

Congratulations
on the purchase of your
top quality pool cover!

Care and Maintenance Instructions



Proudly
Australian Owned
& Manufactured



Read this first

YOUR POOL COVER IS NOT A SAFETY COVER

Never walk on the blanket and never swim underneath it. Remove the cover completely before anyone enters the pool. A solar blanket is not a child safety barrier and must never be used or relied on as one. Keep children and pets away from a cover that is on the water.

Seven rules that protect your cover — and your warranty

Most warranty claims are not caused by a fault in the product. They are caused by heat and by pool chemicals. These seven rules are the whole story. Everything else in this guide explains them.

- 1 Keep free chlorine between 1.5 and 2.5 ppm.**
Never let it go above 2.5 ppm. Chlorine is corrosive and will eat your cover.
- 2 Always use your white Elite over-cover.**
Whenever the blanket is rolled up on the roller, the over-cover goes on over it.
- 3 Lift the cover off the pool for four hours once a week.**
This lets the chlorine gas trapped underneath escape instead of attacking the fabric.
- 4 Take the cover off before you shock the pool.**
Leave it off for at least 48 hours, and until free chlorine is back below 2.5 ppm.
- 5 Never leave the blanket folded or rolled up in the sun unprotected.**
Store it in full shade, or on the roller with the over-cover fitted.
- 6 Never wind the blanket onto a hot roller.**
Cool the roller tube down with cold water first, or the blanket will melt onto it.
- 7 Take the cover off the pool over winter.**
Also take it off whenever the water is above 32°C. Wash, dry and store it in the shade.

Your water chemistry targets

Reading	Target range	Why it matters to your cover
Free chlorine	1.5 – 2.5 ppm (never above 2.5)	Above 2.5 ppm chlorine attacks the polyethylene and causes delamination and bleaching.
pH	7.2 – 7.6 (ideally 7.4)	Outside this range the water turns corrosive and works on the cover, the pool surface and your equipment.
Total alkalinity	80 – 120 ppm	Holds your pH steady so it does not swing out of range between tests.
Calcium hardness	200 – 400 ppm concrete 150 – 250 ppm fibreglass	Too low and the water strips calcium from your pool surface. Too high and you get cloudy water and scale.
Cyanuric acid (stabiliser)	30 – 50 ppm	Slows chlorine loss, so your chlorine stays in range with fewer additions and fewer spikes.

A note on chlorine. You may see 1–3 ppm quoted as the normal sanitiser range for a swimming pool. That figure is for an *uncovered* pool. Once a cover is on the water, chlorine gas builds up underneath it instead of escaping into the air, so the ceiling for a covered pool is **2.5 ppm**. Do not assume your salt-water chlorinator is holding the level for you — test it.

Before our installation team arrives

Three things need to be ready before we get there. If any of them is not done, we may not be able to complete the installation on the day.

1. Water level halfway up the skimmer opening

This level is essential for a correct fit and for the cover to perform properly. Too low and the blanket cannot be trimmed to the water line accurately.

2. Clear access to the pool area

The cover and roller are long and awkward. We need an unobstructed path to carry them through to the pool.

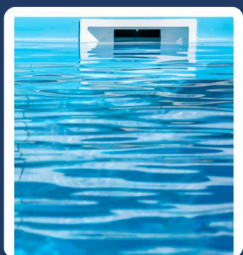
3. Your old cover removed and disposed of

Please have the old cover off the pool and cleared away before we arrive. **We do not remove or dispose of old covers** — disposal is the pool owner's responsibility.

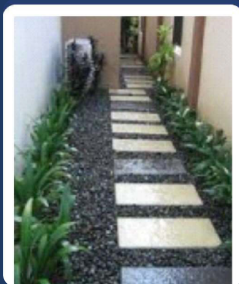


Your new Elite blanket and roller system.

Installation day checklist



Is the pool water level halfway up the skimmer opening?



Is there clear access to carry in the cover and roller?



Has the old cover been removed and disposed of?

Your new cover will not lay flat straight away

This is normal, it is not a fault, and it does not affect how the cover performs. Bubble covers are made from polyethylene that arrives at our factory on a roll, and the fabric keeps a memory of being rolled up.

Why a new cover sits with wrinkles

1. **Fabric memory** — the material has been stored rolled up.
2. **Trapped air** — air inside the cells pushes sections of the cover up until it equalises.
3. **Fabric temperature** — cold fabric is stiff and holds its shape.
4. **Joint welding** — welding puts high heat into a narrow strip, and the fabric shrinks very slightly along it.

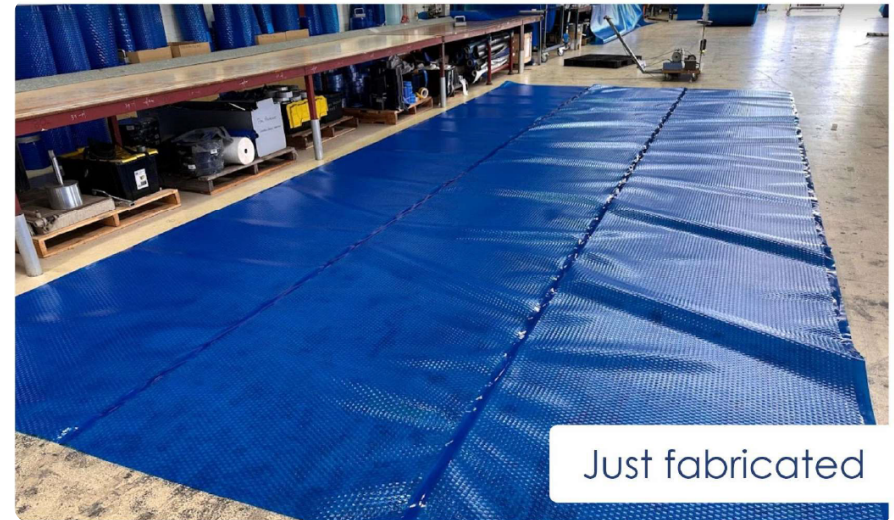
What to expect

As the cover warms in the sun the polyethylene softens, the memory releases and the trapped air redistributes. A few warm sunny days do most of the work. Most covers have settled and are laying flat **within two to three weeks** of installation.

What you can do to speed it up

- Spread the cover out evenly across the water when you first put it on.
- Leave it on the pool in the sun rather than rolled up.
- Push the cover flat with your pool broom to move trapped air out from underneath.
- On a warm day, have one person at each end and gently stretch along a weld. A few repeats will flatten it.

Please note: all blankets have slight lumps along the welds, and no pool blanket lays dead flat on any pool.



The same cover, just fabricated.



And a few weeks after installation.

How your cover is cut to fit your pool

Why the cover rides up one side

Your blanket is cut 50 to 75 mm larger than the pool so it laps up the edge all the way round. Where your pool has an inside curve, the blanket is trimmed back to the water line at that point so it can lay flat.

Pressure from one side of the pool to the other moves the blanket sideways, away from the inside curve. That opens a gap between the blanket and the wall on the inside curve, and makes the cover look too large on the opposite side.

What to do about it

Move the blanket back against the inside curve, then fold a 50 mm flap in the fabric, folding it like a letter (see Fig. B). The flap gives the cover something to hold against and keeps it in place. Alternatively, trim the blanket to the water line.

Trimming

Your installer trims the cover on installation day. If you need us to come back and re-trim it later, that is charged at our current installation rates. You are welcome to trim the excess yourself — a sharp pair of scissors is all it takes.

Creases, shrinkage and welds

Creases from packaging usually flatten out within days. All solar blankets shrink slightly over their life, up to about 2% in length and width, which causes the welded seams to draw in and the creasing to reduce further.

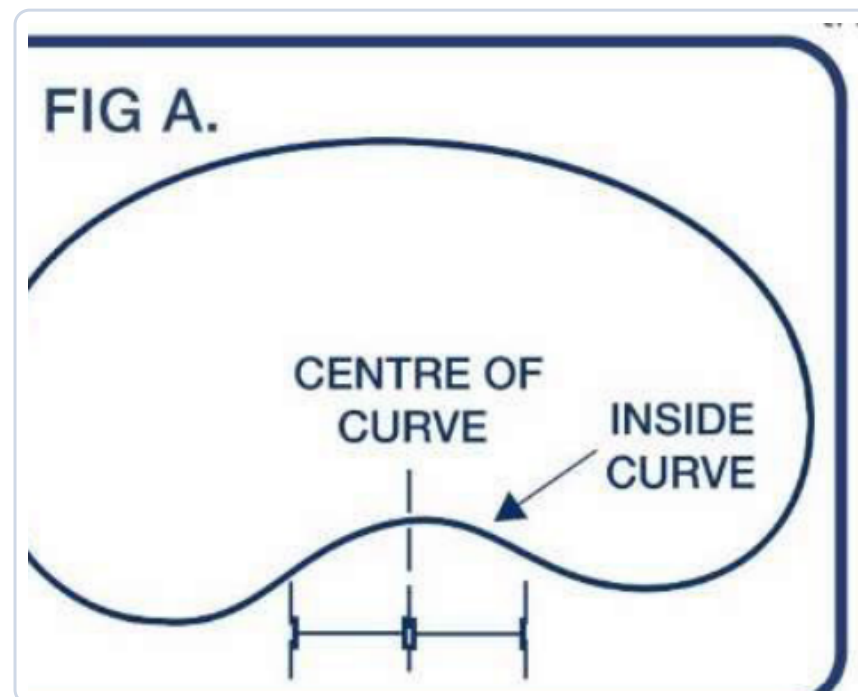


Fig. A — the blanket is cut to the water line across an inside curve.

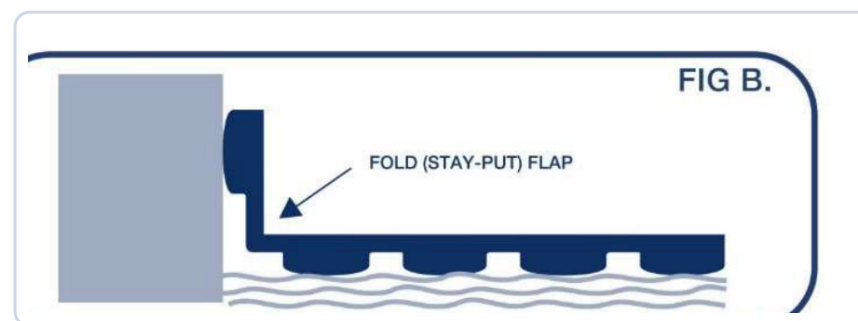
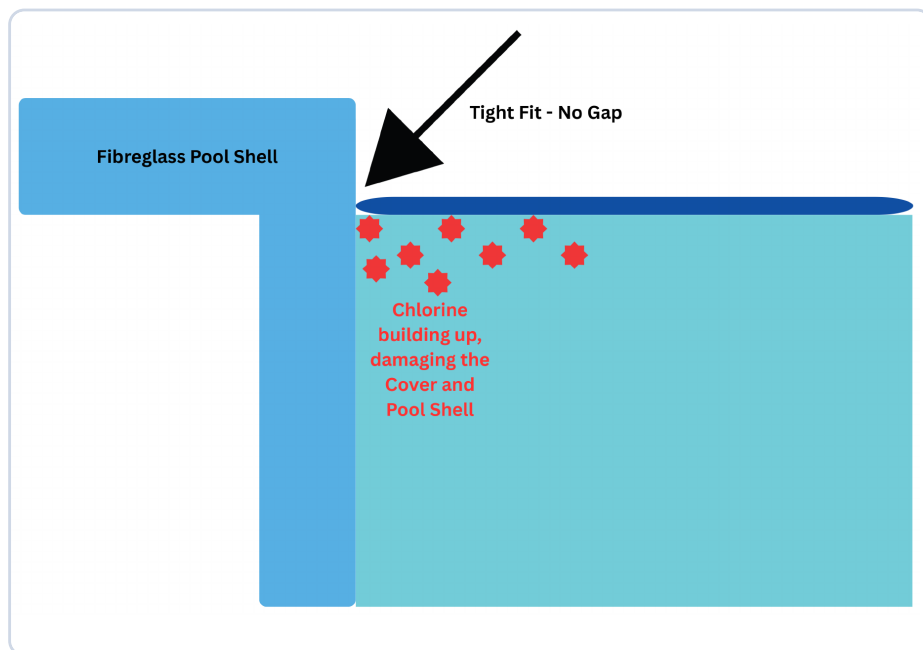


Fig. B — folding a 50 mm stay-put flap.

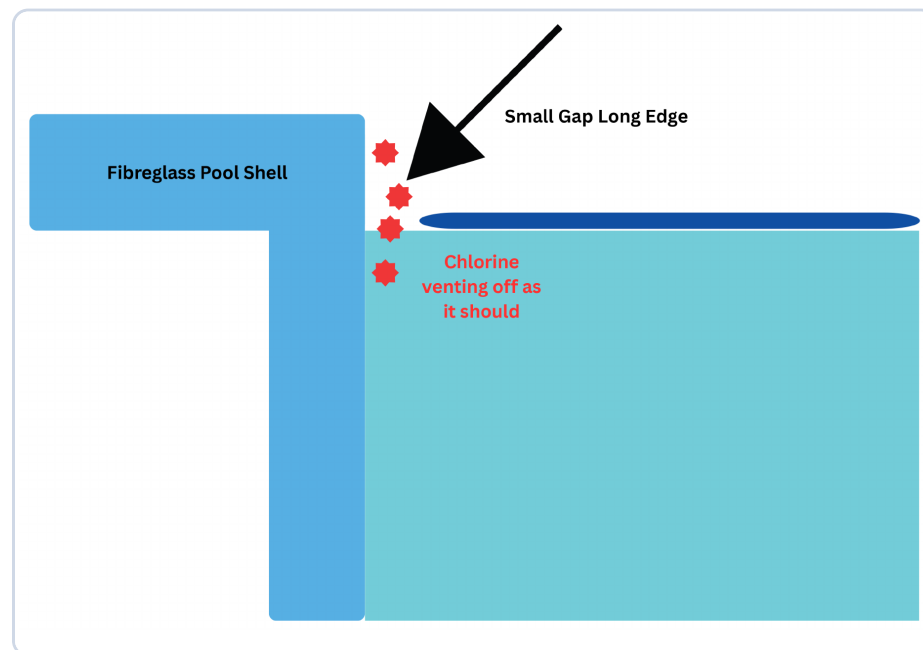
Windy sites. Lower the water level slightly, or lay a garden hose around the edge of the blanket. A weight such as a strip of wood on the edge facing the wind also works well.

Let the chlorine gas escape

Chlorine turns into gas at the surface of the water. On an uncovered pool that gas simply disappears into the air. With a cover on the water it has nowhere to go, so it builds up in the space between the water and the underside of the blanket — and at high enough concentrations it damages both the cover and the pool shell. This is the single most common cause of cover failure we see.



Tight fit, no gap. Chlorine gas is trapped and concentrates against the cover and the pool shell.



Small gap along one long edge. The gas vents off as it should.

Four habits that keep the gas moving

1. Take the cover off the pool for four hours once a week.
2. On a tight-fitting shell, leave a small gap along one long edge so the gas can vent.
3. Point your return jets downwards, so freshly chlorinated water is not delivered straight onto the cover.
4. Run the pump through the hottest part of the day, roughly 9am to 3pm, while the cover is on. This circulates the water underneath and helps prevent the cells splitting.

AFTER SHOCKING THE POOL

Take the cover off **before** you shock. Leave it off for **at least 48 hours**, and do not put it back until your free chlorine has returned to 2.5 ppm or below. Putting a cover back over a shocked pool traps chlorine gas at its highest concentration directly against the fabric.

Understanding your pool water

Chlorine

Chlorine is a sanitiser: it kills pathogens. When liquid chlorine goes into pool water it breaks into two parts, and one of those parts — the strong one — does the killing.

How much of the strong form you get depends on pH. The lower the pH, the more of it you get. That chlorine then turns to gas at the surface of the water, and on an open pool it disappears into the air. That is why you have to keep topping chlorine up. Put a cover on the water and the gas builds up underneath instead, which is why a covered pool needs a tighter ceiling than an open one.

pH

If pH is too low, chlorine burns off too quickly and does not get the chance to do its job. If pH is too high, adding chlorine does not give you enough of the strong form to kill the nasties.

That is one reason you want pH between **7.2 and 7.6, ideally 7.4**. In that range the chlorine you add gives you the right amount of working chlorine. The water is safe to swim in and you spend less on chemicals.



Test your water regularly — monthly at minimum, and straight after heavy rain.

Calcium hardness

Your water wants a certain amount of calcium in it. If it does not have enough, it takes calcium from the surface of your pool and your equipment, damaging them in the process. If it has too much, the calcium falls out of solution, clouding the water and forming scale.

Aim for **200 to 400 ppm in a concrete pool** and **150 to 250 ppm in a fibreglass pool**.

Watch out: low calcium hardness together with low pH turbo-charges the damage to your pool and equipment. High calcium hardness together with high pH gives you cloudy water and a lot of scale.

Understanding your pool water — continued

Total alkalinity

Once pH is in range you want it to stay there, otherwise you will spend your life adding chemicals. Alkalinity is a measure of the water's ability to resist changes in pH.

Too low and pH swings quickly. Too high and pH will not budge when you try to correct it. The sweet spot is **80 to 120 ppm**.

Stabiliser (cyanuric acid)

If you maintain your own pool, the chlorine in your water is probably unbound — free to turn to gas and dissipate. Cyanuric acid binds a portion of it. The bound portion cannot gas off, and acts as a slow release reserve: as the unbound chlorine dissipates, the stabilised chlorine breaks down to maintain the level.

This is why you want stabiliser in your water. It cuts your chlorine spend and stretches out the time between maintenance. The right level is **30 to 50 ppm**.

Getting set up

Estimate the volume of your pool, then take a water sample to your pool shop and tell them you want to stabilise it. They can calculate exactly what you need to add. While you are there, pick up a decent test kit — if you use your pool a lot, a complete high-range DPD kit is worth the money.

Your targets at a glance

Free chlorine **1.5 – 2.5 ppm** (never above 2.5)

pH **7.2 – 7.6** (ideally 7.4)

Total alkalinity **80 – 120 ppm**

Calcium hardness **200 – 400 ppm** concrete

150 – 250 ppm fibreglass

Cyanuric acid **30 – 50 ppm**

A monthly routine

- Test your water and make any adjustments.
- Brush the walls and steps.
- Empty the skimmers, clean the pump baskets and backwash the filter.
- Test again straight after heavy rain — winter rain dilutes your water and throws the balance out.

If someone else maintains your pool, you now know enough to check whether they are getting it right.

Operating your blanket and roller

Winding the blanket off the pool

1. Position the roller centrally at one end of your pool. If your roller has pin brakes, locate them in the holes provided (Fig. 1).
2. If your pool has swim-outs, or a shape that needs a flap folded over before winding, fold them over first.
3. **Detachable system:** at the roller end of the blanket you will find black clamps with "tee" pieces. Lift the centre up and place it through the corresponding hole in the roller tube. Continue until all the tee pieces are connected to the tube. If your pool has a free-form shaped end, you may need to start at the longest part of the blanket.
4. **Fixed cord system:** start to wind the handle, keeping the blanket rolling on straight. If it wanders off centre, align it as you go by pushing and pulling the blanket from one side to the other.
5. Once the blanket is wound up, fit the white over-cover. The stretchy straps hook into the cut-outs on the frame on Deluxe and Platinum rollers. On standard frames the strips go under the frame.

Tip: when the blanket end has just come out of the water onto the roller, use your leaf scoop to lift off the debris. If your skimmer box is at the roller end, you can also run the pump to skim off the fine dust and dirt.

Putting the blanket back onto the pool

1. Remove the white over-cover.
2. Hold the end of the pull cord and walk to the opposite end of the pool from the roller.
3. Gently pull the cord and the blanket will glide onto the pool. As the blanket is pulled from the centre, both sides fold under and keep the leading edge out of the water, which helps it move.
4. Once the blanket has wound out onto the pool, detach it from the roller by lifting out the tee pieces (detachable systems only).
5. Using your pool broom, flatten the blanket out to each side and up the wall of the pool.
6. Where your pool has inside curves, the blanket is cut to the water line so it lays flatter (Fig. A on the previous page).



Fig. 1 — roller tube and frame, with the over-cover fitted.

Looking after the roller

- Hose salt and pool water off the frame and tube regularly, especially near the coast.
- Check the over-cover straps and the wheel brakes at the start of each season.
- Do not store the roller hard against a wall or fence where it cannot be walked around.
- A roller that has been sitting in the sun gets very hot. Cool the tube with cold water before you wind a blanket onto it.

Caring for your Elite pool cover

Without proper care, any pool cover can be ruined in a fraction of its expected life. Most warranty claims are not caused by product failure — they are caused by leaving a cover rolled up in direct sunlight, and by chlorine that is a little too high for a long time or a lot too high for a short time. **Misuse of this kind may void your warranty.**

1. Maintain your chlorine and pH, and test regularly

Keep free chlorine between 1.5 and 2.5 ppm, and pH between 7.2 and 7.6. Chlorine is corrosive and a cover in over-chlorinated water will deteriorate quickly. Do not assume your salt-water chlorinator is controlling the level for you.

2. Take the cover off before you shock the pool

Leave it off for at least 48 hours, and until free chlorine is back to 2.5 ppm or below.

3. Lift the cover off the pool for four hours once a week

This vents the chlorine gas that builds up underneath. Four hours a week is one of the cheapest things you can do for the life of your cover.

4. Never leave the cover folded or rolled up in the sun

Store it in a fully covered environment, in full shade — not under shade cloth. Sun and heat cause corrosive wear and damage the cover in strips across its width, resulting in delamination. In extreme cases the material overheats on the roller, goes molten and welds to itself.

5. Always use your Elite over-cover

Every roller is supplied with a complimentary white Elite over-cover. Whenever the cover is rolled up on the roller, the over-cover goes over it. With a serviceable Elite over-cover fitted you can store the cover on the roller in direct sunlight. Tarps and other substitutes are not recommended and are not covered by warranty.

6. Hose the cover down before long-term storage

Wash both sides with fresh water to remove pool chemicals, so chlorine residue cannot burn the cover while it is stored. Not necessary if you are putting it back on within 24 hours.

7. Take the cover off over winter

You do not need it to warm the pool in winter. Leaving it on for extended periods lets chemical gases build up, damaging the blanket, the pool surface and your equipment. Off over winter, your cover will last roughly twice as long and you will have less algae. Also take the cover off whenever the water is above 32°C, and in extreme winds.

Never drag the blanket over rough coping, and never wind it onto a hot roller. Damage caused by excessive heat or chemical exposure will void any warranty.

Frequently asked questions

Why does my cover ride up one side more than the other?

Your blanket is cut 50 to 75 mm larger than the pool, and it is trimmed to the water line across inside curves. Pressure from one side moves the blanket sideways, opening a gap on the inside curve and making the cover look too large opposite. Push it back against the inside curve and fold a 50 mm flap, or trim it to the water line.

Do blankets shrink?

Yes. Over the life of the blanket expect up to about 2% in length and width.

Does a smaller blanket work less efficiently?

Blankets cut slightly smaller than the water line are easier to get on and off the pool. Because they are there to heat the water and stop evaporation, there is little or no difference in performance.

Will more debris get in?

A solar blanket keeps out roughly 70 to 80% of debris, which is far better than no cover at all. As blankets shrink slightly, a little more debris can get in. If you have a serious debris problem, a Debris Cover that goes over the edge could be the answer — contact your Elite distributor.

How do I get debris off the cover?

If you have a roller, wind the blanket off and let the debris drop into the water, then use your leaf scoop as the blanket comes off the end. Turning your surface skimmer on will pick up the finer dirt. Without a roller, sweep, blow or vacuum the debris off before removing the blanket.

How do I stop the blanket moving in the wind?

Lower the water level, or lay a garden hose around the edge of the blanket, or trim the blanket to the water line. A weight such as a strip of wood along the edge facing the wind also works. You can have the installer trim the blanket to the shape of the pool and to the water line on inside curves. If you need us to re-trim it later, that is charged at current installation rates. It is easy to trim excess yourself with a sharp pair of scissors.

What can I do about the creases in the blanket?

Creases caused by packaging usually flatten within days. As blankets shrink, the welded seams draw in and the creasing reduces further. On a warm day, one person at each end can gently stretch the seam — a few repeats will flatten it. Note that no pool blanket lays dead flat on any pool.

My blanket does not wind straight onto the roller.

Most pools are not rectangular, and curves push the blanket to one side or the other. When it starts to wind crooked, hold the tube to stop it moving and pull the blanket straight. On some pool shapes you will need to do this more than once.

My blanket's bubbles have gone flat.

This happens when the pool water is starved of oxygen and draws the oxygen out of the bubbles, causing them to invert. It does not affect the heating, the life span or the operation of your blanket in any way.

How long until my new cover lays flat?

A few warm sunny days do most of the work, and most covers have settled within two to three weeks. See "Your new cover will not lay flat straight away" earlier in this guide.

Warranty

Elite Pool Covers warrants your pool blanket for the period shown on your invoice — 5, 8, 10 or 12 years from the date of purchase to the original customer — and spa blankets for 6 months. Within the warranty period the blanket must be returned to us for examination. If we find it defective in workmanship or material we will, at our option, repair it or replace it. Where a blanket is replaced, the table below shows the contribution you make towards the current list price of the new blanket, based on the year of ownership in which the claim is made.

Blanket warranty	Year 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
5 year	Nil	50%	75%	75%	90%							
8 year	Nil	50%	75%	75%	85%	90%	90%	90%				
10 year	Nil	Nil	50%	75%	80%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%		
12 year Triple Cell	Nil	Nil	Nil	50%	75%	80%	80%	80%	90%	90%	90%	90%

Figures are the percentage of the then-current list price payable by the customer. Return freight and the cost of returning the blanket to us is at the customer's expense. Spa blankets: the customer is entitled to one sixth off for each full remaining month of the 6 month period.

Rollers

Manufacturer defects are warranted on a prorated basis:

6 year roller — 1/72nd per month

8 year roller — 1/96th per month

10 year roller — 1/120th per month

12 year roller — 1/144th per month

Ordinary wear and tear is not a defect in workmanship or material. The manufacturer is not liable for incidental or consequential loss or damage resulting from any defect in workmanship or material. The purchaser shall install, maintain and use the product in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Making a claim

All claims and enquiries must be made directly to Elite Pool Covers. To help us assess your claim quickly, please have ready:

- Your invoice number and date of purchase
- Photographs of the cover, including a close-up of the damage
- Your most recent water test results

Damage caused by excessive heat or chemical exposure is not a manufacturing defect and is not covered.

Our goods come with guarantees that cannot be excluded under the Australian Consumer Law. You are entitled to a replacement or refund for a major failure and compensation for any other reasonably foreseeable loss or damage. You are also entitled to have the goods repaired or replaced if the goods fail to be of acceptable quality and the failure does not amount to a major failure. The benefits given by this warranty are in addition to other rights and remedies you have under a law in relation to the goods to which this warranty relates.

Enjoy your warm, solar efficient pool.

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