

Tips for Pools, Hot Tubs & More

Hot tubs and pools

Lower the temperature to 96 degrees in warmer weather and 102 degrees at other times. For pools, the American Red Cross recommends 78 degrees for active swimming; 82 to 84 degrees may be more comfortable for general use.



Use insulated covers.

Covers prevent pools and hot tubs from losing heat when not in use. For hot tubs, use a floating blanket in addition to a rigid foam cover.

Turn down the spa thermostat when you're out of town.

If you're going to be gone for a week or more, turn the heat down or off to save energy.

Size your pool pump correctly.

Make sure your pump is the right size for your pool and that it's an energy-efficient model. Install a timer to control the pumping cycle, but check with a pool provider to determine the proper circulation time for your circumstances.

Choose an energy-efficient hot tub.

Look at insulation levels, motors and other features

Drain pools and hot tubs only when necessary.

But remember that proper maintenance is vital to keep your water clean and safe! Heavily used hot tubs should be drained every three to four months. Pools should be rarely drained. Consult with a pool or hot tub professional for more information.

Create windbreaks.

A fence or plantings around pools and hot tubs reduce heat loss and evaporation.

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Ponds, fountains and waterfalls

Experiment with a timer on your pump.

Gradually adjust it so you don't end up with an algae problem. It helps to buy water plants that are natural algae fighters. (If you have fish in a pond, experts recommend that you run the pump all the time.)

Look for an energy-efficient pump.

Not all pumps are alike, shop and compare models.

Consider a solar pump.

Investigate options for your situation.

Well systems

Schedule regular maintenance.

It will help it save water and energy for your well system.

Check your pump size.

Make sure you have the right size pump for your well and your usage.

Check for leaks.

Some wells have lines running to multiple homes or outbuildings. If one of the lines starts leaking, it will cause the pump to run excessively. You may be able to determine if there is a leak by listening to the well system and watching the pressure indicator gauge. A standpipe — the pipe that comes from the bottom of the well to the top of the wellhead — is another potential spot for leaks. Watch for any signs that your pump is operating too frequently.

Consider a variable frequency drive.

A VFD on a submersible pump can help save energy in some cases.