

COMMERCIAL POOL COVERS

A CLEVER INVESTMENT IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!



When it comes to getting the most out of your aquatic facilities budget, one of the most efficient and effective ways of reducing operating costs, is to invest in a commercial pool cover. Not only will a pool cover help to significantly reduce water heating and facilities maintenance costs, it can also help to deliver a substantial reduction in evaporation when the pool isn't in use.

Bernard Schenk, Commercial Sales Manager with leading commercial pool equipment specialists Elite Pool Covers, explained:

"Installing a good quality commercial pool cover can not only significantly reduce water loss through evaporation, it can also, quite literally, end up saving the facility owner tens (or even hundreds) of thousands of dollars in operating and maintenance costs."

"From reduced energy bills for water heating, through to the extended painting and maintenance intervals that can result from reducing the amount of condensation being generated in indoor aquatic facilities, a commercial pool cover really is an excellent investment – both financially and environmentally," he added.

While commercial pool covers are commonplace in privately-owned facilities, they are not as common in council-owned facilities. Worse still, there are facilities where they have a pool cover, but the operators aren't using them.

While the reasoning behind not installing or using a pool cover range from 'extra work for no benefit,' 'not enough space to store a blanket', 'not enough time available to deploy and retrieve it each day', 'health

and safety concerns with its operation', 'cost of wages for the staff operating the pool blanket' and, of course, 'not having enough funds available to purchase', the truth of the matter is, based on the savings experienced at numerous facilities across Australia over many years, one would be hard-pushed to find a better-value addition to any aquatic centre.

SAVING ON EXPENDITURE A FALSE ECONOMY

The idea that a facility can reduce its costs by not spending the money on a pool blanket is truly one of 'false economy'. According to Bernard, most aquatic centres could expect to fully recoup not only the capital cost of the cover, rollers and associated hardware, but also the dollar value of the additional labour required for daily operation in 18 months or less through reduced water evaporation, reduced energy costs and even reduced maintenance costs.

"Put simply, these covers are a 'no brainer' in terms of capital investment – both for indoor and outdoor pools," Bernard said.

"First and foremost, water evaporation is immediately reduced by the percentage that the covers are on the pool. If the pool is operational for 16 hours a day and covered for 8 hours a day, water evaporation is reduced by a third so you're immediately saving on water costs."

In addition, for indoor pools, this reduction in evaporation – which inevitably turns into condensation - can also deliver a significant reduction in maintenance costs.



Pool covers deliver significant savings in water and energy costs for both outdoor and indoor pools.



Blending as part of this stunning Donovan Payne architectural design, the attractive movable bench seating actually contains the pool blanket system.

"I recently visited a facility where all the window frames had to be replaced – at a total cost of over \$300,000 - due to the extensive corrosion caused by condensation," Bernard added. "And another customer of mine in WA told me they had calculated that even after the cost of the pool cover and all the other associated costs including labour, that they will save around \$1 million over the next 20 years because the interval between repainting would now be 8-10 years rather than the five-year interval before they had the pool cover. An outstanding result for an investment of under \$100k – especially given the blankets themselves have an estimated lifespan of between 10 – 15 years."

Then, of course, there is savings in energy and associated costs.

Regardless of the type of heating and energy source used – whether it's gas, electricity, co-generation or even geothermal – energy use is energy use. And it has a cost – both environmentally and financially.

"Heating an uncovered pool during the hours that it's not in use is like having the heater on and leaving the window open," Bernard said.

"As with the evaporation issue, every hour that the blanket is on the pool is a reduction in the amount of energy required to maintain the optimum temperature. And the fact that the pool is generally covered at the coldest part of each day (e.g. – the middle of the night) the heating system doesn't have to work anywhere near as hard to maintain the temperature."

While these benefits apply to all heating systems, they are particularly beneficial for traditional gas or electric-powered heating systems. In fact, with energy costs being what they are – some pools can cost upwards of \$1,000 per day to heat – reducing energy consumption for 8 hours per day over the estimated 10-15 lifespan of the pool blanket can, quite literally, deliver hundreds of thousands of dollars in energy cost savings.

For further information, please call Elite Pool Covers, T: 1300 136 696 or visit: www.poolcovers.com.au



For indoor pools, pool covers can also deliver significant savings on building maintenance.

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