LET'S POOL TOGETHER

PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE POOL OWNERSHIP DURING THE DROUGHT

Model Drought Response Plan for Pools and Spas

Save Water □ Allow Family Recreation & Exercise □ Protect Jobs □ Implement Best Practices

Save Water!

Swimming pools and spas are not water wasters.
On average swimming pools are three times more efficient than the turf they most often replace.
Uncovered pools, which lose water from evaporation, use about the same amount of water annually as drought resistant landscaping of the same size.
Covered pools use substantially less water than even drought resistant landscaping.

Plan!

The California Pool and Spa Association (CPSA) launched the "Let's Pool Together Campaign" to address the ongoing, serious drought conditions in the state. The campaign aims to educate swimming pool and spa owners about ways to save even more water.

In 2014, "Let's Pool Together" became a featured partner in the state's Save Our Water Campaign and provided CPSA with an unparalleled opportunity to work with the state and water districts throughout California to help educate public policy makers on the facts about water use by swimming pools and spas, as well as informing pool and spa owners on responsible water management techniques.

JOBS

The swimming pool and spa industry represents a $5 billion addition to the California economy and creates more than 54,000 jobs. The trade consists primarily of local small businesses and workers who use locally purchased materials and produce more jobs per acre-feet of water used than any industry in California. It also produces an economic impact of approximately $800,000 per acre-feet of water used, second only to the high-tech industry.

Drought Stage Plan

Stage 1 (10-20% water reduction)

1) Pool service professionals regularly check for equipment leaks & repairs and conduct regular water chemistry tests which may indicate pool leakage.
2) Pool builders, service & repair professionals supply information on pool covers & surface blankets & encourages their use or use of alternative pool covers like solar rings and liquid pool covers.
3) Pool auto-fill devices turned off from Nov. 1 through April 30 or timer controlled auto-fills should be used.
4) Water features controlled by automatic timers limited to daily run times of 60 min or less to reduce evaporation & must use recirculated pool water.
5) Builders to provide cartridge filters with new pool installations that don't require backwashing & encourage replacement of filters that require backwashing on existing pools.

Stage 2 (20-30% water reduction)

1) Water features controlled by automatic timers limited to daily run times of 30 min or less to reduce evaporation & must use recirculated pool water.
2) Normal operating level of swimming pools should be lowered to the lower half of the water line tile to minimize splash out.
3) Each new pool installation includes an automatic cover or floating pool blanket.
4) Remodelers drain to city sewer or greywater recapturing systems to ensure pool water is treated & recycled.
5) Professionals use CPSA "Best Practices" to extend life of pool water to avoid unnecessarily replacing water.
6) Pools only drained for health & safety purposes, to fix leaks or other major repairs, to replace degraded plaster, or for extreme water chemistry issues that will result in damage to pool shell or interior finish.

Stage 3 (30-40% reduction)

1) Water feature timers should be disabled & should not be run on a daily basis.
2) Auto-fill devices should be shut off.
3) Professionals explain how to plug overflow devices to save water when pool is in use.
4) Pools should be covered when not in use. Pool builders must provide a pool cover or surface blanket as part of any pool remodel or new installation.
5) Draining & refilling pools should not be allowed for seasonal purposes or lack of routine maintenance.
6) Professionals use CPSA "Best Practices" to extend the life of pool water to avoid unnecessary replacement & recommend the use of reverse osmosis filtration in lieu of draining & refilling. This process will recycle & reuse approximately 85 percent of the existing pool water.

Best Practices

1) Pool equipment and above ground plumbing should be routinely checked for leaks. Leaks should be repaired immediately.
2) Any pool leaks from pool structure should be addressed & repaired promptly.
3) New residential pool installations should use cartridge filters that don't require backwashing to clean.
4) Swimming pool contractors who provide landscaping services must use water efficient plants, drip or micro spray irrigation & install smart or rain-sensing irrigation controllers.

Summary

In some cases, restrictions on filling new swimming pools and spas or even outright prohibitions on the issuance of permits for pool and spa construction have been placed in the early stages of water district or municipal Water Shortage Contingency Plans. However, most of these restrictions have been repealed because they are highly discriminatory, do not result in any real water savings and are actually contrary to future water conservation. The facts simply do not support such a discriminatory response.

In these situations the fill or permit restrictions are the only mandate that effectively puts an entire industry out of business. Unfortunately many, if not all of these drought response plans were developed prior to 2010 when the facts about water use by swimming pools were not well understood or researched. It is now well-established that the water needed to fill all new permitted pools in a city or water district per year amount to approximately one-hundredth of a single percent of the respective city or water district's annual water usage.

How much water do you use?

flush a toilet	5-7 gallons / flush
take a shower	7-10 gallons / minute
fill a bathtub	36-50 gallons
brush your teeth	10 gallons
wash your hands	2 gallons

For More Facts or Info.

Contact the CPSA at

info@thecpsa.org

Visit "Let's Pool Together" at

www.letspooltogether.com

Visit "Save Our Water" at

www.saveourwater.com

Water Shortage Fact Sheet

Water Conservation

Once built, swimming pools use about the same amount of water as the same sized area planted in drought-resistant landscaping. If the pool is covered when not in use, the pool will use ½ of the water of drought-resistant landscape, annually.

Water Efficiency

Self-contained spas and hot tubs have built-in covers so they are always covered when not in use, which means less than 5 percent annual evaporation. The average fill is 400 gallons, which can last 6 to 12 months before refilling. Compared to indoor tubs, jetted tubs and long showers, spas and hot tubs are very water efficient.

No State Bans

There are no state prohibitions on the use of potable water to fill or refill pools or spas. This includes the governor's proclamations and State Water Resources Control Board

CPSA
California Pool & Spa Association

Be Water Wise™

Pool & Spa Industry Supplies Jobs

Bans on building new pools or prohibitions on filling new pools are highly discriminatory to this industry since they are not supported by the facts about water use by pools and spas and because there are no other water-use restrictions in most cities' water shortage contingency plans that shut down an industry