

Appendix I:

Suggested Best Management Practices for Swimming Pools

In a desert, a pool may seem a necessity, but it really is a luxury when water is a finite resource. However, with proper management, pools can be a privilege that we may continue to enjoy. These recommended Best Management Practices are appropriate for both private, commercial, and public swimming pools and hot tubs.

- Cover the pool when not in use to control evaporation and save energy from heat loss. Up to 95 percent of water loss from evaporation can be saved through the use of a pool cover
- Reduce the temperature if possible, particularly when the pool isn't in use
- Limit the frequency of pool refilling; only fill the pool when required for water quality reasons
- Backwash pool filters only when necessary. If the backwash cycle is controlled by a timer, check and adjust the frequency of the cycle to ensure optimal efficiency. Use head loss to determine backwash frequency (8-10 psi loss)
- Where feasible, use filter backwash for irrigating lawns or plants and shrubs, or for cooling tower make-up
- Lower the pool's water level as much as possible to reduce the amount of water that can be splashed out
- Check the pool regularly for cracks and leaks, and make repairs promptly. If the pool drops more than one inch per day than investigate for problems
- Replace shower heads in the changing area to low flow fixtures and post signs to encourage pool users to limit the time spent in the shower
- Add a fence, trees, or shrubs to provide a wind break to reduce evaporation
- Utilize a pool vacuum that recycles water when cleaning the pool