

# Natural swimming pools

Dive into crystal-clear, chemical-free pools



There are few things better than diving into some cool water on a hot summer's day, but with water an increasingly scarce commodity in Australia, home pools are increasingly controversial. Pools are notorious for losing water from evaporation, not to mention the volume of water lost through backwash discharge via filtration systems, leakage, cleaning and so on. Some estimates have pools losing from four to five times their volume each year. Pools are also energy guzzlers, with the average pool's pumps and filters chewing through 2,200 kW per year.

Installing a pool is something not to be done lightly, but not every part of Australia is water-stressed and if you do want to install one, there are plenty of things you can do to minimise its impact on the environment.

For existing pools you should have a good pool cover, which can help to reduce evaporation by up to 90%. Installing a cartridge filter instead of a

sand filter, which uses a lot more water, will also help. And installing a rainwater tank to top up your pool is of obvious benefit. To save energy, solar pumps are available, as are solar pool heaters.

If you're in the market for a new pool, there is even more you can do – such as installing a chemical-free pool.

European countries have been installing natural pools for years. Now a handful of pool design companies have brought the technology to Australia, and are adapting it to Australian conditions.

## What is a natural pool?

Natural pools mimic the biological “filter systems” you'd find in a natural stream and pool. As long as you create the right environment, nature – supported by pool system technology – will take care of the rest. Impurities like decomposing plants and bacteria are filtered out by plants and by a specially designed, multilayered gravel filtration system.



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