

Fact Sheet 8

Pool and spa improvements



Residential Efficiency Scorecard

The Scorecard is a home energy rating program.

An accredited assessor visits your home and looks at the building and fixed appliances. You receive a certificate with your home's energy star rating, comfort and appliance efficiency ratings.

Your Scorecard assessor gives you advice on making your home more comfortable. They make your next steps simple, so you don't miss out on energy bill savings.

To find out more about the Scorecard or to find an assessor, visit www.victorianenergysaver.vic.gov.au/scorecard

Why pool performance is important

Many people are surprised by how much energy a pool or spa can use.

You may only use your pool for part of the year, but the pool uses energy all year.

For some homes the pool is the biggest single energy user. There are a range of things you can do to bring your energy use down.

Using the Scorecard rating

Look at the second page of your Scorecard certificate for spas and pools.

The pie chart percentage shows how much your spa or pool contributes to the overall star rating for your home.

The bigger the pie slice the more important to take action. Beside this are recommendations on how you can improve this rating.

The Scorecard rating covers the energy used by your pool or spa filter and pump. If you heat your pool or spa this energy use is also included.

Taking action

If you have a pool or spa, particularly one that is heated, it is likely using more energy than you expect.

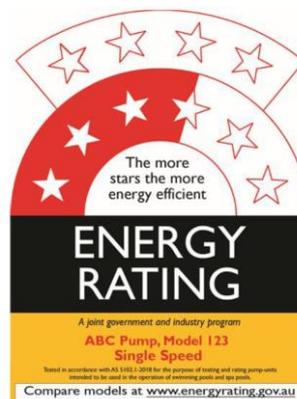
Your Scorecard assessor can explain what is driving your energy costs and the best options to get them down. It is often important to talk to a pool expert to find the best products for your pool or spa.

Pool pumps

First think about your pool pump. Pool pumps usually run for many hours a day and use a lot of energy. If your pool is heated using rooftop solar, you may have two pumps.

Consider a more efficient pool pump. Pool pumps have a star rating, the more stars the better. There are now many high efficiency models available.

Pumps can be programmed at different speeds to match the way your pool is used, using much less energy.



Source: energyrating.gov.au

If you want to keep your existing pump, there are add-on variable speed drive units that can also be programmed to reduce energy use.

Financial payback for efficient pumps and variable speed drives can be less than two years.

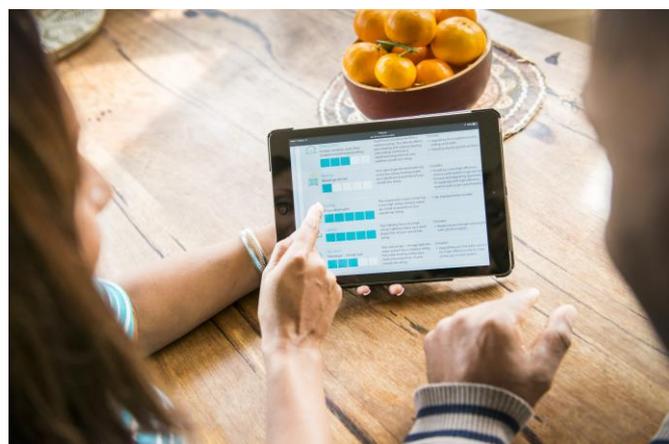
You may be able to reduce your pump running time, saving energy, especially in low use times. Consult your pool professional for advice.

Pool and spa heating

A heated pool or spa can use a lot of energy.

If your pool needs heating, consider solar heating and a pool blanket. Solar heating requires much less energy than gas or electric heating and is cheaper to operate. Cover your pool to help keep the water warm.

Most spas come with an inbuilt electric heater which is inefficient. Spa heating using an efficient heat pump is a lower cost heating method. A heat pump unit can be added to your existing spa to replace an inbuilt element.



Simple actions

Clean the pool and pool filters regularly. Just like heaters and air conditioners, the filter pump will have to work harder if the filter is full of gunk.

A pool cover has multiple benefits:

- keeps leaves and sticks out of the water
- significantly reduces evaporation from the pool, reducing your water use and cost
- for heated pools, reduces the need to heat the water

Remember, a pool cover is only effective if it's used!

For heated pools, to reduce the cost of gas or electric water heating, try setting your water temperature 1 or 2°C lower. This can save around 10-15% of your heating costs.

For more information

Pools and spas

<https://www.energyrating.gov.au/products/swimming-pool-pumps>

Scorecard

Find out more about Scorecard and take a look at the other fact sheets in this series

www.victorianenergysaver.vic.gov.au/scorecard.