

Grounds

Swimming Pools

Whether indoor or outdoor, swimming pool covers should be used when the pool is not in use in order to retain the heat for as long as possible and minimising the energy requirements, evaporation and the creation of humidity for indoor locations. Covers must be fitted properly and be easy to use. Vacuum and back wash pool filters regularly to ensure the efficacy of the filter and maintain water quality. If heated, the thermostat should be at 28-30°C and if indoor, the air temperature should be maintained to 1°C higher than the water temperature to minimise energy use, evaporation and condensation. When not in use, the air temperature can be lowered as the close fitting pool cover will aid heat retention in the water.

Consider renewable sources of energy for heating for the pool water and ensure that fans for ventilation have variable speeds. Using a waste heat recovery system, it is possible for the incoming air to be preheated by the exhaust air. The water and energy use should be regularly monitored via the meters to ensure maximum efficiency is achieved and maintained.

Maintenance

Equipment works more effectively and more efficiently if it is in good working order. Maintenance contracts / service agreements must be competitive and provide all the services and servicing that you need. It is much better for the environment and for your cash flow if equipment is regularly maintained.

Grounds and Landscaping

Plants should be used that are suitable for the climate and soil condition of the locality. Water for the plants should be acquired from rainwater harvesting and water butts which, after all, is plants' preferred source. Plants should be watered when the sun is at its lowest and at their bases rather than on their leaves. Mulch is effective at retaining moisture and preventing evaporation. Water crystals sprinkled around the base of the plants encourage the retention of water and reduces the amount of water required.

Pathways should be brushed clean rather than hosed down. Tamper proof taps outside are helpful in discouraging vandalism and also the accidental leaving on overnight.

Questions to ask

- Can the thermostat for the pool be controlled automatically, preset or controlled centrally?
- How will the cover be arranged to maximise the ease of use and closeness of fit?
- What heat recovery system will be used?