



Plastic Pool Covers: some basic information and a care guide

Plastic Welding

Please make sure that your cover is heat welded (joined) first before making contact with the pool water. Once exposed to the water, the cover cannot be welded properly.

The finer details

- Covers can only be heat welded together – **NO GLUE, SILICONE OR TAPE** should be used to join the plastic as this may cause problems to occur.
- Only the solid edges of the cover can be used to weld cover together by a process called heat welding.
- When trimming your cover, allow for a little extra length so that the cover curls slightly up along the sides of the pool. This works to help keep dirt on the cover out of the water when brush the cover, or when it rains as the dirt is prevented from washing straight into the pool.

Care in your pool

- Pool water must be maintained at a pH level of 7.2 (neutral state).
- The cover floats (bubble side down) with smooth surface on top.
- Dirt can be brushed off smooth surface or hosed down.
- If you have a Kreepy type pool cleaner then you will see your cleaner working as it bounces under the cover.
- If you have a MX8 type (walking pool cleaner) you will see no bounce under cover so check regularly.
- Your cleaner may start to miss a patch on pool bottom as there might be some minor resistance with the pipe under the cover. To avoid this, remove your cover during the weekend, when you are most likely to be around pool or garden. This in turn will allow the cleaner to move more freely and clean the pool as efficiently as possible.
- Remember to check chlorine levels regularly and adjust accordingly.
- **Note: You may find that with your cover in place, you only require 1 cup of chlorine every 2 weeks. NB! Don't forget to adjust salt chlorinator levels accordingly as well.**
- Pool chemicals do **NOT** evaporate whilst the pool is covered. Therefore, **LESS** chemicals are required to maintain your pool water.

- Chlorine floaters DO NOT move around the pool water effectively. Therefore, you will have a high concentration of chlorine in one place in the pool. This could lead to your cover being damaged with a high percent of algae in parts of the pool as the chlorine is not evenly distributed.
- Your pool temperature may rise as much as 8 - 10°C due to the thermal regulation of the pool cover. Because of the warmer water, algae growth may occur - in this regard, it is important to constantly monitor the pool water and adjust maintenance routine accordingly.

Removing the cover from pool and storage

- Fold cover with the bubbles facing inward to protect them.
- Leave cover in a rolled tube form if possible, drain all water and store out of direct sunlight.
- Lift cover out. DO NOT drag as this could damage the cover on rough coping edge around the pool and wear away the bubbles.
- **Rollup stations** - Unless your station is over the one end of the pool then the chances are that the cover will be dragged across the abrasive edging as it is dragged backwards and bubbles will wear as it on the underside.
- When not in use, do not leave it in direct sunlight whilst folded or wound on roller, as the heat generated by the sun is magnified tenfold, exciting the water particles trapped in the folded/wound cover to heat up to extreme temperatures, and in turn causing the bubbles to expand and possibly delaminate when the bubbles burst.
- Exposure to sun, water and pool chemicals during use will eventually destroy your cover. The time this takes to happen depends on the usage and care given. When bubble disintegration, delaminating, flaking or peeling of the plastic occurs, remove the cover from the pool and replace it.

Damage to the cover

After a couple of years, the pool cover will reach life expectancy and will need to be replaced. However, if your cover is only a few months old and has started to become brittle, then other factors are causing the premature breakdown of the plastic.

What could be the causes?

- If the top of the blanket (the flat side which faces up) becomes brittle, then it could be sun damage (UV Fading) depending on the age of the cover.
- If the bottom of the cover (bubble side, which sits in the water) has become brittle and/ or is fading, the breakdown is generally caused by exposure to high levels of chemicals in the water. We have seen serious chemical damage occur in a matter of

weeks, so it's very important to maintain the chemical balance of your pool water – **(South African pH standard is 7.2 – 7.6).**

- If the damage appears to be concentrated to a certain area (near the jets) or at the end of the pool, this is also an indication of chemical damage – if the jets are turned upwards, the section of the cover closest to the jets will get a much higher concentration of chemicals than the rest of the cover. While you cannot undo chemical damage, you could turn the jets down to avoid further damage - this also applies to water fountains or cascading water onto the cover.
- When chemical (chlorine) levels are too high, nitrogen tri-chloride gas is produced, and will build up under your cover. This will cause air to diffuse out of the bubbles, causing them to deflate – warning signs include a heavy chlorine smell along with irritation to the eyes when exposed to the pool water. Once the bubble has collapsed, it is not possible to reverse the process and you will need a new cover. When this happens, it is important to bring the pool water back to an acceptable chlorine level.
- When the cover is in place, excessive chlorine build up can occur, resulting in your cover being damaged - constant monitoring of your pool water is therefore essential.

DISCLAIMER: WE NOT PROVIDE ANY FORM OF GUARANTEE/WARRANTY ON THIS PRODUCT DUE TO THE UNPREDICTABLE NATURE OF MAINTAINING ONE'S OWN POOL WATER.