminium construction makes it corrosion resistant, strong and lightweight.

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## Associations and selfless individuals

The 26th president of the United States of America - Theodore Roosevelt - once said: "Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organisation that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere."

Roosevelt's words are extremely powerful and ring true to many loyal members who have always supported the concept of being involved in their specific industry association. During the 1850s, gold was discovered in Australia, first in New South Wales and then in Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania. These gold rushes revolutionised Australia's economy and helped nurture this country's national character. Australia was also in receipt of a large influx of economic migrants from all over the world, many of whom found themselves working on construction sites, in the goldmines and in factories while others established milk bars and restaurants. The Gold Rush period also saw a number of state and territory Chamber of Commerce organisations being formed to deal with the diverse and rapidly changing business landscape. The late 1800s also saw the establishment of early industry associations. The Master Builders (now Master Builders Association) is Australia's oldest industry association and was founded in the early 1870s in Melbourne, Sydney and Newcastle.

These early industry associations challenged government and employers on matters such as workers' rights, trade and industry policies with the view of creating an improved business environment.

While representative groups have been around for centuries in other parts of the world, these newly formalised organisations in Australia were in fact the first 'voice' for employers and the people.

From the very start of the Gold Rush period, associations have attracted selfless individuals who have freely given their time, their experience and their expertise for the sole purpose of advancing the industry and the individuals they represent. Associations and industry owe a lot to these selfless individuals who have served commendably over the last 100 plus years. These individuals have all made a difference. There is no doubt that associations are here to stay; however, in what form? The next hundred years will no doubt see new leaders and similar or restructured associations delivering benefits and services to a new type of member while continually lobbying for improved business conditions. Whether you look back to the early years or into the future, members have always been and will continue to be the greatest asset any organisation can hope to have. Feedback welcome: [spiros@spasa.org.au](mailto:spiros@spasa.org.au).

# AQUA QUIP

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[www.aquajoy.com.au](http://www.aquajoy.com.au)

## PRODUCT PAVILION

### PETROL-POWERED PRESSURE CLEANER

Karcher has introduced its cleaning solution for the home and garden. The G2.500 DCE Petrol Powered High Pressure Cleaner is suitable for large properties or where electricity is not an option.

The G2.500 DCE is purpose built for heavy-duty tasks. A 5 hp engine enables a pressure of 2500 psi, meaning this cleaner outputs 9 L/min to easily remove stubborn dirt, mould and grime.

At a weight of 23 kg and a height of 63 cm, this high-pressure cleaner can fit in the back of the 4x4 or the tray of a ute and is able to be wheeled across rough terrain due to its sturdy set of wheels and durable steel frame.

**Karcher Pty Ltd**

Contact info and more items like this at [wf.net.au/V306](http://wf.net.au/V306)



### LOW-PROFILE LED LIGHTS

Specifically designed for easy installation into fibreglass pools and spas, Waterco's Britestream Slim90 Fibreglass Niche LED has been designed to provide a low-profile and energy-efficient lighting solution.

The Britestream Slim90 requires only 15 W of energy to deliver up to 128 lm of light, plus it is claimed to last 35 times longer than a traditional halogen light. That's approximately 15% of the electrical power usage of a standard halogen light. In other words, they use approximately 85% less energy than a halogen light.

Unlike traditional halogen bulbs that emit light and heat in all directions, the Slim90 emanates light in a specific direction. This not only results in substantial energy savings but also allows pool owners to finesse their lighting design. The Slim90 LED lights are also suitable for those hard-to-light areas of a pool or spa, including the steps.

The Britestream Slim90 Fibreglass Niche LED has a number of features including built-in heat management, triple seal connection and a precision-built printed circuit board totally encased in a waterproof housing.

**Waterco Limited**

Contact info and more items like this at [wf.net.au/V415](http://wf.net.au/V415)

### SALT WATER CHLORINATOR

Seal Pool Equipment first launched its range of saltwater chlorinators, the CL series, for residential facilities and has developed the Seal Pup, a chlorinator for small pools and spas.

Reverse polarity, low salt and water flow alarms, manual and automatic settings, plus electrode monitoring are some of the features common to all of the Seal Pool Equipment chlorinators.

**Seal Pool Equipment**

Contact info and more items like this at [wf.net.au/V325](http://wf.net.au/V325)



### POOL CLEANING AND CIRCULATION SYSTEM

Cycleclean is a pool cleaning system, as well as an advanced circulation system. Pools without in-floor cleaning systems circulate water near the surface of the pool, where chemicals and heat are quickly lost into the atmosphere. This often leads to wasted chemicals, wasted heat energy and several poorly circulated algae-prone areas throughout the pool.

Cycleclean improves the circulation found in ordinary pools. Using rotating cleaning jets placed in the pool floor, steps and benches, Cycleclean evenly circulates water through the pool. This improved circulation is claimed to create cleaner, healthier, more comfortable pool water while reducing the loss of chemicals and heating energy to the atmosphere.

**Pool Water Products**

Contact info and more items like this at [wf.net.au/V337](http://wf.net.au/V337)



### GRANITE POOL TILES

Sandwave Granite is the latest granite colour offered by The Pool Tile Company.

Sandwave is a cool, grey granite with waves of light and dark grains providing movement and interest.

Sandwave Granite is available as tiles, bullnose and rebated square edge coping pieces. The Pool Tile Company is also able to offer custom sizes to suit individual project requirements.

**The Pool Tile Company**

Contact info and more items like this at [wf.net.au/V339](http://wf.net.au/V339)

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## 2014 National Awards of Excellence Gala Dinner announced

Unparalleled consumer prominence will be made available to SPASA members through the national awards program. The national body board has recently voted to expand the long-running SPASA Australia Awards program to include our first ever major awards gala dinner in 2014.

The awards categories have been revised to better represent the need of industry. Significantly, the national awards now include what will undoubtedly be the most prestigious pool construction award in Australia - the SPASA Australia Pool of the Year. The competition promises to be fierce.

This national awards program is the industry best-of-the-best; here are the categories:

- Residential Concrete Pools - Traditional or Geometric up to \$50,000
- Residential Concrete Pools - Traditional or Geometric \$50,000 to \$100,000
- Residential Concrete Pools - Traditional or Geometric over \$100,000
- Residential Concrete Pools - Freeform or Natural up to \$50,000
- Residential Concrete Pools - Freeform or Natural \$50,000 to \$100,000
- Residential Concrete Pools - Freeform or Natural over \$100,000
- Residential Fibreglass Pools - up to \$40,000
- Residential Fibreglass Pools - over \$40,000
- Commercial Fibreglass Pools
- Residential Vinyl-Lined In-Ground Pools
- Residential Pre-Engineered Above Ground Vinyl-Lined Pools
- Residential Enclosed/Indoor Pools
- Display Pools
- Commercial Pools or Spas up to \$250,000 - Built of any material or method of construction.
- Commercial Pools or Spas over \$250,000 - Built of any material or method of construction.
- Renovations up to \$25,000
- Renovations over \$25,000
- Innovative Pool and/or Spa
- Water Feature
- Lap Pools - Pools incorporating a lane/s intended for swimming laps.
- Sustainable Pools
- Best In-situ Portable Spa
- Sustainability Award: Product
- SPASA Australia Pool of the Year Award

Entrants to the national awards program will be drawn from the category winners of the four state associations: SPASA Queens-

land, SPASA South Australia, SPASA Victoria and SPASA Western Australia. A high-profile, and independent to industry, panel of judges has been appointed.

Scouting of suitable iconic state-capital venues has commenced - stay tuned for the announcement of the date and venue! A commitment has been made to rotate the awards gala to a new state capital each year. For general enquiries, or members seeking sponsorship opportunities, please contact Brendan Watkins on 03 9501 2040.

### **Industry training**

Traxion Training will be providing booking opportunities for industry members for both Certificate III & IV in Swimming Pool & Spa Service at the 2014 SPLASH, Gold Coast - this offering is to be made in partnership with SPASA Australia.

SPASA Australia, in collaboration with Traxion Training, has also recently applied for government-subsidised RPL (recognition of prior learning) for Certificate III in Swimming Pool & Spa Service and Certificate IV in Swimming Pool & Spa Service. Look out for announcements on this opportunity very soon.

Traxion is also investigating expanding the training offerings in 2014 into more generalised areas that include: sales, marketing, customer service, cashflow management, HR, WHS, etc.

SPASA Australia continues to be the only industry association represented on the federal industry training advisory body, CPSISC. The function of the Construction and Property Services Industry Skills Council (CPSISC) is to develop and promote national training standards and qualifications.

### **Governance**

A great deal of work is taking place around enhancing both rigorous and transparent policies. Members have been provided with a range of newly developed policy for comment. If you'd like to review our rules, just email: [nationalmanager@spasa.com.au](mailto:nationalmanager@spasa.com.au).

Personal visits to national members have been taking place over recent months. National Manager David Syme will personally visit all member sites across the country to better understand the products, services and key issues of our major members. Feel free to contact David on 0499 880 023 if you would like to fast-track a visit or are contemplating elevating your membership to full national member status.

Finally, we thank the APVMA CEO, Kareena Arthy, for her personal visit to the SPASA Australia head office recently. There is a lot happening in the chemical sector space momentarily - stay tuned for major updates in coming weeks.

For more information, see: [www.spasa.com.au](http://www.spasa.com.au).

# POOL+SPA

CHEMICALS  
FEATURE

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GET TWISTING BY THE  
POOL WITH ZODIAC  
TWIST & DOSE SYSTEM





# POOL HEALTH WITH A TWIST!

Launching this October from Zodiac, the revolutionary new Twist & Dose chemical dosing system will have customers twisting by the pool and into your dealership.

Designed to make pool health easy, this new consumer-friendly system will boost your store sales in chemicals, increase store traffic and increase customer satisfaction.

TWIST & DOSE will also most certainly get the interest of pool builders who will see in this intuitive pool maintenance tool the perfect kit solution for new pool owners as it truly takes the guess work out of chemical dosing.

## WHAT IS TWIST & DOSE?

Twist & Dose is an innovative system designed to help maintain a healthy and sparkling pool. Twist & Dose encourages pool owners to increase water testing at home, in between pool shop visits, creating the need for test strip refills and more regular chemical dosing. The patented Twist device is the key component. It is a simple to use, yet intelligent test strip reading device that easily prescribes end-users which Zodiac chemicals to use and in what quantities to keep a pool healthy.

## TWISTING BY THE POOL

Twist & Dose tests 3 key parameters of pool water: Total Alkalinity, pH level and Free Chlorine. Just twist each of the 3 yellow rings starting from the top to match the colour of the Twist & Dose 3-in-1 test strip pad with the colour for Total Alkalinity, pH and Free Chlorine.



Then turn around the Twist and simply read the dosages of Zodiac Twist & Dose chemicals to add to the water for a healthy pool.

When one or more of the 3 key parameters are a long way out of normal range, the Twist displays a warning sign; Zodiac Twist recommends the end-user to seek professional advice at their local pool shop. Yet another customer touch-point for dealers.

## THE SALES SOLUTION: ZODIAC TWIST & DOSE SYSTEM

The Twist & Dose system is made of 3 key components:

- 1. The Twist & Dose Pool Health Kit** designed for 3 sizes of pool – small (20,000 - 30,000 Litres), Medium (40,000 - 60,000 Litres) and Large (70,000 - 90,000 Litres). Each kit contains 1 vial of 25 Twist & Dose test strips, the unique Twist device, a purple colour-coded measuring jug and scoop to dose the balance chemicals and green colour-coded measuring jug and scoop for Chlorine dosage.

## 2. Zodiac Twist & Dose pool chemicals.

These are 4 core Zodiac TWIST & DOSE chemicals prescribed by the TWIST device: Zodiac Alkalinity Up, pH Down, pH Up and Zodiac Pool Sparkle Purifier, a high quality stabilised chlorine for long lasting protection that also includes built-in clarifier & water conditioner. Zodiac TWIST & DOSE chemicals come in different sizes, starting from 2kg up to 10kg. They feature a new square bucket packaging easy to store and stack. They can also be easily identified with the distinctive TWIST & DOSE logo on the side.

## 3. Zodiac Twist & Dose 3-In-1 test strips for refill.

A highly profitable addition that will have customers coming back on a regular basis and available in an eye catching counter display unit.

All 3 components work together for a more customer friendly, professional and all round pool health solution.

To launch Twist & Dose range there is a host of great point of sale alternatives and implementation deals your Zodiac representative is happy to discuss. Don't miss out. Dealers who get in early will all receive a free\* Twist & Dose Point of Sales Kit to support sell-through.

To learn more, visit [zodiac.com.au](http://zodiac.com.au) or call 1800 688 552





# CHEMICAL BALANCE

From a time in the mid-1900s when there was an idea that ‘chlorine fixes everything’, the pool chemical industry has evolved. In response to growing consumer expectations, effective, easy-to-use and chlorine-free options are in high demand.

The swimming pool market in Australia was really kicked off in 1938 when the government of the day introduced a ‘stimulus’ package to try and end the Great Depression. They offered councils funds to install, among other things, swimming pools or sewerage systems. Many councils opted for public swimming pools, which were constructed all over the country.

At the time, chlorine was imported for sanitising these pools. It was a dry product containing 30% available chlorine and was used in both swimming pools and sewerage plants.

Seventy-five years later, chlorine is still the primary sanitiser for both public and domestic swimming pools. While there have been several alternative sanitiser methods proposed over the years, chlorine is still used in about 95% of all pools in Australia. Even ‘salt pools’ still utilise chlorine as the sanitiser.

There are now, of course, several forms of chlorine available: gas chlorine, liquid chlorine, dry unstabilised chlorine (calcium hypochlorite) and stabilised chlorine (SDIC, TCCA).

David Lloyd, managing director, International Quadratics Pty Ltd believes that the advent of salt chlorinators in the late 1970s to early 1980s was, at the time, a phenomenon confined to Australia and, at its peak, salt chlorinators were being installed on up to 80% of all new pools. “There have been many theories suggested as to why this system was so successful in Australia - Australians’

love of the sea and salt water, an alternative to chlorine (it was misleadingly promoted as this by many resellers), convenience, automation etc. Whatever the reason, Australians certainly adopted this method of pool care with enthusiasm. Europe and the USA were a bit slower to take up saltwater chlorination and it is only in the past 5-10 years that it has gained any popularity overseas.

“Alternative systems such as biguanides, hydrogen peroxide or ionisers have never achieved much more than about 5% of the market. One of the hurdles in developing alternative sanitising systems in Australia is the high cost of evaluation and registration by the Australian authorities.

“In the 1990s, ionisers had started to make some in-roads to the market, and while they were possibly not suitable for all pools, they did have position in a niche market for which they were ideally suited. In 2004, however, the government body, the APVMA, decided that ionisation was not suitable for swimming pools and following an expensive and protracted legal battle, the ioniser manufacturers were instructed that they had to conduct rigorous testing over a fairly long period of time and submit results for evaluation by the APVMA. The costs for such an application and testing can run into hundreds of thousands of dollars. As a result, it is unlikely that we will see any new methods of sanitising pools in the near future.”

## Changing times

In the past 35 years, the biggest change seen in the pool chemical market is the development of a wide range of specialty chemicals for swimming pools. Up until the early 1980s, most swimming pool retail outlets sold chlorine, adjusters and a limited range of algaecides and clarifiers. Today, there is a vast array of specialty chemicals available to the pool owner. This includes a multitude of algaecides, clarifiers, flocculants, phosphate removers, stain removers, scale removers and various other maintenance chemicals. Even the method of delivery of these chemicals has changed with products now available as liquid, powder, tablet, pills, slow dissolve, fast dissolve etc.

According to Lloyd, “The reasons for the growth in this sector of the market are twofold. First, there are very few regulations prohibiting the introduction of such products to the market, and second, there is now an appetite in our industry for products that add value so new preventatives and curatives create a natural demand.”

Julian Quinn, national sales manager for BioLab, believes that a better understanding of pool chemistry has led to products being developed that serve multiple purposes.

The development of these products has fundamentally changed the way people treat their pools. “The market quickly moved away from the old days of ‘liquid chlorine fixes all’, opting instead for better-performing products which also have the additional benefits of reducing costs and the environmental impact.

“Today, pool owners are able to purchase safe and simple products that take care of many different challenges brought about by the Australian and New Zealand climate.

“There are three factors that drove this change. The first has been the push by consumers to use fewer chemicals in their pool in order to reduce costs and protect the health of their family and the environment. The second has been the availability of information on the internet. Pool owners are better informed than ever before about pool chemicals and how they work. This has led to consumers more readily engaging with retailers about the chemicals they use and in turn their feedback has been provided to the manufacturers. The third is time. People have much less leisure time than they did previously and if they aren’t outsourcing their pool care to an expert then they’re looking for a simple solution to use at home. They want products that are easy to use, effective and limit the time they have to spend maintaining their pool.”

Rob Anderson, from Waterco Poppits, believes the growing trend towards health and wellbeing among people of all ages and socioeconomic sectors of the society - not only in Australia and New Zealand but throughout the world - has led to one of the biggest changes in the pool chemical market.

“For the spa/hot tub market and for swimming pool owners there has been a progressive determination to replace chlorine with non-chlorine sanitisers as the residual sanitising control agent in the pool.

“The National Asthma Council in Australia (NAC) and its counterpart in New Zealand launched a campaign to promote the healthiest products for people who live with asthma and allergies. The cost to society of treatment, absenteeism and loss of lives drove the NAC to invest in a program to evaluate and endorse



**ONE OF THE HURDLES IN DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE SANITISING SYSTEMS IN AUSTRALIA IS THE HIGH COST OF EVALUATION AND REGISTRATION BY THE AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES.**

those products that were most helpful for the people that they seek to assist to have a better quality of life. The program is known as the ‘Sensitive Choice’ program. The Poppits sanitising system was one of the first products endorsed by the NAC.

“The other change that is morphing is a growing awareness by people who, until now, have been perhaps misinformed about the fact that salt chlorinators actually produce chlorine.”

## Into the future

So what pool chemical products and systems will we see on the market in the future? That depends on who you ask. Lloyd’s prediction is for new versions of existing products. “As outlined previously, the cost of developing and registering new sanitisers will probably prohibit any major development in this market. What we are more likely to see are new versions or formulations of existing chlorine products. Possibly new methods of delivering things like hydrogen peroxide; although once again, government intervention may limit this.

“There is also a definite trend towards ‘automation’ to control the chemical balance of pools. We do foresee continued growth and development of specialty chemicals and products with an emphasis on ‘green’ products. The growing awareness of health and wellness has seen the popularity of ‘mineral pools’ and ‘natural pools’ increase.”

Anderson predicts, “The next frontier for pool chemistry will most likely be in the area of water balance and multifunctional products.”

According to Quinn, in the past, the industry has tried to be too technical with the consumer instead of communicating in a simple, easy-to-understand manner. “Now we’re seeing more products being launched onto the market that come as part of a simple 2- or 3-step pool care system or process. It’s not only new products that have come onto the market but also new ways of presenting, packaging and merchandising products which make it easier for the consumer. Customers want more for less. Easy-to-use products or systems that provide multiple outcomes for pool owners will be increasing demand.

“The days of just relying on liquid chlorine or a salt chlorinator to provide complete water care are over. If a customer can have one or two products which do the job of seven or eight, then these will be the products that consumers choose and they will drive growth in the industry.”



## POOL WATER SOFTENER

Soft Swim has been developed to create pool water that's gentle on the skin, hair and eyes but also low maintenance for the pool owner and better for the environment.

Suitable for both chlorine and saltwater pools, Soft Swim requires a single conversion using a product called Convert, which contains a blend of minerals to soften the water.

The water is then easy to maintain using a simple two-step program.

After converting the pool with a low volume of minerals, the first step is a once-a-week program using Mineral Springs for saltwater pools and Synergy for chlorine pools to condition the water for swimming.

Mineral Springs increases the effectiveness of standard salt water, renews and softens pool water and maintains water balance by reducing pH levels that naturally increase in saltwater pools.

Synergy kills and controls bacteria and algae and reduces maintenance, dissolving evenly in automatic feeders and floaters.

The final step uses a product called Clear, which can be used in both types of pools, and is a convenient once-a-week oxidiser for good water clarity and improved swimmer comfort.

Clear is a patented blend of oxidisers, clarifiers and buffers which will clarify the pool water.

The system has been designed so that a jug of Synergy or a pail of Mineral Springs and one bottle of Clear will be enough to maintain a 50,000 L pool for four weeks.

### **BioGuard**

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## CHLORINE-FREE POOL SYSTEM

Waterco has launched its Hydroxzone Ozonator, a powerful sanitisation system. The Hydroxzone is one of the key components of Waterco's Hydroxypure chlorine-free pool system and it is designed as a standalone product for both new and existing swimming pools.

The Hydroxzone Ozonator uses hybrid patented technology to produce not only ozone but also hydroxyl radicals, which, combined, add another level of effectiveness in terms of oxidation and sanitation.

The Hydroxzone system uses a modified VUV (high-intensity ultraviolet light) ozone tube as a corona electrode to simulate nature (hybrid ozone acts like the sun). The result is an ozone generator that produces ozone using corona discharge technology and high-energy light in one system.

The main benefit of the system is an additional 'layer' of sanitisation.

The Hydroxzone Ozonator can be used in pools with manual or automatic chlorine dosing and also with salt chlorinators.

The Hydroxzone uses a Dynamic Venturi Injector, whereby the pool water is mixed with the ozone/air mix at the throat of the injector through a narrow annular orifice, thus creating very small bubbles. This method of delivery allows the bubbles to be sustained in the water, maximising the efficiency of the ozone mass transfer.

**Waterco Limited**

Contact info and more items like this at [wf.net.au/V318](http://wf.net.au/V318)

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## POOL CARE SYSTEM

BioLab has developed a pool care system called BioGuard Care.

Under BioGuard Care, each BioGuard product will be labelled using one of three key ranges - Test and Add, Maintain and Problem Solver.

Products from each range are combined into a single pool care system to assist pool maintenance professionals and pool owners to treat their pool water.

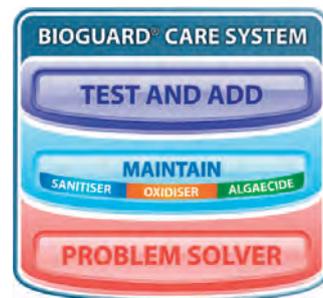
Test and Add - Products labelled Test and Add include most balancers, which protect the pool surface and equipment from scaling and corrosion.

Maintain - Products labelled Maintain will be either a sanitiser, oxidiser or algicide. Combined, these products form the weekly BioGuard 3-step pool maintenance program.

Problem Solver - Occasionally, the pool owner will need to use a specialist product to tackle problems like cloudiness and unwanted stains.

**BioGuard**

Contact info and more items like this at [wf.net.au/V427](http://wf.net.au/V427)



# Chlorine free pool



## Hydroxypure

Chlorine free swimming pool that's free of odours and taste, soft and gentle on the skin – what's more, no shower required after swimming. Just like a refreshing swim in a natural spring.

Great news for swimmers, people with allergies and asthma, the environment and the pool itself.



Waterco's Hydroxypure sanitisation system uses a combination of ozone and hydrogen peroxide to create one of the most powerful oxidisers in nature.

The end result is a swimming pool that's totally chlorine free and enriched with oxygen.

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- Helps keep water clean and healthy.
- Uses various blends of mineral like magnesium chloride instead of or as well as traditional salt.
- Due to lower TDS needs, there is a savings on minerals.



## Pool Protector Chemicals

- |                     |                            |                       |                   |
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## PRODUCT PAVILION



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#### **The Pool Enclosure Company**

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### LED UNDERWATER LIGHTS

GloBrite LED lights are engineered with the claimed brightest LED technology available in shallow water lighting. Five distinct colours are built into every light for a vivid spectrum. There are also seven light shows that cycle at varying speeds and in different sequences of colour, creating light shows that will entertain.

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#### **Pentair Aquatic Systems**

Contact info and more items like this at [wf.net.au/V048](http://wf.net.au/V048)

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### Focus Products

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Suitable for residential, commercial and municipal pool water testing, the eXact Micro 10 reads alkalinity, calcium hardness, chloride (salt), combined chlorine, free chlorine, total chlorine, copper, cyanuric acid, pH and phosphate.

### Waterco Limited

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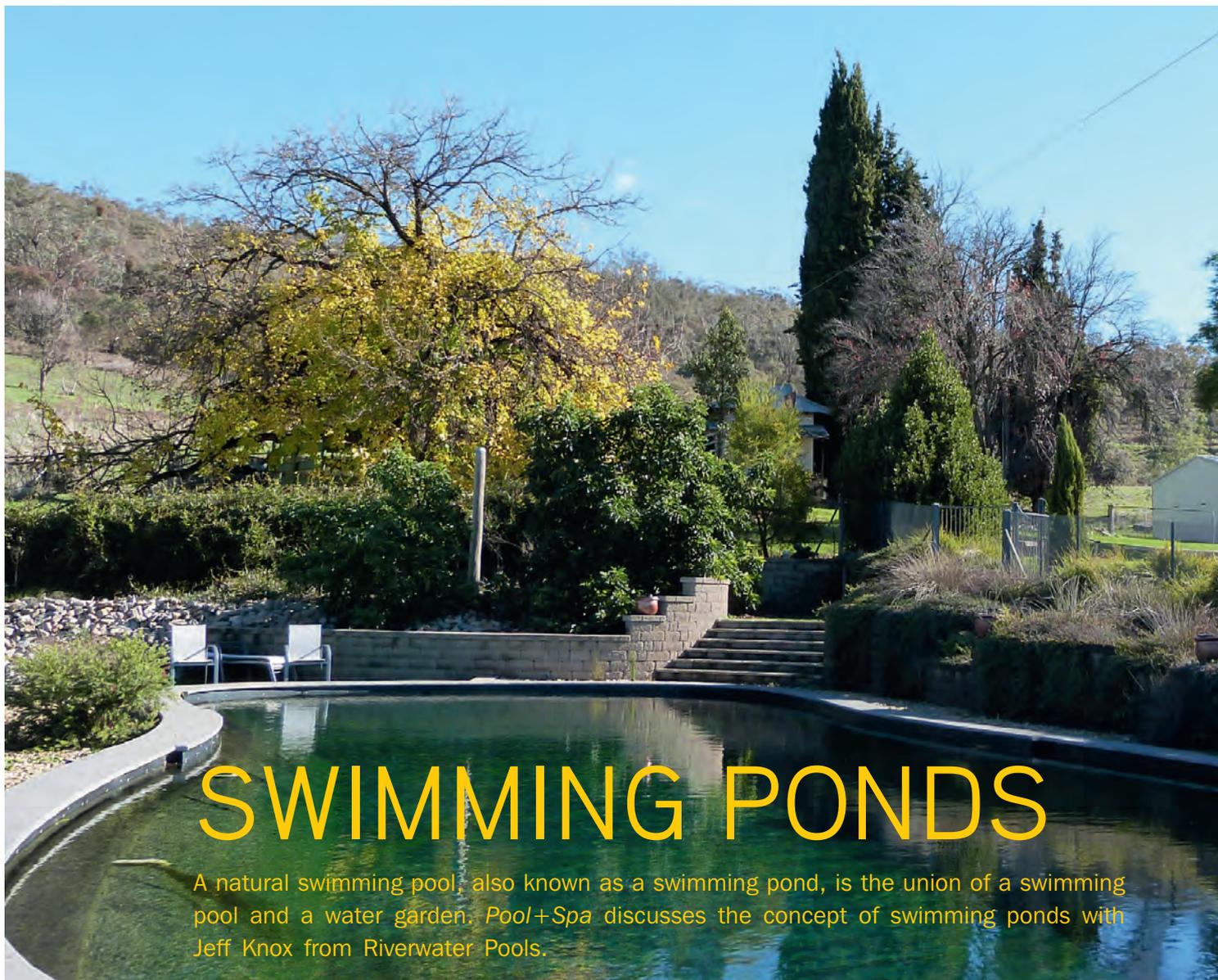
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# SWIMMING PONDS

A natural swimming pool, also known as a swimming pond, is the union of a swimming pool and a water garden. *Pool+Spa* discusses the concept of swimming ponds with Jeff Knox from Riverwater Pools.

**A**fter running a landscaping business and working with pool builders for over 15 years, Jeff Knox, originally from Melbourne, started a new landscaping company in Albury. With an emphasis on ponds and water gardens, Knox saw his interest move towards healthy ponds.

“I had gained a good amount of knowledge regarding the requirements for creating healthy ponds and had considered the potential to use the Firestone EPDM rubber liner for a conventional type of pool,” said Knox.

It was then that a supplier suggested he look at the website of a European ‘natural swimming pool’ builder.

A natural swimming pool, also known as a swimming pond, is the union of a swimming pool and a water garden. Knox found himself with the ability to apply all of his accumulated knowledge and building skills to a new, totally unique product.

“The unlimited design potential of these ponds had a huge impact on me. I started researching everything I could possibly find relating to these ponds. I was soon up to my ears in aquaculture, aquaponics, fish ponds, water gardens, the nitrogen cycle etc.

“There are now many thousands of these ponds across Europe, particularly in Germany and Austria. They are also popular in the UK and are gaining a lot of attention in the US. There are even public natural ponds in Germany and Austria.”

In the construction of these swimming ponds, a waterproof membrane or liner is used. The most common in Europe is welded PVC; however, Knox prefers to use Firestone EPDM rubber liner, which he believes will last a minimum of 25 years in the harsh Australian conditions.

Because a liner is used, construction techniques vary considerably from very basic to engineered structural walls made from sprayed concrete, or concrete footings with block construction. It all depends on the structural requirements of the site and, of course, the client’s budget.

“Generally speaking, low-powered pumps are used because the water is not being forced through a conventional sand filter, which takes considerable power.

Conventional sand filters are not used because they could potentially harbour pathogens. Most natural ponds use no conventional fine filtration, instead relying on plants to ‘catch’ smaller particles,” said Knox.

Some natural pond builders do use fine filtration, which provides clearer water and prevents blockages occurring in the gravel bio-filter. Natural pond pumps need only 25% of the power used by conventional ponds; however, the pump generally needs to run 24 hours a day, particularly through the swimming season.

According to Knox, as far as litres pumped per watts consumed, natural swimming ponds and swimming ponds are streets ahead.



"I have used pumps that consume only 100 watts of power on a 65,000-litre system, connected to stand-alone solar power systems.

"My own pool at 230,000 litres, and my most recently constructed pool at 290,000 litres, each use a single 460-watt pump, less than 0.5 hp."

A natural pool or swimming pond should have no chemicals or additives put in the water at any time. The water is totally unsanitised, yet a well-built system will produce drinking-quality water. Knox believes that natural pools and swimming ponds are the only true 'non-chemical', 'non-sanitised' living water pool. "All other systems that 'claim to be chemical free' rely on sanitising the water in one way or another. The end result is biologically dead water.

"A well-designed system never requires the addition of any chemicals or additives of any description. To do so is a failure in my opinion. A well-designed system will continue to produce high-quality water as long as the pump continues to run and the system continues to function as intended. Systems that fail biologically will do so because of poor design that allows blockages to occur.

"Albury Council recently assessed the water in my own swimming pond and based their assessment of my pool water on the EPA's Yarra Watch program ([www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au)). The EPA (environmental protection agency) says that river water with an *E. coli* count of

200 (or less) organisms per 100 mL of water is 'high quality'. My pool water test returned a result of 3 organisms per 100 mL."

The need to clean these pools and the ability to do so depends on the design of the pool. It also depends on whether a vacuum facility is part of the design. Pools that look very 'pond like' can accumulate leaves, algae, dust etc without looking dirty. This debris becomes part of a thriving ecosystem and is not a concern in a pool that is used for placid bathing. However, it could become an issue if the pool was used by many playful bathers stirring it up. Pools that look more like conventional pools need to be vacuumed to maintain good appearance.

The natural ecology that will take up residence in a well-designed system is what keeps the water healthy, just as in natural mountain streams.

There are many plants that can be grown in a natural swimming pool. Australian natives including bottlebrush, tea tree and river-bank grasses can grow successfully. There are also reeds, Murray River Red Gum and Swamp Oak. The types of plants that can be grown also depend on the design of the pool. The general idea is that plants are placed bare rooted in gravel and take all their nutrients from the water.

Natural swimming pools are more often two separate bodies of water. One is for swimming and the other is for the biofilter/planted region, and nutrients are removed from the system by means of fine filtration and vacuuming. This leaves less nutrient for plants; however, the water quality and clarity is generally higher. The separate swimming area is also easier to keep clean and there is much less for swimmers to stir up. A better choice for lots of playful kids.

Natural swimming pools and swimming ponds can provide an excellent habitat for any creature that lives in and around fresh water. Fish can be put in these pools but careful consideration is required as to what type and how many. Fish will eat many of the inhabitants if they have access to them. Frogs will be most at home in planted areas and birds will drink from the pool. Ducks are not welcome because they poo in the water and around the pool. A net may be required to prevent ducks taking up residence in spring.

"I have built two pools for active families with young children and two pools for adult couples. The common interest amongst my customers is that natural pool water is 'real living water' that will sustain any aquatic animal or insect. These pools basically mimic the biological conditions in nature that produce the highest quality water."

Natural swimming pools and swimming ponds are considered swimming pools and are therefore required to conform to the same regulations as conventional pools. They are not 'ponds' and can only be built by appropriately licensed people, that is, pool and house builders. Swimming ponds can be designed and built to suit urban areas, as well as country areas.

"The design potential is very exciting, as these pools are mostly built using waterproof membranes and are not subject to size limitations. Anyone considering a natural pool/swimming pond is strongly advised to see operating systems built by their proposed builder. Although the concept is extremely simple, delivering this concept in a well-working construction is much more difficult. A failed natural pool/swimming pond construction will result in a green swamp."



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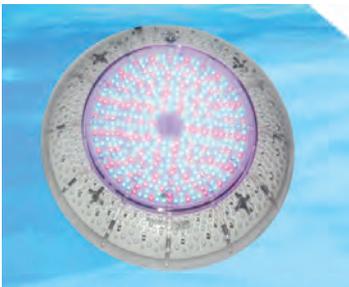
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The QuikClean Xtreme in-floor cleaning system is powered by venturi cleaning heads, a venturi skimmer and a channel drain. The venturi-powered components and channel drain operate on a single, variable-speed pump to save on energy costs while cleaning the pool.

QuikClean Xtreme's venturi powered in-floor cleaning heads are available in blue, white, black and grey. The cleaning heads are claimed to increase flow from the heads by 23% and increase the cleaning zone by 33%, without adjusting pump flow or energy use.

The venturi cleaning heads push unwanted dirt, leaves and debris to the channel drain for quick and effective removal. All water drawn through the channel drain is filtered before returning to the pool and surface debris is quickly swept away by the venturi skimmer, which operates on the power of return water instead of suction.

**Cooke Industries**

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**SALT AND MINERAL POOL CHLORINATOR**

The Australian-made Noria ROK:X series chlorinators are available in 20, 30 and 40 g/h sizes, operate at low salt levels of 3000-3500 ppm and are compatible with both salt and mineral pools. All three sizes are reverse polarity models that feature an additional hard/soft setting switch. This can be set to the hard position in situations where the water is hard to help further reduce calcium deposits from building up on the cell.

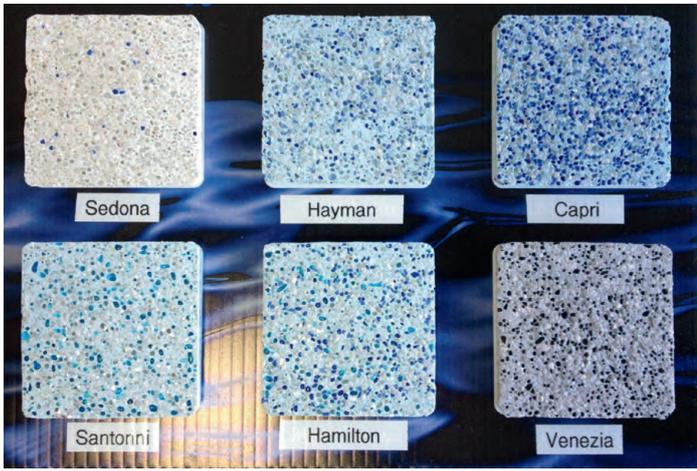
An analog time clock comes fitted as standard to all models; should a digital time clock with battery back-up be required due to connection to controlled electrical supply, this can be arranged.

The chlorine output adjustment is a simple turn of a dial and an easily read chlorine output gauge displays the performance of the chlorinator. The power pack is fitted with a readily accessible circuit breaker instead of a fuse for ease of use.



**Focus Products**

Contact info and more items like this at [wf.net.au/V281](http://wf.net.au/V281)



### SMOOTH FINISH POOL INTERIOR SURFACE

Designer Beadcrete custom manufactures pool interior colours for resort pool clients, worldwide. These customers have influenced the latest Designer Beadcrete pool interior collection - the Designer Beadcrete 'Island's Range'.

The themes and colours represent contemporary trends in pool interior design that favour the appeal and water clarity synonymous with tropical island environments. Designer Beadcrete's seamless construction melds to any pool shape or design. The finish is smooth for swimmer comfort and poses a low risk of skin abrasions.

#### Designer Beadcrete

Contact info and more items like this at [wf.net.au/V212](http://wf.net.au/V212)

### TRI-COLOUR POOL LIGHTS

Spa Electrics GK Retro-Series lights are now available in a tri-colour model consisting of the company's three most popular colours: blue, white and green. It operates on a variable voltage meaning it's compatible with 12, 24 and 32 VAC transformers. This eliminates costly transformer upgrades as the light can simply connect to any existing transformer, given it is in good working order.



Originally designed for a limited promotion, the product has proved so popular among pool owners that it is now a permanent line.

This premium-quality LED light can be set on either blue, white or green by simply turning the light on and off or by using the remote control.

Just like other GK Retro LEDs, this product offers brighter illumination than a 100 W halogen globe while using less than 12 W of energy.

#### Spa Electrics

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# WHEN IT'S TIME TO RENOVATE

Is your client's pool in need of a makeover? Don't assume your client wants to just change the interior of the pool or the paving surrounds. Major renovation or total rebuilds are regularly the better way to go for a client's lifestyle or the property itself and may not have been thought possible by your client. The added benefit to a pool builder is often a larger, more detailed and more financially rewarding project.

**J**ohn Storch, principal landscape architect of A Total Concept Landscape Architects and Pool Designers, discusses the pros and cons of renovation versus rebuilding.

"The majority of clients that contact us to help them to renovate fall into one of the following the following four categories," says Storch.

- New property owners who wish to stamp their own taste on their home by renovating and upgrading the existing external areas to include additional features such as gardens, spas, outdoor rooms and kitchenettes, etc.
- Empty nesters who want to upgrade everything now that they can afford it because the children have moved out of home and make everything more maintenance friendly.
- Owners whose outdoor areas have dated over time and wish to upgrade and facelift their properties to maintain resale value or to incorporate up-to-date market trends.
- Owners who have noticed structural items that have failed and need rectification and choose to address the entire property rather than a quick fix.

The decision to renovate or rebuild will often come down to two considerations and a company specialising in this type of

work will be able to advise on which avenue to take during an initial consultation.

During an initial consultation, an experienced landscape architect or pool builder will ascertain the needs and requirements of the owners fairly quickly, review the existing external spaces to see if there are any structural issues, if the finishes look tired, if the physical layout of the pool, cabana, lawn and gardens currently work for the lifestyle and then provide a summary of considerations to the owners to move forward. At this stage it is often obvious in most instances which way it is best to go for the client.

## Starting off

As with any project, it is best to look at the design in a holistic approach rather than piecemeal. This will ensure that every angle is covered, every contingency is catered and all needs and desires for the external areas will be addressed.

"Have your client list and consider what they do and don't like about the existing external pool and surrounding space, and if the things that you don't like can be overhauled, a renovation may be the way to go subject to costs," says Storch.



The overall landscape renovation plans need to be correct from the outset so make sure the various components of the external areas are well integrated with the residence, not an after-thought. Look at all areas together. Chances are, the existing design doesn't work because the components aren't integrated well, therefore lessons can be learnt and avoided from past mistakes.

### Top renovation facelifts

Renovations don't have to mean changing pool shapes and paved areas (but they can). Often a renovation will be a superficial one, changing finishes and materials to bring a tired old project up to scratch. This is a much cheaper option than a rebuild if all the hardscape components such as pool, cabana, external kitchenettes and paved areas are all in the correct configuration and work functionally. The softscape components of lawn and gardens are more easy and cost-effective to change if desired.

#### 1. Pool interiors

Resurfacing a pool and installing new waterline tiles is often the most cost-effective and dramatic change for a budget pool renovation. Changing the colour of the pool has a huge effect on the entire outdoor space.

### Case study

#### A contemporary update



Above: Before

Left: After

The property had recently been updated from a textured brick finished home to a contemporary marvel.

The before shots show a tired old marblesheen pool with three straight sides and one side with bends. The waterline tiles, pebblecrete and paving surrounds and shape dated the pool to circa 1970 and little had been undertaken to the swimming pool or surrounds since then. It was time for an update!

"Whilst keeping wholly within the original pool for cost purposes, we realigned the sides of the swimming pool to simplify the shape and create a more contemporary shape, and to meet the client's brief, incorporated a spa adjacent to a new paved entertaining area," said Storch.

The existing marblesheen lining was replaced with deep blue Italian glass mosaic tiles throughout and the existing dated clay pavers and pebblecrete were replaced with stunning blond sandstone to update the swimming pool and surrounds. All masonry work was rendered and painted in a finish to match the newly renovated residence.

The walled water feature to the rear of the pool is clad in a natural cracked marble and complements the other arching waters falling into the swimming pool. As rock was present just 200 mm below ground level, the old rear garden was never successful. The new elevated rear garden wall doubles as a water feature and was incorporated to achieve some soil depth to get plants to flourish.

The filter box was relocated away from the primary focal point to a less conspicuous location.

Planting in this garden included relocating the existing palms and integrating new low water-use ones. Other new plants include, *Philodendron selloum* (elephant ears), *Philodendron Xanadu* (dwarf elephant ears), *Clivea miniata* (clivea), *Cordyline 'Red Ti'*, *Plumeria rubra* (frangipani), *Bambusa vulgaris 'Wamin'* (Budda Belly Bamboo) and *Bambusa multiplex 'Fernleaf Stripestem'* (Fern Bamboo) and all add to the tropical nature of the gardens.

This successful refurbish created a stunning multiaward-winning (several state and national awards) swimming pool and garden that complement this quality home.

If the current finish requires a lot of maintenance or is looking worse for wear, changing the product or colour can uplift a pool to look new and minimise the time consumed maintaining it. Options

include glass and ceramic tiles, quartzon, glass and pebble finishes, pebblecrete, paint and vinyl liners.

If you'd like to rejuvenate and uplift your external space cost-effectively, changing your pool from a dull colour to a bright, lively blue or aqua can instantly invigorate your garden.

### 2. Planting

Neglected gardens look messy and over time even well-maintained gardens change with the inclusions of the unwanted Christmas tree and grandma's hydrangea gift, so reviewing and improving planting design will have a dramatic effect. One of the simplest ways to improve an old garden is to incorporate a consistent hedge or border using one species and one colour - this will immediately unify and integrate the garden to create an appealing symmetry.

Tropical plants and border plants like agapanthus can be purchased fully grown for an instant effect.

Renewing the lawn is also a cost-effective uplift. Spraying and stripping the old weed-infested grass and installing a new lawn will lift the space so it becomes a useable area.

### 3. Paving

A garden that has been added to over the years may have several different types of paving, resulting in an unattractive and disjointed look, or the hard surface area may simply incorporate a dated paving material. Using the same paving material and using a modern-sized and coloured paving unit throughout a garden makes a big difference and unifies the project.

The current trend is for either natural stone including basalts, travertines, sandstones and granite or contemporary looking man-made products, and all are perfect for indoor and outdoor entertaining areas. The colours on trend for the season are grey, blonde and brown shades and when combined with the chic large-format pieces 600 x 600 mm or larger, the stone creates classical synergy throughout the area.

### 4. Furniture and accessories

Outdoor furniture is becoming one of the more functional, important item selections for renovating an outdoor area and also helps to organise the space. Accessory selection is one of the more personal aspects to aid in customising a project.

Furniture style can range from custom built-in daybeds, to elaborate and expensive conversation pieces, to cheap and cheerful seating arrangements.

Outdoor accessories that incorporate soft furnishings, including outdoor bean bags, cushions and throw rugs, together with feature homewares such as scented candles, sculptures and art, individualise an outdoor space.

### 5. New fencing

Legal requirements of pool fencing are continuing to be updated. To comply with current rules often a new pool fence is required in a totally new location. This may lead to a total refurbishment of the entire external space to make the fence work on the property. A new pool fence may offer aesthetic benefits over old fencing; for

example, frameless glass fencing has come down substantially in cost, gives a great view of the pool and will also enhance safety for children using the pool.

### 6. Cabanas

Cabanas are in! Whether associated with a pool or a stand-alone feature, cabanas provide diversity for an owner. Numerous uses range from an informal family entertaining space with pool table and flat screen TV, a place for weekend barbecues, a guest bedroom separate to the house or for teenage sleepovers, an art or yoga studio, a gym, a family study or a home office.

"For many years we have been requested to design and integrate together cabanas, swimming pools and gardens into the outdoor spaces of our clients' properties," says Storch. "And more recently, many clients are looking to construct cabanas as stand-alone items for the purposes of adding another room to the property. I believe this to be a result of the ongoing trend for a fusion between internal and external entertaining spaces due to our great climate allowing us to spend so much time outdoors."

The cabanas may range from a simple shade structure where one can towel off and change in privacy to an elaborate structure incorporating a luxurious bathroom with toilet, shower, bath and basin amenities and kitchenette facilities including fridges, BBQs, stove, cupboards and sinks with day beds for relaxation and poolside wet bar, plus tables and chairs for entertaining purposes. Often an existing pergola is renovated, closing it in with glass doors and windows and incorporating features such as kitchens and bathrooms.



## Top 5 outdoor renovation tips

1. Before renovating an external space, consult with an expert designer to ascertain if it is in fact more cost-effective to rebuild or renovate. Hidden factors such as pool cracks, fatigued steel and differential settling of paving can sometimes make it cheaper (and with a better end result) to rebuild.
2. Don't think of a cabana, garden or swimming pool in isolation when designing the project's scope. When the area is going to be a mess, now is the chance to renovate the entire external space.
3. Consider adding water-saving devices at the time of the renovation, such as pool blankets to reduce or stop water evaporation, water tanks for irrigation, water-retardant mulches, low chemical use pool sanitisers and plants that are known for their low water requirements. In the long run, these design principles will save the client money.
4. Renovate in winter when your clients are less likely to use their outdoor areas. Then the project will be ready for next summer.
5. Always ask potential designers to show before and after images of their renovation work. If they only have plans to show you it may mean their designs have been too expensive to ever build.



## CONSTRUCTION CALCULATORS

The Construction Master 5 is a powerful and easy-to-use construction calculator. It helps tradies and pool builders solve everything from groundworks to stairs and rafters, including: complete rafter, roof and framing solutions; hip/valley, jacks and rake walls, estimate material quantities, including timber and cladding, stair solution; risers, treads, stringer, incline etc, built-in right-angle solutions; automatic square-ups and diagonals, circular and arc calculations; areas, diameters, circumference, plus linear, area and volume solutions.

The ProjectCalc Plus MX is designed for DIYers to help them calculate the exact amount of materials for many DIY projects such as paint, tiles, wallpaper, flooring and studs etc.

To see video demonstrations of the Construction Master 5 and the ProjectCalc Plus MX, go to [www.calculated.com/au](http://www.calculated.com/au) or visit Calculated Industries' YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/calculatedindustries](http://www.youtube.com/calculatedindustries). Try-It-Yourself displays of both products can be found in the Tool Shop at Bunnings Warehouse.

### Calculated Industries

Contact info and more items like this at [wf.net.au/V279](http://wf.net.au/V279)

## PRODUCT PAVILION

### STAINLESS STEEL SAFETY SUCTION



FloSafe II (safety suction) has been Australian Standard Approved. The FloSafe II is designed for safety and style. The polished marine-grade stainless steel fascia is secured to the high-grade PVC with fasteners.

The design for the FloSafe II is both aesthetically and functionally of the highest standard. FloSafe II is suitable for use with 40/50 mm pressure pipe and both concrete and fibreglass pools and spas.

### Flolux

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# PROJECT COMPLETE

## SCHOOL POOL RECEIVES AWARD-WINNING RENOVATION



believe that it wasn't a new build. Weekly site meetings with the architect, engineer, head contractor and other contractors were held to ensure quality and timelines were met," he added.

The main pool, which measured 20 x 25 m, was renovated and converted to a wet deck pool. A Spectrum Glacier disabled lift external to the pool shape was installed to ensure disabled members of the school and wider community could easily access the pool.

The central section of the pool, which was originally built for diving, was decreased from 2 m to 1.3 m to make it more suitable for the schools' needs and cut down considerably on heating costs.

All construction joints in the pool were renovated using the 'Parchem' Emerband and Hydrotite systems. The central return

culvert was replaced with a 200 mm central return.

New 150 m returns were run down either side of the pool to aid better circulation and eliminate dead spots along the side walls.

The pool was fully tiled using a Metz commercial tiling system and new competition equipment - such as starting blocks - from Pierce Pool Supplies, Astral Pools and Pooldeck was installed.

The size of the balance tank was also increased to accommodate for the increased water flow.

Two Maytronics Dolphin Pro commercial robotic pool cleaners were also purchased to keep the pool clean and reduce manual maintenance.

A new plant room was also constructed on the site, which included 4 Astral Praga 2 m diameter sand filters, a Southern Cross filtration pump, a Prominent DulcoMarin II control system with liquid chlorine, liquid acid and CO<sub>2</sub>, UV, a Sondex heat exchanger and Zane solar pool heating.

The site for the learner's pool was situated over an area that was previously a building and there was a substantial amount of unstable soil. The pool was founded on 12, 6 m deep piers. The learner's pool side wall also incorporated the pillars that support the roof for the structure over the pool.

The learner's pool measured 4.5 x 15 m with a depth from 750 mm to 1.2 m. The pool was fully tiled also using a Metz commercial tiling system. The plant room included 2 Astral Praga 1.2 m diameter sand filters, an Astral Maxim filtration pump, a Prominent DulcoMarin II control system with liquid chlorine, liquid acid and CO<sub>2</sub>, UV and a Sondex heat exchanger.

The pool has been awarded with a Gold Award in the category of Commercial Pool over \$250,000 in the 2013 SPASA South Australia Awards of Excellence. It was then also awarded with the Judges Choice Award for Gold as Pool of the Year.

Prince Alfred College in Kent Town, South Australia, is an all-boys school with over 100 years of tradition. The school had an ageing outdoor 25 m pool surrounded by other sporting facilities, such as basketball courts, which were all in need of repair and upgrade. The school decided that rather than demolishing the existing pool, the pool would be renovated and an auditorium constructed around it to create an indoor, health and sports centre that could be used by the school students and wider community all year round and in any weather. Containing a renovated 25 m pool, a new learn-to-swim pool and plant room, two basketball courts, change rooms, a health and fitness studio and a number of other multipurpose areas, it is now the largest facility of its kind in Australia.

The pool design was completed and overseen by FMG Engineers from Norwood, SA, who have an outstanding reputation Australia-wide for their works on commercial swimming pools, new and refurbished.

The lead contractor for the entire centre was Tagara Building Group, who subcontracted Quantum Pools to undertake the pool works required.

The project was started in December 2011 and was complete in April 2013. The pool had to be completed on time and on budget to tie in with school terms and swimming lessons that had been booked for the new 'Kent Town Swim' swimming centre that is operated by the school from the facility.

Anthony Polkinghorne, general manager from Quantum Pools, believes that a good design starts with using the right people. "The team at FMG Engineers together with Quantum Pools ensured the job was completed at the highest level with the most up-to-date technology available.

"The pool is the centre point for the whole facility and it needed to stand out in quality. Looking at the pool now you would never

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## CLEANERS FEATURE



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# CLEANER WATER



Busy families wishing to spend less of their free time on maintaining their pool and more time enjoying it have driven the development of a large range of automatic pool cleaners. When considering a family's needs, there are several options available that will tick all boxes. *Pool+Spa* discusses the current pool cleaning options available on the market.

## Suction cleaners

Suction cleaners have been on the market for decades but advancements in technology have kept them updated and make them an affordable way for families to have their pool cleaned without the chore of vacuuming.

Suction cleaners are a very affordable way to maintain a pool all year round, are easy to install and can pick up a broad range of debris. Updated intelligence offers greater pool coverage than ever before and many trusted brands of suction cleaners offer a 2-year warranty.

The only con is if a pool has a high level of heavy debris (large twigs, large leaves), the owner may need to upgrade to a pressure cleaner or robotic cleaner as they will be able to handle larger debris more successfully.

Matthew Foley, product manager at Zodiac, says in-built technology within the cleaner allows the cleaner to reverse in and out of tight corners and climb all pool surface walls with ease. "Historically, disc suction cleaners may get caught up, this is no longer a problem with mechanical suction technology. Also, recent models include a flow regulator valve which helps improve the efficiency and longevity of mechanical suction cleaners by not allowing the cleaner to be overrun due to high suction.

"Common problems start at installation. Although easy to install, the consumer must read the quick start guide and/or owner's manual to ensure they install the cleaner correctly, that they have the correct flow, correct hose lengths etc. Reading these pieces of material will guarantee the cleaner will run effectively.

"When not in use, it is recommended to detach the hose from the cleaner head. Don't coil the hose as a coiled hose retains memory and will result in the cleaner 'patterning' and never roll the hose to prevent any unwanted bend in the hose. A good tip to straighten your pool hose is to disconnect the length sections that make the entire hose and lay them straight in the sun."

The main form of maintenance with suction cleaners is cleaning out the skimmer box, especially when the cleaner is constantly running. Generally they are low maintenance, but pool owners must ensure they remove the cleaner from the pool during super chlorination and ensure the hose lengths are taken apart and stored straight.

"Whilst much of the talk in the market is about the growth in robotic pool cleaners, they still make up a relatively small proportion of the market. The vast majority of pool owners are satisfied with the performance of the tried and proven suction disc cleaner and feel that it represents the best value for money. Recent developments in the mechanical suction cleaner market have seen greater

intelligence added to the suction cleaner category, and this has driven sales growth. At the top end, we see that robotic cleaners will continue to become more intelligent. Meanwhile, at entry level, suppliers like Zodiac will continue to tweak existing technologies to create more effective and cheaper products.

“It is hard to think of a harsher environment for a home appliance than outdoors, exposed to UV light, whilst submerged in chlorinated water. But this is where many pool cleaners spend a large part of the week, and the year. Pool owners need to take greater care of their equipment if they want to get the full life of the product.

“By far the most important element when deciding on a pool cleaner is the pool environment (pool size and common debris). This is most important as certain cleaners are better at picking up certain debris. For instance, robotic cleaners are better at larger debris such as large leaves and twigs, whilst suction cleaners are designed for medium to smaller pools with light to moderate debris. If you have the right cleaner for your environment, the cleaner will always do the best job possible.”

Robert Sterland, product manager, Aquatic Systems at Pentair, believes that problems start when cleaning requirements are incorrectly evaluated in the design stage. “Many aspects of pool design can reduce the maintenance requirements of a pool, so getting it right to begin with is important. The location of skimmers and returns can determine how the water will flow along the water surface, affecting the skimming effectiveness. There are some great in-floor cleaning systems, which add initial up-front cost but work very effectively with pool automation systems to get you a long way towards a maintenance-free pool. Also, if the pool is in a leafy area, consider installing a wall adaptor to fit a pressure side cleaner.

“For the owner of an existing pool, fitting a suction side cleaner is an easy, inexpensive and effective way of automating the cleaning of the pool. However, these devices do need to be selected properly and set up correctly. It's not difficult to do, but getting the hose length correct, placement of weights and floats, and adjusting the flow rate correctly is important to ensure full coverage of the pool.”

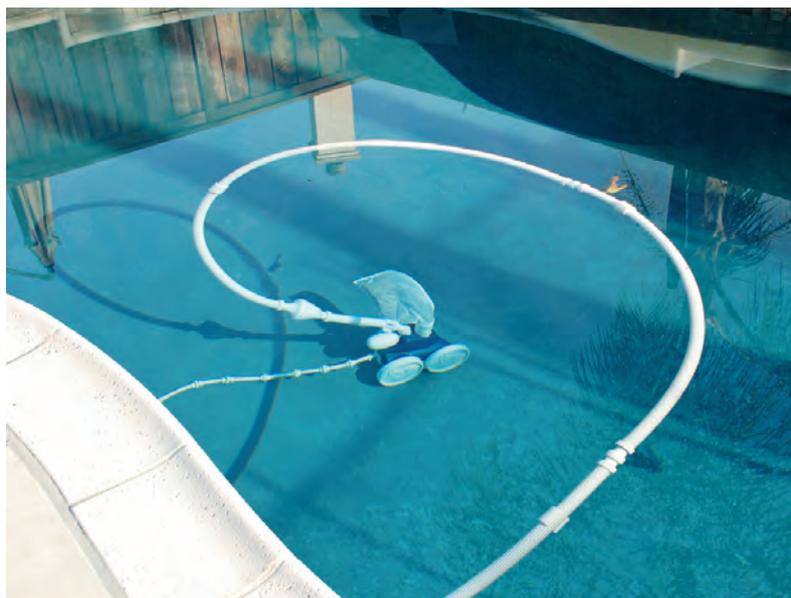
### Pressure cleaners

Pressure cleaners are most suited to pools located underneath a large number of overhanging trees, pressure cleaners deposit dirt and debris into their own bag, which means debris are not deposited in the skimmer or pool filter. This will free up the skimmer box and enable leaves to be skimmed from the surface of the pool. The pressure cleaner is a very quick and efficient way to clean the pool as it helps to circulate water through the pool, resulting in less algae growth and improved water chemistry, and it is mid-range in regards to pricing.

However, pressure cleaners don't scrub the pool's floor or walls, cannot filter small particles through the bag and not only requires the normal filtration system to be operating, but also requires the addition of a pressure booster pump. This increases energy consumption and ultimately the cost of operating the pool.

In regards to maintenance, given this style of cleaner is suited to pools which are located beneath overhanging trees, the main thing is for the leaf bag to be emptied.

Bryan Goh, director at Waterco, says, “Pool owners can get it wrong when they have not received the right advice or conducted enough research into the right cleaner option to suit their requirements. Pool owners need to take into account a number of factors



in order to evaluate the right cleaner option, including the surface of their pool, the location of their pool and the amount of debris and the average size of debris entering their pool.

“If a pool owner is operating a multispeed or variable-speed pump, they need to understand a higher motor speed is required to operate a suction cleaner, therefore they are not maximising the energy savings of their multispeed or variable-speed pump. Robotic pool cleaners are best suited to pool owners operating multispeed or variable-speed pumps.”

To decide what cleaner suits a pool your are building, Goh advises, “Robotic cleaners are great for pool owners who don't mind periodic maintenance of their pool, suction cleaners are great for pools that don't encounter large debris and the pool owner wishes to leave the cleaner in the pool, pressure cleaners are great for pools with large debris and the pool owner wishes to leave the cleaner in their pool, while in-floor cleaners are great for minimal maintenance without the presence of a cleaner in the pool and also provides good pool circulation, but they do require a lot of energy to operate.

“Waterco is looking at launching into the marketplace the concept of a dedicated suction cleaner pump. The suction cleaner is plugged into the Davbroz Safety Suction cleaner and connected to a dedicated low-powered pump. The pump's only function is to operate the suction cleaner; debris is pumped through a MultiCyclone, which filters most of the fine debris from the suction cleaner, reducing the dirt load on the primary filter and reducing its maintenance, in addition to saving time, water and chemicals.”

### Robotic cleaners

Robotic cleaners have been evolving since the 1980s and along with all types of pool cleaners, they come with their fair share of pros and cons. According to Chris Rehm, sales manager at Davey, the pros of robotic cleaners are their water-saving properties. “Less filter backwashing can save up to 70% on lost water down the drainpipe. By operating a robotic cleaner for three hours per day, the owner is performing 30% less backwashes over 12 months. Robotic cleaners of today are also energy saving as they only use 0.18 kW input power compared to a traditional cleaner that uses 1.2 kW. That equals 197.1 kWh per year compared with 1314 kWh per year. That's a saving of 1116.9 kWh per year.”



IT IS HARD TO THINK OF A HARSHER ENVIRONMENT FOR A HOME APPLIANCE THAN OUTDOORS, EXPOSED TO UV LIGHT, WHILST SUBMERGED IN CHLORINATED WATER. BUT THIS IS WHERE MANY POOL CLEANERS SPEND A LARGE PART OF THE WEEK, AND THE YEAR.

Benefits also include a reduction in chemical use - by performing less backwashing the owner is retaining the chemicals in their pool. They offer precise and automated full pool cleaning coverage; are lightweight and easy to handle; come in multiple models to suit all pool shapes (from small residential up to full-sized Olympic), sizes and surfaces. Robotic cleaners are also easy to service.

The only major downfall of the robotic cleaner is that the bag filter inside the cleaner requires regular, once-a-week cleaning depending on the cleanliness of the pool.

Latest advances in robotic cleaners include smart PC boards that use mathematical algorithms to map the pool shape for optimal cleaning. Today's robotic cleaners are also able to escape obstacles and impeding objects within pools. They contain state-of-the-art advanced software control, have 100% pool coverage including beach areas, steps and walls and also feature a motor protection mechanism so they shut off when they overload or find themselves out of water.

To maintain a robotic cleaner, the owner only needs to clean the filter bag and ensure water balance and quality is within standard perimeters.

The most common problems seen with robotic cleaners are generally related to older-style 'robotics' in the market that have dated or less advanced software, which means that some parts of the pool may be missed during the robotics' cleaning cycle. Additionally, "Some robotics in the market use many small intricate parts that tend to fail through breakage etc, rendering them useless and expensive to repair," says Rehm.

Rehm's advice to builders/customers is to "use a robotic (cleaner) as it saves money for the end user in chemicals and electricity, and provides a relatively hassle-free maintenance lifestyle. For builders its important they provide products that they don't get 'call backs' on, so buy a known and well-respected brand. Not only do these robotics make pool life enjoyable and hassle-free they also give the surface of the pool a deep cleaning massage as they roll over the surface, which removes harmful algae bacteria and antigens."

Stephen Reed, director of national accounts and marketing at Hayward Pool Products, believes that while robotics are experiencing unprecedented growth it is important to maintain a choice for your clients, across all ranges of cleaners.

"Robotic cleaners are very energy efficient and units with quick-clean cycles even more so. The most important feature of a robotic pool cleaner is one that utilises pleated cartridges to filter the finer particles while also catching a large amount of debris in a large integral debris canister. In regards to maintenance, the cartridges of the robotic cleaner should be hosed down frequently to ensure peak performance and continuous wall climbing.

"One of the best value-added accessories of the robotic pool cleaner is the caddy - it provides a place to coil up the cable and is easily able to cart away the cleaner when it is not in use."

### In-floor cleaning

According to Cliff Cooke, managing director of Cooke Industries, the way to go is with an in-floor cleaning system.

"In-floor cleaning systems work automatically - the primary reason people want an in-floor cleaning system - and they require little or no effort from the pool owner. In-floor systems provide many benefits for the pool owner and everybody would install one if they could afford it."

One of the key advantages of an in-floor cleaning system is the improved water circulation. Improved circulation may lead to healthier water through heightened chemical efficiency, more thorough filtration and more even heat distribution, thus eliminating cold pockets of water. It is claimed that pools with in-floor cleaning have reduced algal growth and allow chemical treatments to work more effectively, thus saving time and money with excess chemical applications.

There are, of course, a few drawbacks to the in-floor cleaning systems. A pool with in-floor cleaning requires a larger upfront investment with owners likely to pay upwards of \$5000 for an entry-level system. Also, some systems can be costly to operate. Two-pump systems are obsolete technology and will become even more expensive as electricity prices continue to rise.

Some discussions have suggested that in-floor cleaning systems just move the dirt around and don't really clean the pool properly; however, this should not be the case if a reputable system has been installed properly by an accredited builder. The better systems are designed with powerful computer design programs and installed by accredited builders to ensure each system cleans properly.

"This is where it's important for prospective pool owners to do their homework and understand what they're looking at. Some systems return unfiltered water to the pool while others place too much emphasis on cleaning head pressure and not enough on their primary responsibility - extracting debris from the pool. If in-floor systems are poorly designed or built, the extraction points tend to be lazy."

According to Cooke, the latest advances in in-floor cleaning systems are venturi heads and venturi skimmers. "They can increase the cleaning area by 33% and lower energy costs at the same time. This technology will create more opportunities for in-floor cleaning, as it will become a more viable long-term option for more pool owners.

"The advent of the channel drain is a huge step forward for in-floor cleaning. Channel drains clean more effectively because they're a single suction point and all water is filtered before returning to the pool. This improves water quality and provides maximum value for energy cost invested. Additionally, the latest plastics and engineering processes produce a better-quality product with an even longer life on warranties and wearing components."

Common problems seen with in-floor cleaning systems generally relate to the cost of operation. End users are becoming increasingly

energy conscious and long-term operating costs are influencing their decisions on which in-floor system to choose. “Builders need to be aware of the latest one-pump systems to ensure they’re offering customers a modern and efficient system.

“Furthermore, builders and their employees and contractors need to fully understand the entire installation process,” advises Cooke.

“Regular training is important to ensure each in-floor system works to its full capacity. Close enough is no longer good enough for our industry. Consumers are better educated about the products we’re installing and their expectations must be addressed accordingly. The in-floor plumbing techniques and installation processes are reasonably straightforward. The main in-floor cleaning systems are supported by experts who are trained to help builders with installation. Builders should have a good relationship with their in-floor provider and be comfortable enough to ask questions to get the install correct.”

Rohan Beasley, general manager of Pool-Water Products, the Australian and Asian distributor of the Paramount In-Floor Cleaning and Circulation Systems for concrete pools, believes that in-floor cleaning systems are the premium cleaning option.

“While our system is designed as a pool cleaning system, it’s also an advanced circulation system. Ordinary pools circulate water near the surface of the pool, where chemicals and heat are quickly lost into the atmosphere. This often leads to wasted chemicals, wasted heat energy and several poorly circulated algae-prone areas throughout the pool. In-floor cleaning systems improve the poor

circulation found in ordinary pools. Using rotating cleaning jets strategically placed in the pool floor, steps and benches, water is evenly circulated throughout every square inch of the pool. This improved circulation has been proven to create cleaner, healthier, more comfortable pool water while reducing the loss of chemicals and heating energy to the atmosphere.”

When it comes to maintenance, the advantage of in-floor cleaning systems is that they’re virtually maintenance-free. Most systems offer extensive long-term warranties and should run trouble-free for many years if they’re installed properly. The only regular task for the owner is to remove debris from collection baskets and backwash the filter, just as is done with all pools.

Cooke offers the following advice to pool builders: “Builders and owners must consider all options and take into account the long-term benefits. Those who focus too much on the upfront price are often left disappointed. There are many examples of pool owners who regret the consequences of a short-term decision in the long run.

“The process of installing an in-floor system from planning through to completion is extensive and pool builders must be supported by an in-floor team they trust and can rely on.

“In-floor cleaning systems make life easier for pool owners by reducing the workload of owning a pool. They deliver a better pool ownership experience than unsightly and time-consuming manual systems. Pool builders and pool owners must both do their homework to ensure the system they agree on is the right fit, for the right pool, for the right client.”

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## PRESSURE POOL CLEANER

The Jet Vac pressure pool cleaner has a large 115 mm throat, which allows it to pick up twigs, large leaves, goggles, golf balls and palm fronds along with the finest sand and debris. The cleaner's large-capacity bag compacts up to 3.5 L of rubbish and enables a pool to be cleaned within a couple of hours.

The pool cleaner features forward/reverse cycles to ensure complete pool coverage on any surface without getting stuck in corners. Propulsion and cleaning is achieved purely by jets of water. Its wheels are free spinning and are not connected to turbines, drive belts or gears, which keeps maintenance costs to a minimum.

The fully automatic pool cleaner does not need to be removed from the pool after use. Its design is lightweight, unobtrusive and suitable for Australian conditions and it is said to exceed industry standards for speed, quality and efficiency.

Users can optimise the performance of the cleaner by installing an Aqua-Quip flow-control timer. The timer ensures the cleaner's booster pump synchronises with the pool pump, saving energy costs and preventing the risk of costly pump repairs.

Jet Vac is a pressure pool cleaner and as such requires a dedicated plumbing line. The cleaner is powered by the Aqua-Quip booster pump.

### Aqua-Quip

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# ADMIRAL ULTRA-NAV



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## AUTOMATIC SUCTION POOL CLEANER

The Pool Rover ST automatic suction pool cleaner has been designed to provide owners with a device to clean and chlorinate, essentially reducing time spent manually maintaining the pool. An economically priced product, with a minimum of components and only one moving part, it is claimed by the manufacturer that it cleans as well as, if not better than, other more expensive pool cleaners.

It is also quiet and works on a low volume of water flow, making it suitable for all pool types and pump sizes.

**Pool Ranger Pty Ltd**

Contact info and more items like this at [wf.net.au/V213](http://wf.net.au/V213)



## AUTOMATIC SUCTION CLEANER

The PoolCleaner is an automatic suction cleaner that has a patented steering system that can clean pools of all

shapes and sizes. This is achieved by the left wheel reversing at set intervals to turn and then move in another direction so it doesn't get stuck in corners.

The PoolCleaner also has a self-cleaning hose swivel, meaning that it can turn freely without interference from debris, preventing the hose from coiling.

**Lincoln Pool Equipment**

Contact info and more items like this at [wf.net.au/V210](http://wf.net.au/V210)

## IN-GROUND SWIMMING POOL SUCTION CLEANER

The Hayward Navigator Pro suction cleaner is suitable for in-ground pools of all types and sizes.

Simple to install, the Navigator Pro features SmartDrive programmed steering, which ensures that virtually all pools will be cleaned in 3-4 h.

**Hayward Pool Products Australia**

Contact info and more items like this at [wf.net.au/V285](http://wf.net.au/V285)



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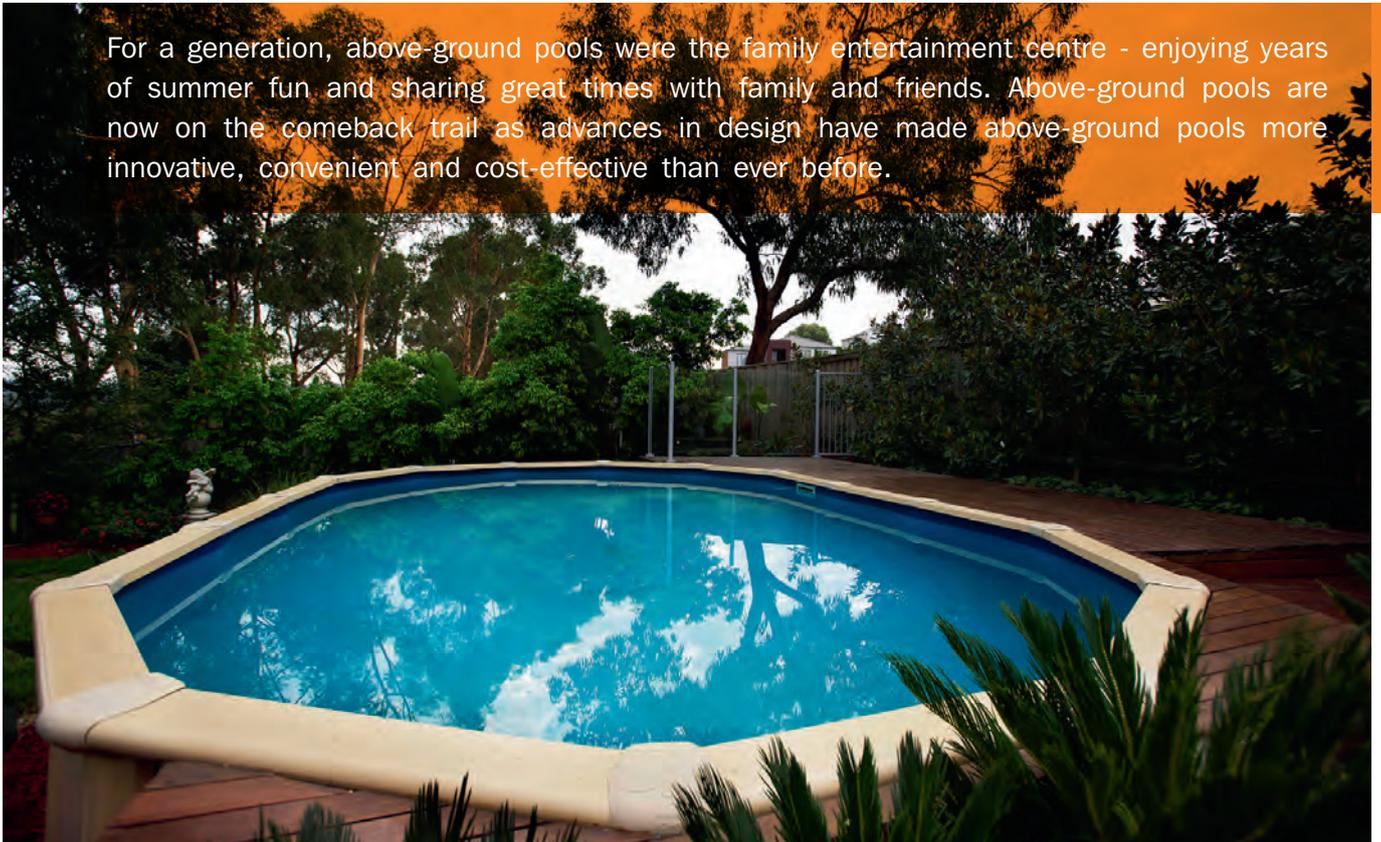
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# QUICK AND AFFORDABLE

## ABOVE-GROUND POOLS MAKING A COMEBACK

For a generation, above-ground pools were the family entertainment centre - enjoying years of summer fun and sharing great times with family and friends. Above-ground pools are now on the comeback trail as advances in design have made above-ground pools more innovative, convenient and cost-effective than ever before.



**T**hese days, above-ground pools can be installed on top of the ground, semi in-ground or fully in-ground. The latest above-ground pool technology combined with decking and landscaping can create a resort-style pool at a fraction of the cost of a traditional concrete or fibreglass pool and can be installed in just days rather than weeks.

Above-ground pools are also much more adaptable in small spaces, compared to their in-ground counterparts. If you have limited space or a tricky-shaped backyard, consider an above-ground pool. No matter if your backyard is level or sloping, big or small, wide or narrow, there's an above-ground pool for every backyard.

### Emerging trends in the above-ground pool market

Matthew Keyhoe, sales and marketing manager at Driklad Pool Technology, which manufactures above-ground pools, believes there are two main trends emerging in the above-ground pool market - the increasing demand for resin pools and the development of narrow pools.

"Over the past two decades, we have seen a push towards salt chlorinators, which the above-ground pool market has also had to adapt to. This trend has seen the rise of resin pools which reduce the chances of rust and corrosion in comparison to the older-style, steel pools," said Keyhoe.

"Given the high proportion of plastic components, resin pools don't have the rust, oxidation or erosion problems of steel pools - which means they'll last longer and are available in many different sizes.

"The new-style resin pools also require fewer parts and can just clip together. This makes them ideal for young families as they are easy to remove from the backyard once the kids grow older and have less use for the pool.

"As backyards continue to get smaller, we are also seeing a trend towards longer and narrower pools. Our customers are more in tune with entertaining and for that reason they don't want huge pools in their small backyards. Our slimline ... pools are the ideal alternative to blend your pool with outdoor entertainment areas," said Keyhoe.

"Above-ground pools are also becoming increasingly functional and user-friendly. These days, above-ground pools also use ergonomic and safe moulded round decks, which look more aesthetically pleasing than hexagonal ends. In addition to this, many above-ground pools are now lined with vinyl - which is smooth to touch, easily cleaned, won't peel or flake, UV treated, resistant to algae, available in a large range of colours, easy to replace and easily changed to suit the latest decor of the house."



### Avoiding problems

When it comes to above-ground pools, careful preparation is key to avoiding long-term problems.

“Ground preparation is the most difficult part of installing an above-ground pool. Many people won’t start installing their pool until they have it at home on the pallet. A pool which takes a day to install can often sit in the driveway for two or three weekends whilst dad levels the ground. We always recommend preparing the ground prior to the pool arriving,” said Keyhoe.

“Preparing the site for the installation of an above-ground pool is easy; however, depending on the site, it may be hard work. The ground must be levelled to the lowest point of area selected for the pool, as opposed to using fill to raise sections of the area. Once the site is level and grass, stones, pebbles and sticks have been removed, a layer of builders’ sand must be compacted across the area. Then the assembly of the pool can commence.

“Like any concrete or fibreglass pool, above-ground pools also require pool fencing and building permits. Make sure you and your clients check the local council requirements before ordering and installing your pool,” concluded Keyhoe.

### Maintenance of above-ground pools

With any pool, the best way to maintain an above-ground pool

is with regular water testing, vacuuming and cleaning, and equipment maintenance.

According to Keyhoe, the biggest issue with above-ground pools is rust or corrosion. The pools need to be kept in balance. If any leaks occur around fittings or the skimmer box these need to be fixed immediately. Water splash over walls can also run down the walls of the pool and rust very quickly, which owners must look out for. A new technology in the resin designs, called Water Containment Technology, specifically fights this problem.

### Top tips for pool builders

For any pool builder working with, or looking to work more with, above-ground pools, Keyhoe has outlined his top five tips for installing an above-ground pool:

- Obtain necessary permits - above-ground pools must meet the same regulations as concrete and fibreglass in-ground pools.
- Carefully consider the pool’s position with the owner.
- Preparation is key - make sure you carefully prepare the ground.
- Before commencing the construction of the pool, check all required tools and materials are ready to go.
- Check the weather - make sure the radar is clear and the sun is shining.

Before buying an above-ground pool, you must also consider the following:

- How long do I really want the pool? An above-ground pool won’t cost a fortune to remove.
- Can I spend a little more initially to avoid future maintenance? If so, consider a resin pool with Water Containment Technology.
- How can I make the best use of my yard? Integrating a pool into decking and using a ‘resort’ or ‘teardrop’ design can keep the yard open.
- Check the local council regulations and rules about pool fencing and water legislation - each council is different so make sure your pool is compliant with the local laws.

# Daisy Saves

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### PVC SWEEP ELBOW

Waterco's 50 mm PVC Sweep Elbow features a long radius that results in efficient water flow, a solution to improving a pool's hydraulic efficiency, particularly when using energy-efficient pumps.

Research comparing the 50 mm PVC Sweep Elbow to traditional 90° elbows shows a marked difference in water flow and head loss.

If a pool filtration plumbing system used 10 x 50 mm PVC sweep elbows in place of 90° elbows, this would reduce the overall system head loss by 1.5 m and improve the pool's hydraulic efficiency.

Additionally, by improving the hydraulic efficiency, it enables a multispeed or variable speed pump to operate at a lower speed without sacrificing flow rate through the pool's filtration circuit or reducing the pool's turnover rate.

**Waterco Limited**

Contact info and more items like this at [wf.net.au/V317](http://wf.net.au/V317)

### GLASS FILTER MEDIA

Davey Crystal Clear Glass Media is a finely crushed, 100% virgin recycled glass for filtration use in both residential and commercial pools. Crystal Clear Glass Media has the capacity to remove iron and magnesium, making it suitable for pools topped up from a groundwater supply. The clarity of water filtered with glass is comparable to water filtered with DE.

Bacteria cannot grow in this glass media. The smooth angular surface of the glass granules does not house fungi or moss, creating a healthier swimming environment.

It is claimed that Davey Crystal Clear Glass Media cuts chemical usage by up to 50% due to the self-sterilisation nature of the glass and an oxidation process that takes place when water passes over the glass. Additionally, better permeability results in up to 25% less water to backwash over the period of a year.



**Davey Water Products**

Contact info and more items like this at [wf.net.au/V338](http://wf.net.au/V338)



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## VERTICAL WIRE BALUSTRADE

Sentrel Vertical Cable Balustrade and pool fencing incorporates a functional combination of marine-grade stainless steel and Australian hardwood. The strong, light-gauge cable maximises view and airflow, without compromising strength.

Sentrel manufactures vertically tensioned pool fencing which enables the use of cable fencing around pools.

Australian designed and manufactured, Sentrel ships pre-made panels to site for fast and easy installation. The panels will fit any distance between posts up to a maximum of 2.5 m for pool fencing and stair rails. The panels can be trimmed to fit the exact opening between any two posts.

Sentrel vertical wire balustrade panels don't need a specialist to install, require no turn-buckles or fittings and are made in Australia to satisfy the codes for swimming pools and balconies over 4 m.

### **Sentrel Pool Fencing**

Contact info and more items like this at [wf.net.au/V323](http://wf.net.au/V323)



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### SOLAR POOL HEATING SYSTEM

Boss Solar is introducing two technologies for solar pool heating: ProLok Modular and NanoTek Graphitic Collector.

ProLok Modular features modular components that allow a system to be installed quickly. Using patented technology, ProLok Modular ensures a quality installation and offers a 15-year warranty. Supplied in a ready-to-use, preassembled coil, ProLok Modular components quickly and securely lock together to create a system that can be installed by any pool professional.

Boss Solar's NanoTek Graphitic Collector uses co-extrusion techniques to create an absorber that is claimed to be 40% more efficient than standard flexible absorbers. The matt black outer surface is claimed to absorb 20% more incident solar radiation and the nano graphitic inner tubes transfer the sun's energy into the 8 mm diameter tubes that carry the water.

Both systems have been designed and engineered to Australian standards.

**Boss Solar**

Contact info and more items like this at [wf.net.au/V315](http://wf.net.au/V315)

### LED POOL LIGHTS

The WIBRE 4.0282 LEDs are recessed, flush-mounted pool lights made out of stainless steel. They are also available with the newest generation of RGBW LEDs.

These recessed pool lights are for mid-size commercial and high-end residential pools with a width up to 12 m. The achievable illumination with 62 W/5000 lm compares with a 500 W halogen light source. With the addition of the RGBW type, these pool lights are now capable of producing crisp white light and also all colours out of one fitting.

The main advantage of the RGBW technology in comparison to RGB LEDs is that the user can achieve real white light from warm to cold white or all colours from pastel to saturated. The control of all whites and colours is via a separate DMX driver. With the available DMX controller, users can adjust the whites and colours and set and recall favoured scenes for the pool and the surrounding. With an outer diameter of 240 mm and only 89 mm depth of the separate stainless steel installation housing, these pool lights will fit into many walls.



**Form and Light Pty Ltd**

Contact info and more items like this at [wf.net.au/V280](http://wf.net.au/V280)

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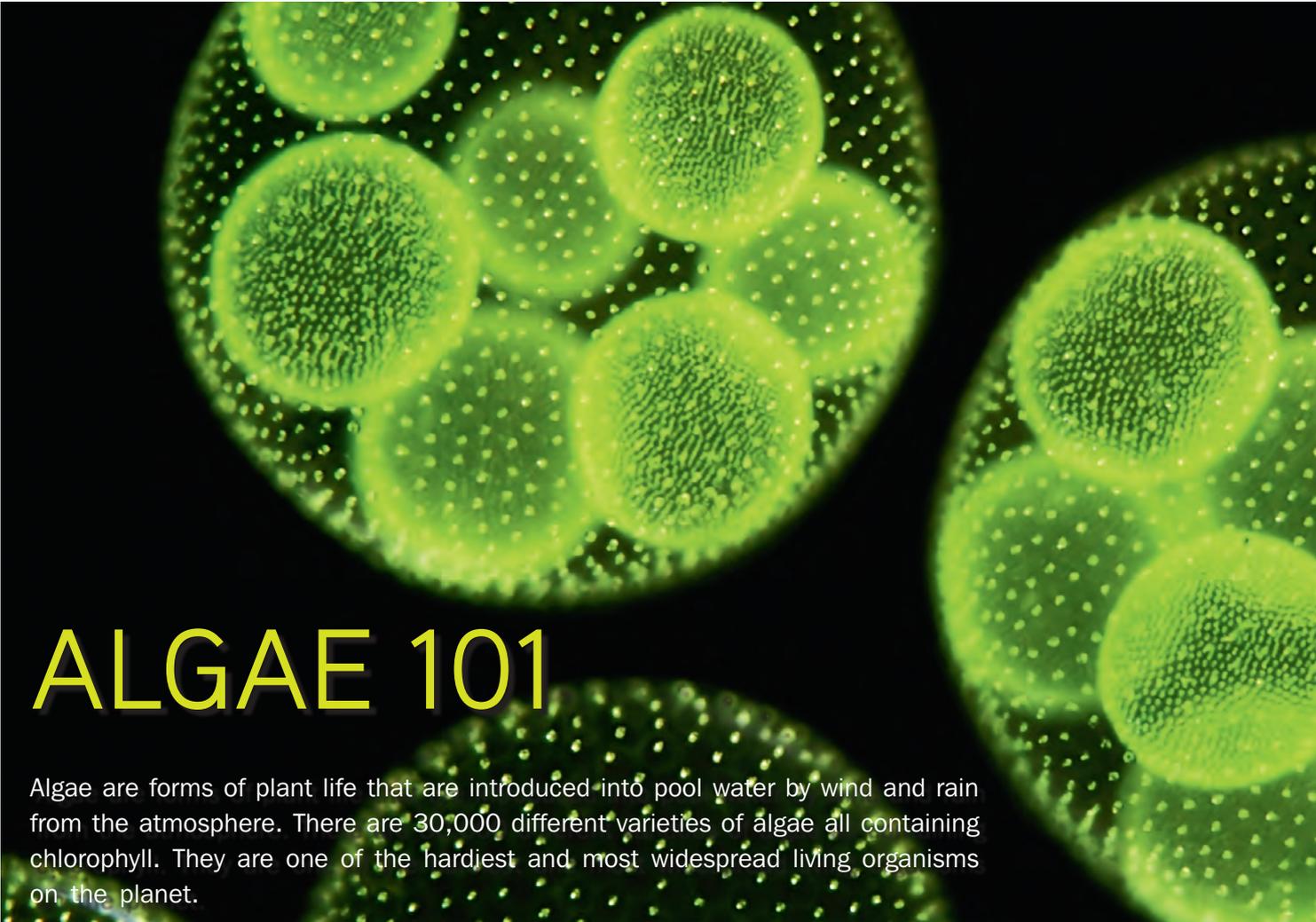
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# ALGAE 101

Algae are forms of plant life that are introduced into pool water by wind and rain from the atmosphere. There are 30,000 different varieties of algae all containing chlorophyll. They are one of the hardiest and most widespread living organisms on the planet.

**T**here are three main categories of algae that affect swimming pools:

**Green algae:** Usually floating algae, though they sometimes cling to walls, this is also the fastest growing algae and accounts for most 24-hour algal blooms.

Pool water becomes turbid with a green growth that renders the pool uninviting and dangerous to use, as it is difficult to see the bottom of the pool. Prior to the green colouration appearing, the sides of the pool have a slippery feel and the water becomes hazy and exhibits a high chlorine demand.

**Mustard (yellow) algae:** Appears as a yellow powdery deposit on the pool, usually on the shady side. Once established, it is chlorine resistant and can exist in the presence of 3-5 ppm free chlorine. This is also a common algae, which grows in aquariums in areas that get little light.

**Black (blue-green) algae:** Evident by the formation of 1-3 cm sized black (or dark blue-green) spots, tenaciously adhering to the pool's surfaces. Black algae forms a layered structure where the first layer (which chlorine may kill) protects under layers from further destruction. Black algae is similar to the black algae that is found on bathroom shower tiles and in silicone seams near the bath. It is also found in aquariums as dark blotching on the glass sides. This form of algae is very slow growing but very hardy. It is extremely chlorine resistant.

An algae bloom can turn clear clean water into a green swamp overnight. The pH can climb (as algae consumes carbon dioxide which helps keep pH down) and the pool walls become slippery and hazardous underfoot. Once algae is visible a substantial problem exists. Algae takes in carbon dioxide and gives off oxygen like

most other plants. Most bacteria found in swimming pools take in oxygen and give off carbon dioxide. Each consumes the by-products of the other for growth. It is desirable to use a chemical program that assures both bacterial and algae control.

## Prevention of algae

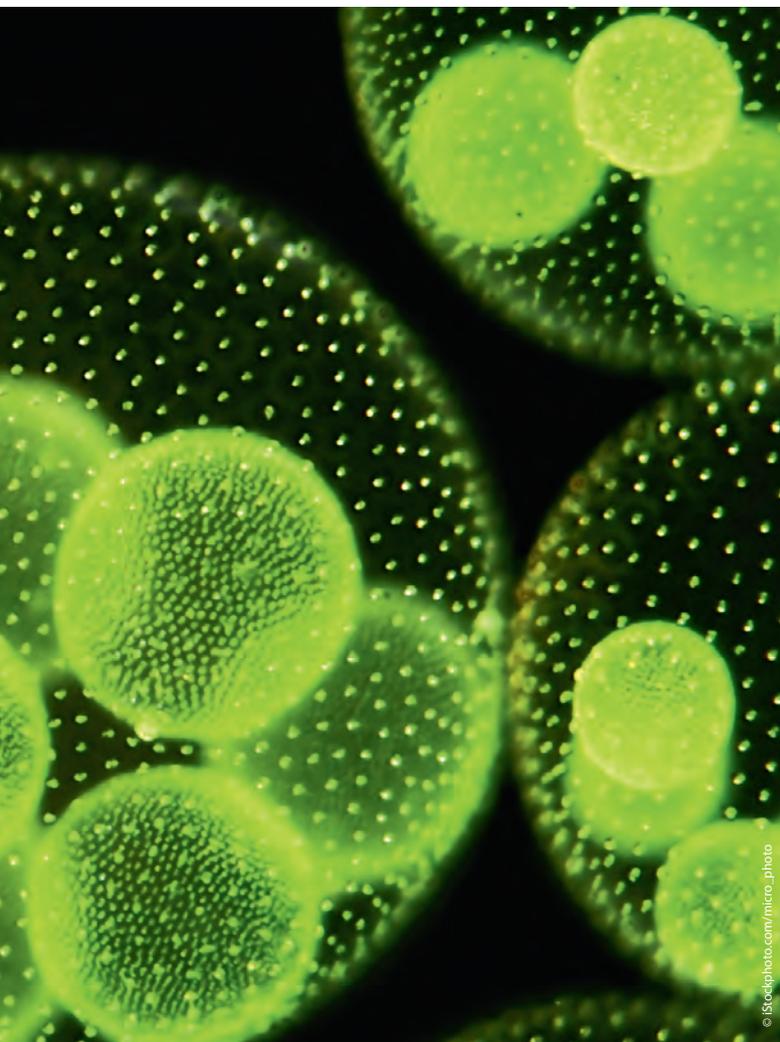
According to the team at TPS, one of Australia's leading manufacturers of instrumentation for pool water testing, a proper chemical program of regular pool maintenance prevents algae from growing. This means keeping the proper pH and recommended free chlorine residual for the pool. The best algaecide (algae killer) and algaestat (algae inhibitor) is a properly maintained sanitiser level of 1-3 ppm chlorine or 2-5 ppm bromine for a pool and 3-5 ppm chlorine or 3-6 ppm bromine in a spa. Algae is very rare in most spas and hot tubs as the 'insulating hard cover' does not allow enough light for the algae to get a foothold.

Algaecides are chemicals added to the pool water to control algae. While algaecides can kill algae at high dosages, most are utilised as algaestats, which prevent algae formation when chlorine levels become depleted.

There are four main groups of algaecides:

The following algaecides must not be used when the pool is fitted with an ORP controller. Ions in the algaecide can electrically plate onto the ORP electrode's platinum surface, reducing its readings. In any case, a correctly controlled pool should not develop an algae problem.

**Quats:** The largest-selling, lowest-priced algaecides. These are most often found in active concentrations of 5-10%. Such 'quaternary ammonium salts' are surfactants and if added in excess, will



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cause foaming on the pool surface. Surfactants lower the surface tension of the water and ‘wet’ algae cell walls. This ‘wetting’ splits open the cell wall and kills the algae. Quats require lower concentrations and amounts than polyquats to achieve the same level of prevention. Quats are most often used as the preventative while polyquats are most often used to remove existing algae.

**Polyquats:** These are non-foaming algaecides sold in concentrations of 30-60%. While more costly than quats, polyquat algaecides are effective not only on green algae but also with the chlorine-resistant mustard and black algae, and work well at destroying visible algae.

**Copper salts:** Copper ion (Cu++) is an effective algaecide used in ponds, lagoons and pools to kill and prevent algae formation. Copper usage can cause stain formation. Over time, soluble copper salts can precipitate from pool water and deposit on pool walls, creating a ‘blueing’ effect. In the presence of chlorine, these salts will turn to cupric oxide and cause grey to black staining of the pool walls.

**Colloidal Silver:** Silver is similar to copper in many ways. Colloidal silver attaches itself to the pool walls and floor, giving these surfaces a residual and continuing algaecidal action. Silver can also cause a black staining to occur on pool walls if not carefully administered. Silver is also a good bacteriostat that may reduce the need for chlorine. Some ionisers use copper and silver plates to produce both silver and copper ions in the water.

Zodiac Category Manager Pool Cleaning Solutions Nathalie Carton says, “Pool water should be regularly tested and balanced throughout the year to ensure the longevity of pool equipment as well as healthy and safe pool water. It is recommended that

pool owners take a pool water sample for testing at their local pool shop at least monthly in summer and bimonthly in the winter months. Ask, in particular, for testing of the phosphate levels in water, particularly after heavy winds. Algae feed on phosphates, so when untreated they can cause a lot of problems.”

## To treat algae

### Step 1

To treat algae once they have taken control of a pool, check pH and adjust if necessary. Check filtration, filter pressure and backwash if necessary.

### Step 2

For green algae you can use one of two methods or implement both. Superchlorinate the water with up to 30 ppm chlorine. If necessary, 24-48 hours later when the chlorine drops to normal levels, add a good all-purpose algaecide according to package direction. The next day, vacuum the dead algae and backwash the filter if necessary. Use of a good ‘floc’ can help speed up the settling of dead algae. In the case of heavy algae growth, it may be necessary to repeat the treatment. After algae have been vacuumed, check pH, adjust if necessary and institute a program of superchlorination and use of a good all-purpose algaecide. Make sure the chlorine level is maintained at the proper level to help prevent reoccurrence.

For black or mustard algae, brush the algae spots vigorously with a stiff brush. Shut off the pump and use chlorine tablets to spot treat the algae spots carefully (not recommended for vinyl-lined pools). Then pour a good concentrated all-purpose algaecide on the algae spots. Leave dissolved algaecide in contact with the algae overnight. Restore water circulation, then brush dead algae and vacuum to waste. In case of heavy algae growth it may be necessary to repeat treatment. After algae have been vacuumed, check pH, adjust if necessary and institute a program of superchlorination and then use a good all-purpose algaecide. Make sure the chlorine level is maintained at the proper level to help prevent recurrence.

In between pool shop visits, pool owners should test their pool at home weekly and test for three parameters:

First, check total alkalinity level is between 80-150 ppm. Pool owners will find by doing this the process of stabilising the pH level is much easier to achieve.

Second, getting the balance of the water right with the pH level between 7.2 and 7.8 is essential. It keeps the water pleasant, reduces eye and skin irritations but also prevents corrosion to pool surfaces and equipment. It is only when you have these first two steps right that protective chemicals, such as chlorine, will work effectively.

Third, and now with a balanced pool, it is time to test for free chlorine and protect your pool against bacteria and other nasties without over-chlorinating the water. For long-lasting protection, use a stabilised chlorine (with UV blockout built in).

Maintaining healthy and balanced pool water all year round will save a pool owner money and hassles in the long term. Pool water that is out of balance can damage the surface of the swimming pool and/or equipment such as pool blankets, cleaners, pumps and pool heaters.

Turning the filtration equipment off and/or allowing a pool to turn green over the winter costs a lot more to rectify in summer than maintaining a healthy pool all year round.

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# Coming Events

## November

**What:** International Pool, Spa and Patio Expo

**When:** 12-14 November 2013

**Where:** Mandalay Bay Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada

**Website:** [www.poolspapatio.com](http://www.poolspapatio.com)

**What:** Salon Splash

**When:** 21 November 2013

**Where:** Hotel des Seigneurs, Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec.

**Website:** [www.acpq.com](http://www.acpq.com)

## December

**What:** Canadian Pool & Spa Conference & Expo

**When:** 2-5 December 2013

**Where:** Scotiabank Convention Centre, Niagara Falls, Ontario.

**Website:** [www.poolandspaexpo.ca](http://www.poolandspaexpo.ca)

**What:** 2ème Convention National Des Professionnels De La Piscine

**When:** 10-11 December 2013

**Where:** Paris - Centre De Congrès Disney's Newport Bay Club

**Website:** [www.propiscines.fr](http://www.propiscines.fr)

## January

**What:** Atlantic City Pool & Spa Show

**When:** 28-30 January 2014

**Where:** Atlantic City (New Jersey) Convention Center USA

**Website:** [www.acpoolspashow.com](http://www.acpoolspashow.com)

## February

**What:** SPATEX 2014

**When:** 2 February 2014

**Where:** Ricoh Arena, Coventry, West Midlands Cv6 6ge, UK

**Website:** [www.spatex.co.uk](http://www.spatex.co.uk)

**What:** Aqua-Therm Moscou 2014

**When:** 4-7 February 2014

**Where:** Moscow, Russia

**Website:** [www.aquatherm-moscow.com](http://www.aquatherm-moscow.com)

**What:** Piscine Expo 2014 - Maroc

**When:** 12-15 February 2014

**Where:** Casablanca - Morocco

**Website:** [www.piscineexpomaroc.com](http://www.piscineexpomaroc.com)

**What:** Forumpiscine 2014

**When:** 20-22 February 2014

**Where:** Italy - Bologna

**Website:** [www.forumpiscine.it](http://www.forumpiscine.it)

**What:** UK Pool & Spa Expo 2014

**When:** 20-22 February 2014

**Where:** Pavilion Halls 1&2 @ The Nec Birmingham, B40 1nt, UK

**Website:** [www.ukpoolspa-expo.co.uk](http://www.ukpoolspa-expo.co.uk)

## Next Issue

Pool+Spa January/February edition features include pool lighting trends, the latest in pool pumps, pool maintenance, Tips and Trends segment, residential and commercial case studies, news, products, events and more!

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